

# Press Release

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## Moldova must rapidly adopt legislation in the field of freedom of religion

Strasbourg, 29.03.2006 - The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe yesterday adopted an Interim Resolution urging the Moldovan authorities rapidly to finalise the ongoing work with a view to enacting new legislation regulating the registration and functioning of religious denominations. Such legislation is necessary in order to effectively prevent new violations of the European Convention on Human Rights similar to the ones found in the case of *Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia and Others v. Moldova* (judgment of 13 December 2001).

While noting important improvements included in the latest draft Bill which is presently pending before Parliament, the Committee nevertheless pointed to a number of shortcomings which still appear to affect the registration procedure. The Committee therefore encouraged the Moldovan authorities rapidly to solve the outstanding issues, also taking into account the opinions expressed by the Council of Europe experts, in order to achieve a legislative reform compliant with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights in the field of freedom of religion.

[Full text of Interim Resolution](#)

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

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