



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

30 May 2014

RC (2014) 3

RULES OF COURT

**Amendments¹ to the Rules of Court
adopted by the Plenary Court on 14 April 2014**

**Rule 8 – Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Court
and the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Sections**

Rule 15 – Election of the Registrar

Rule 16 – Election of the Deputy Registrars

(entry into force on 1 July 2014)

1. Amendments appear in bold.

Rule 8² – Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Court and the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Sections

1. The plenary Court shall elect its President, two Vice-Presidents and the Presidents of the Sections for a period of three years, provided that such period shall not exceed the duration of their terms of office as judges.
2. Each Section shall likewise elect for a period of three years a Vice-President, who shall replace the President of the Section if the latter is unable to carry out his or her duties.
3. A judge elected in accordance with paragraphs 1 or 2 above may be re-elected but only once to the same level of office. This limitation on the number of terms of office shall not prevent a judge holding an office as described above on the date of the entry into force³ of the present amendment to Rule 8 from being re-elected once to the same level of office.
4. The Presidents and Vice-Presidents shall continue to hold office until the election of their successors.
5. The elections referred to in paragraph 1 of this Rule shall be by secret ballot. Only the elected judges who are present shall take part. If no candidate receives an absolute majority of the ~~elected judges present votes cast~~, an additional round or rounds shall take place until one candidate has achieved an absolute majority. ~~At~~ **After** each round, any candidate receiving ~~less~~ **fewer** than five votes shall be eliminated; ~~and if more than two candidates have received five votes or more, - Of the remaining candidates,~~ the one who has received the least number of votes shall also be eliminated. If there is more than one candidate in this position, only the candidate who is lowest in the order of precedence in accordance with Rule 5 shall be eliminated. In the event of a tie between two candidates in the final round, preference shall be given to the judge having precedence in accordance with Rule 5.
6. The rules set out in the preceding paragraph shall apply to the elections referred to in paragraph 2 of this Rule. However, where more than one round of voting is required until one candidate has achieved an absolute majority, only the candidate who has received the least number of votes shall be eliminated after each round.

2. As amended by the Court on 7 November 2005, 20 February 2012, 14 January 2013 **and 14 April 2014.**

3. 1 December 2005.

Rule 15⁴ – Election of the Registrar

1. The plenary Court shall elect its Registrar. The candidates shall be of high moral character and must possess the legal, managerial and linguistic knowledge and experience necessary to carry out the functions attaching to the post.

2. The Registrar shall be elected for a term of five years and may be re-elected. The Registrar may not be dismissed from office, unless the judges, meeting in plenary session, decide by a majority of two-thirds of the elected judges in office that the person concerned has ceased to fulfil the required conditions. He or she must first be heard by the plenary Court. Any judge may set in motion the procedure for dismissal from office.

3. The elections referred to in this Rule shall be by secret ballot; only the elected judges who are present shall take part. If no candidate receives an absolute majority of the ~~elected judges present, a ballot shall take place between the two candidates who have received most votes.~~ **votes cast, an additional round or rounds of voting shall take place until one candidate has achieved an absolute majority. After each round, any candidate receiving fewer than five votes shall be eliminated; and if more than two candidates have received five votes or more, the one who has received the least number of votes shall also be eliminated.** In the event of a tie **in an additional round of voting**, preference shall be given, firstly, to the female candidate, if any, and, secondly, to the older candidate.

4. Before taking up office, the Registrar shall take the following oath or make the following solemn declaration before the plenary Court or, if need be, before the President of the Court:

“I swear” – or “I solemnly declare” – “that I will exercise loyally, discreetly and conscientiously the functions conferred upon me as Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights.”

This act shall be recorded in minutes.

Rule 16⁵ – Election of the Deputy Registrars

1. The plenary Court shall also elect ~~two~~ **one or more** Deputy Registrars on the conditions and in the manner and for the term prescribed in the preceding Rule. The procedure for dismissal from office provided for in respect of the Registrar shall likewise apply. The Court shall first consult the Registrar in both these matters.

2. Before taking up office, a Deputy Registrar shall take an oath or make a solemn declaration before the plenary Court or, if need be, before the President of the Court, in terms similar to those prescribed in respect of the Registrar. This act shall be recorded in minutes.

4. As amended by the Court on 14 April 2014.

5. As amended by the Court on 14 April 2014.