

Press Release

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Italy: Execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the excessive length of proceedings

Strasbourg, 21.12.2006 – At its December meeting 2006, devoted to the supervision of the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe resumed its examination of the new action plan of the Italian authorities aimed at finding a global solution to the persisting problem of excessively long judicial proceedings. This problem has been at the origin of numerous violations of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In their decision made public yesterday, the Ministers' Deputies:

1. recalled that with Interim Resolution (ResDH(2005)114), it was asked to the Italian authorities to enhance their commitment at the highest political level so as to solve this problem and to elaborate to this end a new action plan based on a new interdisciplinary approach involving all main actors, and on an effective national policy coordinated at the highest governmental level ;
2. took note of the fact that the Head of Government, Mr Prodi, and also the Minister of Justice, Mr Mastella, have recognised the major importance attaching to the finding of a durable solution to the problem of delayed justice in Italy; that this necessity is also recognised by the Superior Council of the Magistrature and by all actors of judicial proceedings;
3. noted also the political will to ensure on a general level an improved execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, as evidenced by Law No. 12 of 9 January 2006;
4. laid stress on the commitment by Italy to keep the Committee regularly informed on the state of progress in the preparation of the action plan ;
5. took note that, on 30 November 2006, the Under-Secretary of State and the Deputy Head of the Bureau for Legislation at the Ministry of Justice presented a report regarding the adoption of legislative reforms concerning judicial procedure and an ambitious project relating to computer-based organisation of civil proceedings (processo telematico) ;
6. decided accordingly to examine in greater depth the information provided by the Italian authorities at their 987th meeting (13-14 February 2007) (DH) and urged the Italian authorities to submit in the meantime any additional useful information, in particular regarding the interdisciplinary approach followed by the Italian authorities involving all main actors and coordination at the highest governmental level."

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