



Press Office of the Constitutional Court

Press release of 20 April 2020

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT – DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY, PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL NO LONGER BE POSTPONED

Decision, as at the current state of the relevant proceedings, of questions for which public hearings have been scheduled or, if parties to the proceedings so request, following oral debates held remotely; remote connections to be used also for deliberating in chambers and other meetings.

These are some of the measures established by the [Decree of the President of the Constitutional Court issued today](#) to regulate how the Court is to perform its activities until 30 June 2020, in light of the COVID-19 epidemiological emergency. The new measures also take into account the experience gained from implementing the previous safety measures it introduced, as well as the need to develop these further.

The Decree was adopted in conformity with a resolution of the Court, which met this morning. The Decree fits into the framework established by the decrees of 12 and 24 March 2020, and replaces them.

1) THE COURT'S ACTIVITIES. Considering the Constitutional Court's autonomy and the specific nature of the proceedings before it, the following working methods have been developed. These methods will apply from 5 May to 30 June 2020, or, in any event, until further provision is made:

a) Meetings in chambers, public hearings and other meetings, including via remote connection.

The judges will also be able to participate in meetings in chambers and public hearings via remote connection. The place from where they will join the meeting remotely is to be considered part of the “chambers” or “hearings room”, for all

purposes required by law. Remote connections can also be used for all other meetings of the Court, of its judges or of its internal bodies.

c) Decision of proceedings based on their current status, or on a remote oral discussion of questions for which a public hearing has been scheduled. Proceedings for which a public has been scheduled are to be decided on the basis of the relevant case file and, if any, additional brief notes, unless one of the parties asks for an oral discussion. In this case, said discussion will take place remotely, according to the operational modalities duly communicated to the parties. The Decree specifies **the terms** within which requests for remote oral discussions may be made, and additional brief notes filed.

d) Immediate discussion of exceptionally serious cases. The provisions described above do not apply in exceptionally serious and urgent cases that the President, after consulting the Court, considers to require immediate discussion by means of a public hearing. This hearing is to take place in full compliance with the applicable safety and prevention requirements.

2) CERTIFIED E-MAIL (PEC) ADDRESS. The Court confirms that the option to file case documentation via certified e-mail (PEC) to the address created pursuant to the Decree of the President of the Court of 12 March 2020, remains available.

3) PUBLICATION OF ALL MEASURES ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE. As all previous measures, the Decree of the President of the Court issued today is published on the Constitutional Court's website. The Court Registry notifies this Decree to all parties to pending proceedings and will insert a copy thereof in all case files to which the new provisions apply, until further measures are adopted. In addition, the Decree is notified to the General State Counsel, to the President of the National Bar Council and to the Counsel of Regions and Autonomous Provinces.

4) ONLINE UPDATES. All communications relating to the organization of the Court's jurisdictional activity during the COVID-19 emergency will be published in real time on the Court's website. The general public and all interested parties are kindly invited to consult it regularly.

In addition to the measures issued today, the organizational measures set out in the [press release of 24 March 2020](#) continue to apply (limitations on access to the

Court's offices and departments; staff telework; adoption, by the General Secretariat, of all preventive and safety measures required for all staff present at the Court in person).

Rome, 20 April 2020

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