THIRD SECTION

DECISION

Application no. 31853/03
by Eduards KOBZARS
against Latvia

The European Court of Human Rights (Third Section), sitting on 31 January 2008 as a Chamber composed of:

 Boštjan M. Zupančič, *President,* Corneliu Bîrsan, Elisabet Fura-Sandström, Alvina Gyulumyan, Egbert Myjer, Ineta Ziemele, Isabelle Berro-Lefèvre, *judges,*and Santiago Quesada, *Section Registrar*,

Having regard to the above application lodged on 29 September 2003,

Having regard to the decision to apply Article 29 § 3 of the Convention and examine the admissibility and merits of the case together,

Having regard to the formal declarations accepting a friendly settlement of the case,

Having deliberated, decides as follows:

THE FACTS

The applicant, Mr Eduards Kobzars, is a Latvian national who was born in 1972 and lives in Rīga. The Latvian Government (“the Government”) were represented by their Agent, Mrs I. Reine.

The facts of the case, as submitted by the applicant, may be summarised as follows.

On 14 April 1997 the applicant was arrested on suspicion of aggravated burglary, infliction of bodily injuries and several attempted murders. On 27 June 1997 the Convention entered into force with respect to Latvia. On 13 May 2002 the Criminal Chamber of the Rīga Regional Court found the applicant guilty of the criminal offences he was suspected of and sentenced him to twelve years’ imprisonment. On 29 April 2003 the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court upheld the judgment of the first instance court. On 29 August 2003 the Senate of the Supreme Court dismissed the applicant’s cassation appeal. Thus, having regard to the date on which the Convention entered into force with respect to Latvia, the overall length of the proceedings in the instant case was six years, two months and two days.

COMPLAINTS

1.  The applicant complained under Article 6 § 1 of the Convention about the length of the criminal proceedings against him.

2.  The applicant complained that his rights guaranteed by Articles 3 and 6 § 3 (d) of the Convention had been infringed.

THE LAW

On 3 October 2007 the Court received the following declaration from the Latvian Government:

“I, Inga Reine, Representative of the Government of Latvia, declare that the Government of Latvia offer to pay *ex gratia* 1,500 Euros to Mr Eduards Kobzars with a view to securing a friendly settlement of the above-mentioned case pending before the European Court of Human Rights.

This sum, which is to cover any pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage as well as costs and expenses, will be converted into Latvian lati [LVL-official abbreviation] at the rate applicable on the date of payment, and free of any taxes that may be applicable. It will be payable within three months from the date of notification of the decision taken by the Court pursuant to Article 37 § 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In the event of failure to pay this sum within the said three-month period, the Government undertake to pay simple interest on it, from expiry of that period until settlement, at a rate equal to the marginal lending rate of the European Central Bank during the default period plus three percentage points. The payment will constitute the final resolution of the case.”

On 18 December 2007 the Court received the following declaration signed by the applicant:

“I, Eduards Kobzars, applicant, note that the Government of Latvia are prepared to pay me *ex gratia* the sum of 1,500 euros with a view to securing a friendly settlement of the above-mentioned case pending before the European Court of Human Rights.

This sum, which is to cover any pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage as well as costs and expenses, will be converted into Latvian lati [LVL-official abbreviation] at the rate applicable on the date of payment, and free of any taxes that may be applicable. It will be payable within three months from the date of notification of the decision taken by the Court pursuant to Article 37 § 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. From the expiry of the above-mentioned three months until settlement simple interest shall be payable on the above amount at a rate equal to the marginal lending rate of the European Central Bank during the default period plus three percentage points.

I accept the proposal and waive any further claims against Latvia in respect of the facts giving rise to this application. I declare that this constitutes a final resolution of the case.”

The Court takes note of the friendly settlement reached between the parties. It is satisfied that the settlement is based on respect for human rights as defined in the Convention and its Protocols and finds no public policy reasons to justify a continued examination of the application (Article 37 § 1 *in fine* of the Convention). In view of the above, it is appropriate to discontinue the application of Article 29 § 3 and to strike the case out of the list.

For these reasons, the Court unanimously

*Decides* to strike the application out of its list of cases.

 Santiago Quesada Boštjan M. Zupančič
 Greffier Président