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Excessive length of detention on remand in Poland: a need for further reforms to comply with European Court judgments

Strasbourg, 07.06.2007. The Committee of Ministers encouraged Poland to continue its reforms with a view to a global solution to the structural problem of excessive length of detention on remand criticised in many judgments of the European Court of Human Rights since 2000.

The Committee noted the January 2007 reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure strictly limiting the grounds for prolonging detention on remand at the investigative stage. It also expressed satisfaction with the awareness measures taken so far in respect of judges and prosecutors.

The Committee has nonetheless invited the authorities to pursue efforts in order to reduce the length of detention on remand in line with the Convention requirements. It notably encouraged the domestic courts and prosecutors to consider the use of other preventive measures provided in domestic legislation (e.g. release on bail, obligation to report to the police or prohibition on leaving the country) and to establish a clear, efficient mechanism to monitor the trend concerning the length of detention on remand.

Full text of the Interim Resolution ResDH(2007)75

Under the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court's judgments require the adoption by the respondent states, under the Committee of Ministers' supervision, of all measures necessary to grant the applicants appropriate redress and to prevent new similar violations in the future.

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