

OVERVIEW

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EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Overview 1959-2020

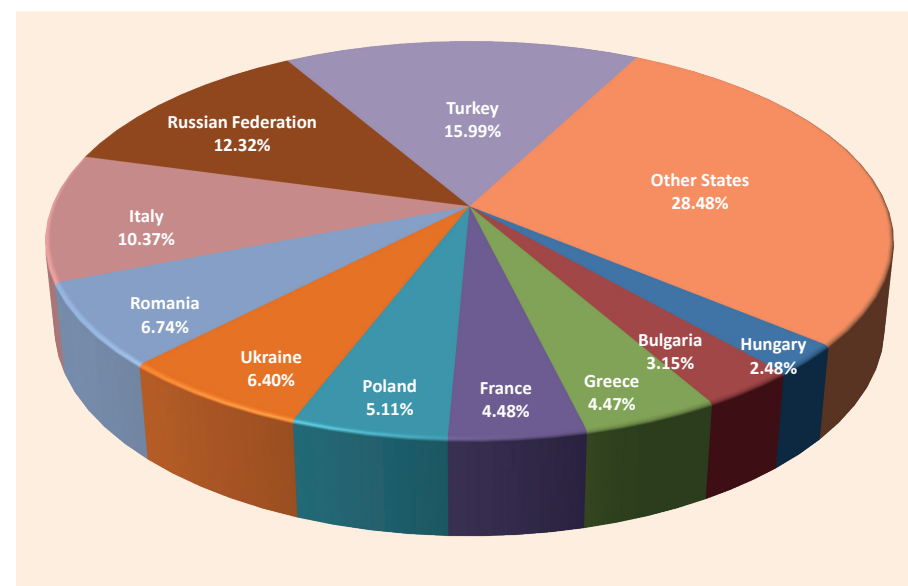
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Statistics 1959 to 2020

Judgments by State

Since it was established in 1959 the Court has delivered 23,406 judgments. Around 40% of these concerned 3 member States of the Council of Europe: Turkey (3,742), the Russian Federation (2,884) and Italy (2,427).

In 84% of the judgments it has delivered since 1959, the Court has found at least one violation of the Convention by the respondent State.



This document has been prepared by the Public Relations Unit, and does not bind the Court. It is intended to provide basic general information about the way the Court works. For more detailed information, please refer to documents issued by the Registry, available on the Court's website: www.echr.coe.int.

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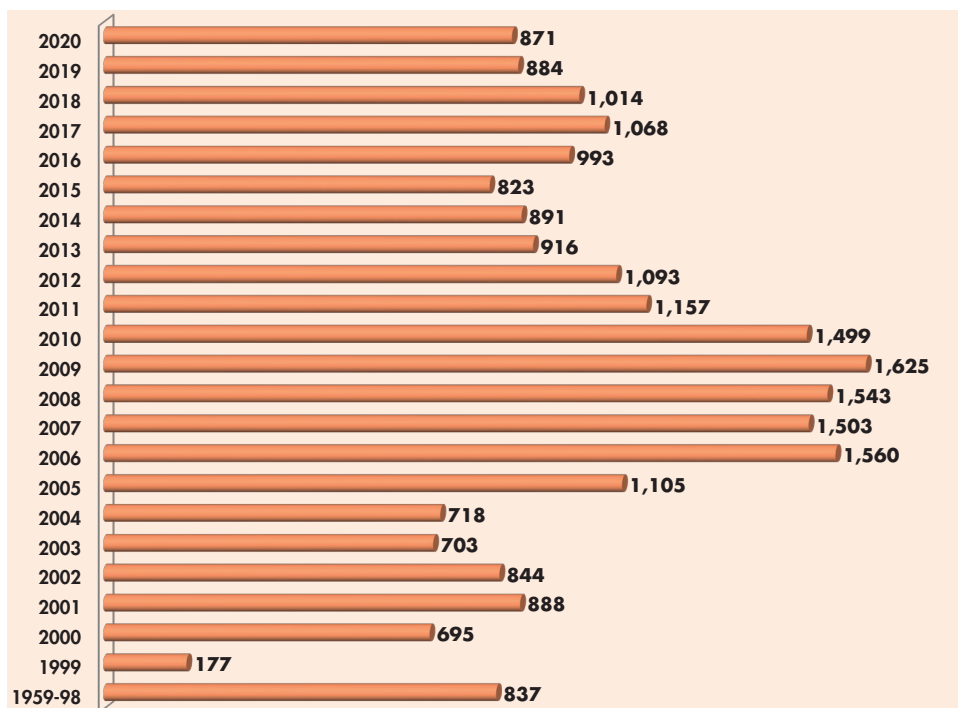
European Court of Human Rights
Public Relations Unit
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg cedex

