

## Withdrawal, expulsion and suspension of a member state of the Council of Europe

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Withdrawal from the organisation is provided for in Article 7 of the Statute which stipulates that any member of the Council of Europe may withdraw by formally notifying the Secretary General of its intention to do so.

Articles 8 and 9 concern the procedures for expulsion and suspension.

Any member of the Council of Europe which has seriously violated the provisions laid down in Article 3 may be suspended from its rights of representation and may be asked by the Committee of Ministers to withdraw from the organisation. If the state does not agree to the request, the Committee may decide that the state has ceased to be a member of the Council as from such date as determined by the Committee.

Where a state has failed to fulfil its financial obligations, the Committee of Ministers may suspend its right of representation on the Committee and in the Assembly during such period as the obligations remain unfulfilled.

Several states have been suspended from the Assembly:

- Greece, following the installation of the Colonels' military dictatorship in 1967. Greece withdrew from the organisation in 1969 before the Committee of Ministers voted for its suspension. The country was readmitted to the organisation in 1974 following the fall of the regime.
- Turkey, following the military coup in 1980. In 1984, the country regained its right to vote in the Assembly after democratic elections had taken place.
- Russia was suspended from the Assembly from 2000 to 2001 as a result of its policies on Chechnya.