

Court hearings in Romania soon to be held via video conference?

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For some time now, many lawyers - and presumably judges as well - have been hoping for a more efficient and faster way to conduct court proceedings. On June 11, 2025, the Romanian Senate tacitly adopted a draft law¹ allowing certain civil court hearings to be held via video conference

The idea is not entirely new - during the COVID pandemic, court hearings were temporarily allowed to be held via video conference² but the proposal now aims to implement this permanently in specific cases.

What currently applies?

In the current version, Art. 220 of the Romanian Code of Civil Procedure ("*Codul de procedură civilă*" - **CCP**) concerning the postponement of cases that are not ready for trial only provides for:

"The parties may apply to the court at the beginning of the hearing to adjourn cases that are not ready for trial, provided that these applications do not result in a hearing on the merits. If the panel consists of several judges, the adjournment may also be ordered by a single judge."

What is going to change?

The law is to be amended by introducing a new paragraph 2 to Article 220 of the Code of Civil Procedure, with the following content:

„(2) The court shall identify the grounds provided for in paragraph 1 before the hearing date. The clerk shall inform the parties by telephone, at least two days before the hearing, of the status of the case and the possibility of participating in the hearing via videoconference, provided that the parties have submitted the relevant data for this purpose. If at least one of the parties opts to do so, the case will be discussed via videoconference at the beginning of the hearing even if the other party is physically present in court. “

What is the purpose of the legislative initiative?

According to the initiator of the amendment, such solutions should optimize the functioning of the judiciary while offering tangible benefits to those seeking legal protection.

What is the background?

According to a study, as of February 2025, 211 out of 243 national courts were equipped with functional and sufficient systems to conduct video conferences and reported no issues with their usage. This means that, 86.83% of the courts already have the technical capacity to hold hearings via video conferences without any equipment or system issues. The Ministry of Justice should be able to rectify the existing problems in the few exceptions at short notice.

What interest is there in amending the law?

In cases that are adjourned without a hearing on the merits, the parties have a clear interest in attending the court hearing in order to find out the date and time of the next hearing date, as well as to receive real-time information about the reasons for the adjournment, without having to wait

¹ Draft law to amend Art. 220 CCP, submitted to the Senate on March 24, 2025.

² Decree no. 195/2020, extended by decree no. 240/2020.

for the often lengthy formal notices. In addition, unforeseeable events can occur at any court hearing - such as the submission of new documents, a main or secondary motion to intervene, etc.

If the parties only appear at the court hearing in order to find out the next hearing date and to prevent unforeseen procedural incidents, this can result in considerable costs for travel to and attendance, while no progress is made in the case itself.

Should video conferencing become mandatory?

It is important to note that participation in the hearing via videoconference will not replace the physical presence of the parties in the courtroom; the party who wishes to attend is free to do so. This is why the draft law stipulates that the parties must be informed at least 2 days in advance about the status of the case that will be adjourned without a hearing, the reason for this and the option to participate via videoconference.

Conclusion

Lawyers and clients alike know the frustration of long travel and waiting times for an appointment that ends with an adjournment without a hearing.

The legislative initiative is intended to permanently introduce remote participation in cases that are adjourned without a hearing on the merits.

We see it as an important and welcome pilot project, especially in the context of digitalizing the justice system, and we hope it will be adopted. Of course, important aspects, such as data protection, must be examined in detail in advance, which may likely require further investment.

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