Judgments delivered by the Court

In recent years the Court has concentrated on examining complex cases, and has decided to join certain applications which raise similar legal questions so that it can consider them jointly.

Although in some years the number of judgments delivered each year by the Court has decreased, more applications have been examined by it.

Since it was set up, the Court has decided on the examination of around 921,200 applications through a judgment or decision, or by being struck out of the list.



Throughput of applications 1959* - 2020

	Applications allocated to a judicial formation	Applications or inadmissible or struck out	Applications declared judgment delivered	Applications in which judgment was delivered	Total number of applications decided
	1959-2020	1959-2020	1959-2020	1959-2020	1959-2020
Albania	1 516	832	132		964
Andorra	98	89	9		98
Armenia	3 944	2 390	162		2 552
Austria	8 736	9 333	436		9 769
Azerbaijan	6 553	4 033	486		4 519
Belgium	4 729	5 082	310		5 392
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12 428	11 445	581		12 026
Bulgaria	17 892	16 566	882		17 448
Croatia	16 793	15 903	485		16 388
Cyprus	1 296	1 128	109		1 237
Czech Republic	13 685	13 280	281		13 561
Denmark	1 858	1 888	60		1 948
Estonia	3 694	3 577	80		3 657
Finland	5 799	5 580	192		5 772
France	34 494	32 380	1 220		33 600
Georgia	6 369	5 724	122		5 846
Germany	27 181	30 842	397		31 239
Greece	9 980	7 635	1 333		8 968
Hungary	24 266	22 881	842		23 723
Iceland	338	258	36		294
Ireland	1 050	1 071	38		1 109
Italy	48 928	40 271	3 414		43 685
Latvia	5 228	4 684	162		4 846
Liechtenstein	176	167	9		176
Lithuania	7 195	6 761	270		7 031
Luxembourg	694	685	46		731
Malta	472	308	124		432
Republic of Moldova	15 310	13 593	613		14 206
Monaco	112	95	6		101
Montenegro	3 213	3 087	87		3 174
Netherlands	11 345	11 254	196		11 450
North Macedonia	6 124	5 629	198		5 827
Norway	2 015	1 956	65		2 021
Poland	72 710	70 396	1 218		71 614
Portugal	4 408	3 429	539		3 968
Romania	84 993	74 206	3 245		77 451
Russian Federation	182 533	162 227	6 473		168 700
San Marino	118	83	25		108
Serbia	32 865	30 853	851		31 704
Slovak Republic	9 116	8 544	421		8 965
Slovenia	9 902	9 462	385		9 847
Spain	13 485	13 155	265		13 420
Sweden	10 397	10 323	154		10 477
Switzerland	7 635	7 552	214		7 766
Turkey	119 492	101 873	5 931		107 804
Ukraine	101 062	72 604	18 060		90 664
United Kingdom	22 987	23 091	1 859		24 950
TOTAL	975 214	868 205	53 023		921 228

