

Electronic filing by applicants¹

I. Scope of application

1. After the communication of a case, applicants who have opted to file pleadings electronically shall send all written communications with the Court by using the Court's Electronic Communications Service (ECS) and shall accept written communications sent to them by the Registry of the Court by means of ECS, with the following exceptions:

(a) all written communications in relation to a request for interim measures under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court shall be sent only by fax or post;

(b) attachments, such as plans, manuals, etc., that may not be comprehensively viewed in an electronic format may be filed by post;

(c) the Court's Registry may request that a paper document or attachment be submitted by post.

2. If an applicant has filed a document by post or fax, he or she shall, as soon as possible, file electronically a notice of filing by post or fax, describing the document sent, stating the date of dispatch and setting forth the reasons why electronic filing was not possible.

II. Technical requirements

3. Applicants shall possess the necessary technical equipment and follow the user manual sent to them by the Court's Registry.

III. Format and naming convention

4. A document filed electronically shall be in PDF format, preferably in searchable PDF.

5. Unsigned letters and written pleadings shall not be accepted. Signed documents to be filed electronically shall be generated by scanning the original paper copy. Applicants shall keep the original paper copy in their files.

6. The name of a document filed electronically shall be prefixed by the application number, followed by the name of the applicant as spelled in Latin script by the Registry of the Court, and contain an indication of the contents of the document².

IV. Relevant date with regard to time limits

7. The date on which an applicant has successfully filed the document electronically with the Court shall be considered as the date, based on Strasbourg time, of dispatch within the meaning of Rule 38 § 2 or the date of filing for the purposes of Rule 73 § 1.

8. To facilitate keeping track of the correspondence exchanged and to ensure compliance with the time limits set by the Court, the applicant should regularly check his or her e-mail account and ECS account.

V. Different versions of one and the same document

9. The ECS shall not permit the modification, replacement or deletion of a filed document. If the need arises for the applicant to modify a document he or she has filed, they shall create a new document named differently (for example, by adding the word "modified" in the document name).

1. Issued by the President of the Court in accordance with Rule 32 of the Rules of Court on 29 September 2014. This practice direction will become operational in 2015 on a date to be decided following a test phase.

2. The following is an example: 65051/01 Karagyozov Observ Adm Merits.

This opportunity should only be used where genuinely necessary and should not be used to correct minor errors.

10. Where an applicant has filed more than one version of the same document, only the document filed in time shall be taken into consideration. Where more than one version has been filed in time, the latest version shall be taken into consideration, unless the President of the Chamber decides otherwise.