



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

Explanation of Importance Level & Case Reports

Importance Level

This field can be used to carry out searches of judgments, decisions and/or advisory opinions classified by level of importance.

Cases are divided into four categories, the highest level of importance being Case Reports, followed by levels 1, 2 and 3. The classification by levels 1, 2 and 3 remains provisional until the Bureau has decided whether a case should appear in the Court's official reports series. The list of cases selected by the Bureau can be found on the Court's website under "Case-law". For example, a case that was provisionally classified as level 1 but ultimately selected for the official reports will change category.

Case Reports

Judgments, decisions and advisory opinions delivered since the inception of the new Court in 1998 which have been published or selected for publication in the Court's official Reports of Judgments and Decisions. The selection from 2007 onwards has been made by the Bureau of the Court following a proposal by the Jurisconsult.

Judgments of the former Court (published in Series A and Reports of Judgments and Decisions) and cases published in the former Commission's series Decisions and Reports have not been included in the Case Reports category and are therefore classified by levels 1, 2 and 3 only.

1 = High importance: All judgments, decisions and advisory opinions not included in the Case Reports which make a significant contribution to the development, clarification or modification of its case-law, either generally or in relation to a particular State.

2 = Medium importance: Other judgments, decisions and advisory opinions which, while not making a significant contribution to the case-law, nevertheless go beyond merely applying existing case-law.

3 = Low importance: Judgments, decisions and advisory opinions of little legal interest, namely judgments and decisions that simply apply existing case-law, friendly settlements and strike outs (unless raising a particular point of interest).