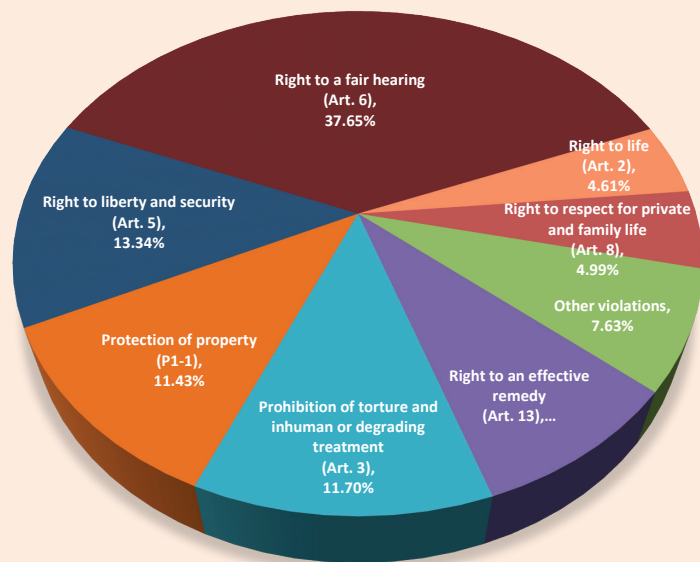
* This table includes cases dealt with by the European Commission of Human Rights prior to 1959.

Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (1959-2020)

Nearly 40% of the violations found by the Court have concerned Article 6 of the Convention, whether on account of the fairness (16.79%) or the length (20.86%) of the proceedings.

The second most frequently found violation has concerned the right to liberty and security (Article 5).

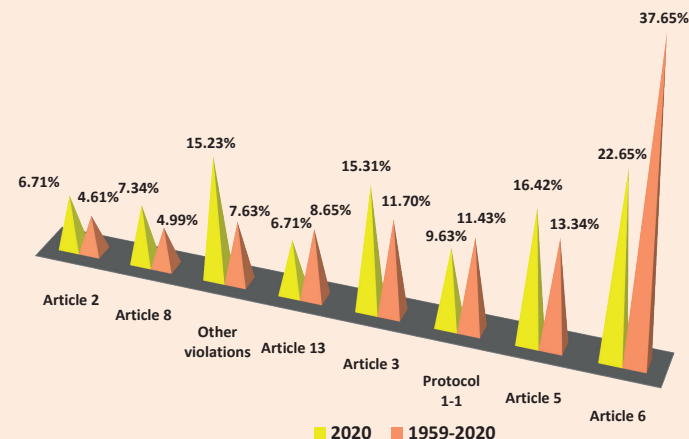
Lastly, in more than 16% of cases, the Court has found a serious violation of the Convention, concerning the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3).



Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (Comparative Graph 1959-2020 & 2020)

The violation most frequently found by the Court concerns Article 6 (right to a fair hearing), particularly with regard to the excessive length of the proceedings. In 2020 almost a quarter of all violations found by the Court related to this provision.

For a number of years, however, other violations of the Convention have been found increasingly frequently. In 2020 this was particularly the case with regard to the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3) as well as the right to liberty and security (Article 5).



