

The Suspension Committee of the Council of State

Decisions 49/2020 & 60/2020

The Suspension Committee of the Council of State rejected the applications for suspension of a) the joint ministerial decisions that imposed the measure of temporary prohibition of rituals in places of worship for the time period from 16.3.2020 to 11.4.2020 and then, from 12.4.2020 to 28.4.2020 and b) the joint ministerial decisions that imposed the measure of temporary restriction (initially until 6.4.2020 and then until 28.4.2020) on movement of citizens, in order to prevent the risk of spreading the coronavirus disease COVID-19, as far as the latter decisions did not include the possibility for the citizens to visit a place of worship. According to the judgement of the Suspension Committee, there are imperative reasons of public interest which do not allow the suspension of the execution of the above-mentioned measures, as a) the restrictive measures of holding holy rituals without the participation of the public were taken, with the exceptions provided, for the exceptional reasons of public health protection from the risk of spreading the coronavirus disease COVID-19, b) the temporary restrictive measures were of reasonable duration and c) as it is commonly known, it is currently not possible to take and implement other measures immediately to effectively protect public health. In addition, the grounds for annulment raised in the respective applications were deemed not to be manifestly well-founded.