

Subject: further measures for the conduct of public hearings, including remotely, during the COVID-19 health emergency.

The President of the Constitutional Court, in conformity with the opinion expressed by the Court on 30 October 2020;

Considering the need for additional and more stringent measures to face the Covid-19 epidemiological emergency on the national territory and, at the same time, to ensure continuity and timeliness in the conduct of constitutional justice in full observance of the adversarial principle.

Considering the measures that have already been taken regarding the conduct of proceedings before the Constitutional Court during the epidemiological emergency, the experience gained in implementing them and the need to develop them, adapting them to the evolving circumstances.

Considering especially that it is appropriate to allow cases for which public hearings have been scheduled to be discussed also by means of remote connection.

Given the decrees adopted by the Constitutional Court on 12 and 24 March, 20 April, 8 and 23 June and 6 October 2020.

Given, also, Decree-law No. 137 of 28 October 2020 (Further urgent measures on health protection, support to workers and businesses, justice and safety, related to the Covid-19 epidemiological emergency).

Taking into consideration the Constitutional Court's autonomy and the specific nature of the proceedings before it.

Provides for and communicates the following:

- 1) Starting from the public hearing of 3 November 2020 until further provision is made, in partial modification of the Decree of 6 October 2020, judges and lawyers can also participate in public hearings, should they so request, via remote connection and unrobed.

The lawyers' requests must reach the Court's Registry by 12.00 hrs on the day before the hearing, via e-mail: cancelleria@cortecostituzionale.it.

The relevant operational modalities shall be communicated to the party making the request by the Office of the President.

The place from which the relevant party joins shall be considered a Hearing Chamber for all legal effects.

- 2) The public remains allowed to attend the hearings, in compliance with the health measures in force, up to a maximum of 20 people in order of reservation. Reservations must be sent via e-mail to ufficio.cerimoniale@cortecostituzionale.it by 10.00 hrs on the day before the public hearing. The public nature of the hearings is also guaranteed by the verbatim records thereof made by the Registrar, as well as by the recording of the hearings and their subsequent publication on the Constitutional Court's institutional website.

- 3) It is confirmed that case documents (except references and applications) can also be filed, temporarily, via certified e-mail (PEC) to the e-mail address created for the purpose pursuant to the provisions of the Decree of the President of the Constitutional Court of 1 October 2020 (cancelleria.emergenza2020@cortecostituzionale.mailcert.it). This is without prejudice to the fact that the parties' case documents will be made available to the lawyers by the Registry according to the standard procedure.
- 4) The terms established by the Constitution and by the law on constitutional proceedings remain valid.
- 5) This decree is published on the Court's institutional website.
- 6) The Court expressly renews its invitation, to the general public and all interested parties, to regularly consult the Court's website, where all communications relating to the organization of the Court's jurisdictional activity during the epidemiological emergency will be published in real time.

Rome, 30 October 2020