1959-2020	Total number of judgments		Judgments finding at least one violation		Friendly settlements/settlements		Other judgments ¹		Right to life – deprivation of life		Lack of effective investigation		Inhuman or degrading treatment		Lack of effective investigation		Conditional violations ²		Prohibition of slavery/forced labour		Right to liberty and security		Length of proceedings		Non-enforcement		Right to respect for private and family life ²		Freedom of thought, conscience and religion		Freedom of assembly and association		Right to marry		Prohibition of discrimination		Protection of property		Right to education		Right not to be tried or punished twice		Other Articles of the Convention	
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	2	2	3	3	3	2/3	4	5	6	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	P1-1	P1-2	P1-3	P1-4																
Albania	83	69	5	2	7			2	1	4	3			6	35	7	24	1	2						31		32																2	
Andorra	9	4	3	1	1									2											1	1																		
Armenia	137	126	6		5	4	6	1	11	6				48	46	5	6			4	5	1	12		8	1	34											1				10		
Austria	397	279	77	24	17				1	4			1	13	95	115				20	1	35	1		18	27	4											1	4					
Azerbaijan	215	206	1	2	6	4	11	2	25	22				78	84	7	21			15	4	11	37		9	1	38										25				34			
Belgium	269	190	45	18	16	3	1	1	27	4	3			54	63	62	1			13	1	4			18	9	1														2			
Bosnia Herzegovina	91	84	7					1	2					10	15	8	40	1	2	1					1	4	55														9			
Bulgaria	737	663	48	5	21	15	30	4	84	41	5			276	104	181	14			86	10	19	18		193	8	127	1												5	2	23		
Croatia	437	346	58	26	7	2	10		15	12				29	118	102	3	3	50				8	2	1	36	7	39														2		
Cyprus	84	70	7	3	4			3	9	4		1	16	12	35		1	7		1				12	3	4																1		
Czech Republic	235	191	22	13	9	1	1		2	2				32	70	81				20		1	1		16	2	13																	
Denmark	54	18	24	11	1				1		1			2	1	8				2		1	1		2	1	1																	
Estonia	62	45	16	1					8	2				10	15	7		4	4					8		1																		
Finland	191	142	36	9	4	2			2					2	37	62				24		20		10		2														6				
France	1 048	759	187	64	38	9	4	2	42	1	13	2		72	280	284	2	3	52	4	40	6		39	10	30															1	7		
Georgia	119	95	20	1	3	6	9	1	27	16				24	31	5	1	1	7	3	1	1		4	9	7															8			
Germany	356	199	129	13	15				5	1				32	29	102	1	10	23				9	2	25	13	4															1		
Greece	1 047	935	44	20	48	4	7	1	121	11	1	4		85	141	542	19			13	14	15	7	1	277	15	84	2											3	2	2			
Hungary	581	547	19	6	9	2	1		33	10				56	21	335		1	24			33	12		53	6	55														3	4		
Iceland	34	25	5	3	1									1	10					1																					3			
Ireland	39	25	9	1	4				1					2	5	14				5		2																						
Italy	2 427	1 857	73	355	142	4	6	9	33	14				43	290	1 202	18	5	172			10	3		96	8	373	1									17	1			30			
Latvia	153	123	25	3	2	1	2		19	13				60	21	21		1	33	3	4	1		5	2	3															9			
Liechtenstein	9	8	1											1	3	4																												

1959-2020	Total number of judgments		Judgments finding at least one violation		Friendly settlements/shifting-out judgments		Other judgments ¹		Right to life – deprivation of life		Lack of effective investigation		Inhuman or degrading treatment		Lack of effective investigation		Conditional violations ²		Prohibition of slavery/forced labour		Right to liberty and security		Right to a fair trial ²		Length of proceedings		Non-enforcement		Right to respect for private and family life ²		Freedom of thought, conscience and religion		Freedom of expression		Freedom of assembly and association		Right to marry		Prohibition of effective remedy		Protection of property		Right to education		Right to free elections		Right not to be tried or punished twice		Other Articles of the Convention																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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Lithuania	226	156	51	13	6	3	6			27	9			26	32	27	2	1	23	1	2	1		7	6	32		1	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										

This table has been generated automatically using the conclusions in the metadata for each judgment in the HUDOC database.

1. Other judgments: just satisfaction, revision, preliminary objections and lack of jurisdiction.
2. Figures in this column may include conditional violations.
3. Cases where the Court found there would be a violation of Article 2 and/or 3 if the applicant is removed to a State where he/she is at risk. Figures in this column are available only from 2013.
4. Seventy-nine judgments are against more than one respondent State.

History of the Court's reforms

Since the Court was set up in 1959, the member States of the Council of Europe have adopted a number of protocols to the European Convention on Human Rights with the aim of improving and strengthening its supervisory mechanism.

In 1998 Protocol No. 11 thus replaced the original two-tier structure, comprising the Commission and the Court on Human Rights, sitting a few days per month, by a single full-time Court. This change put an end to the Commission's filtering function, enabling applicants to bring their cases directly before the Court.

A second major reform to address the considerable increase in the number of applications and the Court's backlog was brought about by the entry into force of Protocol No. 14 in 2010. This Protocol introduced new judicial formations for the simplest cases and established a new admissibility criterion (existence of a "significant disadvantage" for the applicant); it also extended the judges' term of office to 9 years (not renewable).

Since 2010, several high-level conferences on the future of the Court have been convened to identify methods of guaranteeing the long-term effectiveness of the Convention system. These conferences have, in particular, led to the adoption of Protocols Nos. 15 and 16 to the Convention.

Protocol No. 15, adopted in 2013, inserted references to the principle of subsidiarity and the doctrine of the margin of appreciation into the Convention's preamble; it also reduced from 6 to 4 months the time within which an application must be lodged with the Court after a final national decision. It entered into force on 1 August 2021.

Protocol No. 16 entered into force in 2018, allowing the highest courts and tribunals of a State Party to ask the Court to give advisory opinions on questions of principle relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention rights and freedoms.

Working methods

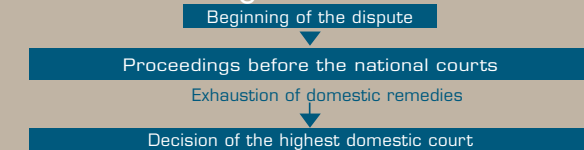
The Court has reformed its working methods in order to increase its efficiency.

The Court has developed the pilot-judgments procedure to cater for the massive influx of applications concerning similar issues, also known as "systemic or structural issues" – i.e. those that arise from the non-conformity of domestic law with the Convention as regards the exercise of a particular right.

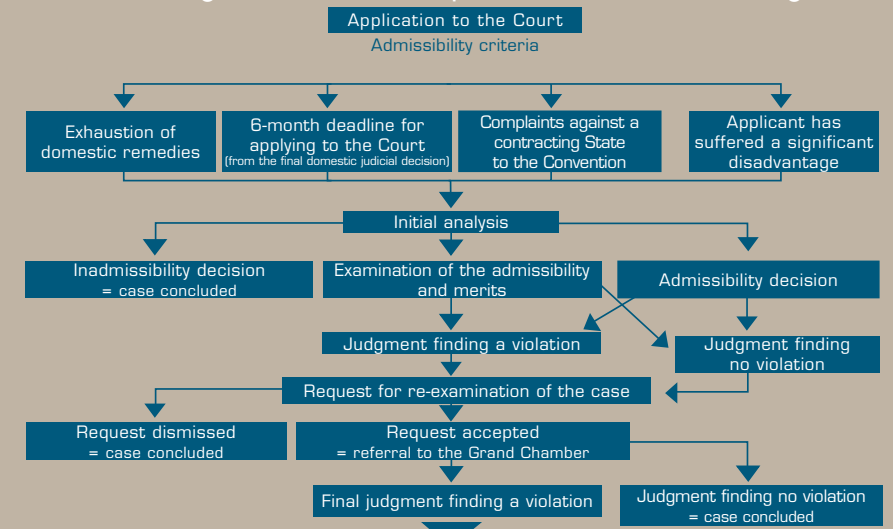
The Court has also adopted a priority policy so as to take into consideration the importance and urgency of the issues raised when deciding the order in which cases are to be dealt with.

The life of an application

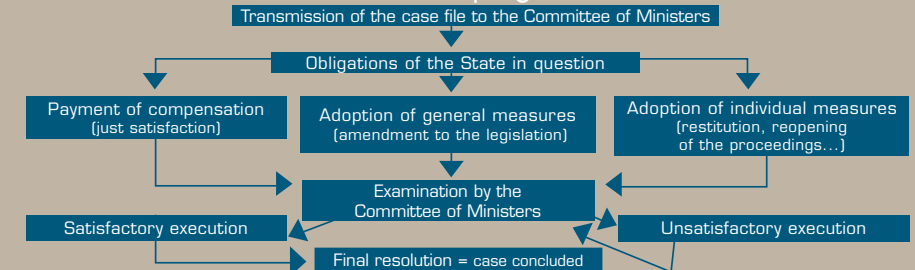
Proceedings at national level



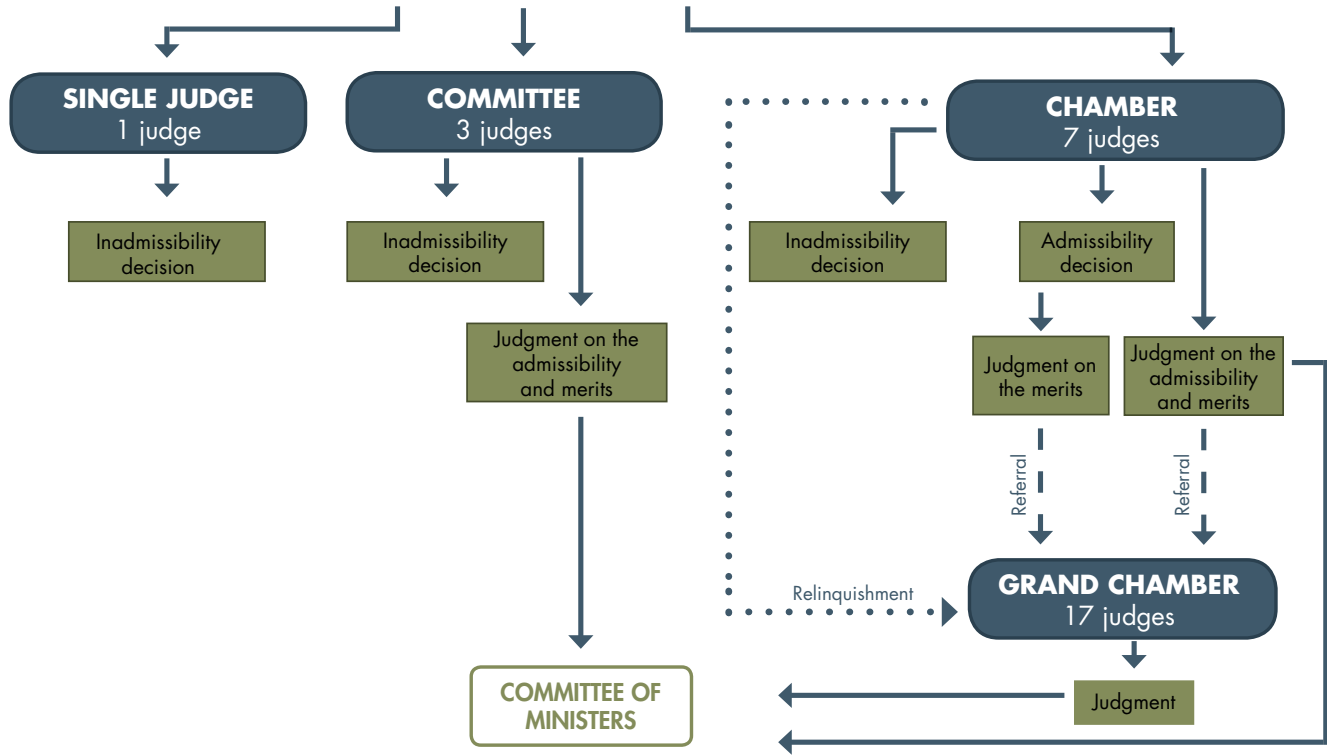
Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights

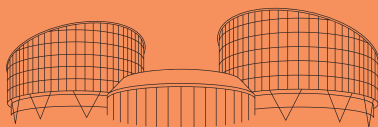


Execution of judgments



INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION





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