

OVERVIEW

1959-2015

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Overview 1959-2015

ECHR

This document has been prepared by the Public Relations Unit of the Court, 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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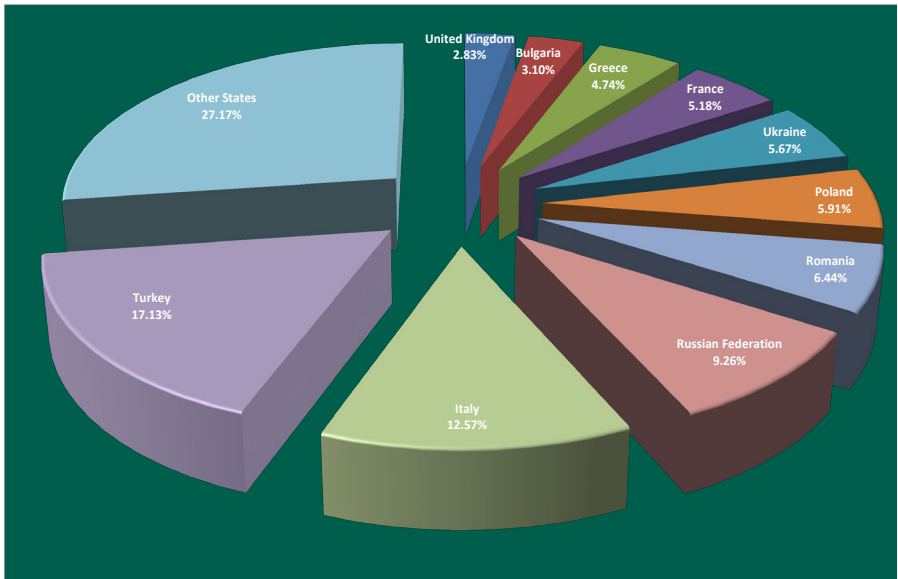
European Court of Human Rights
Public Relations Unit
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg cedex

Statistics 1959 to 2015

Violation judgments by State

Since it was established in 1959 the Court has delivered about 18,500 judgments. Nearly half of the judgments concerned 5 member States: Turkey (3,182), Italy (2,336), the Russian Federation (1,720), Romania (1,197) and Poland (1,099).

Of the total number of judgments it has delivered since 1959, the Court has found at least one violation of the Convention by the respondent State in 84% of cases.

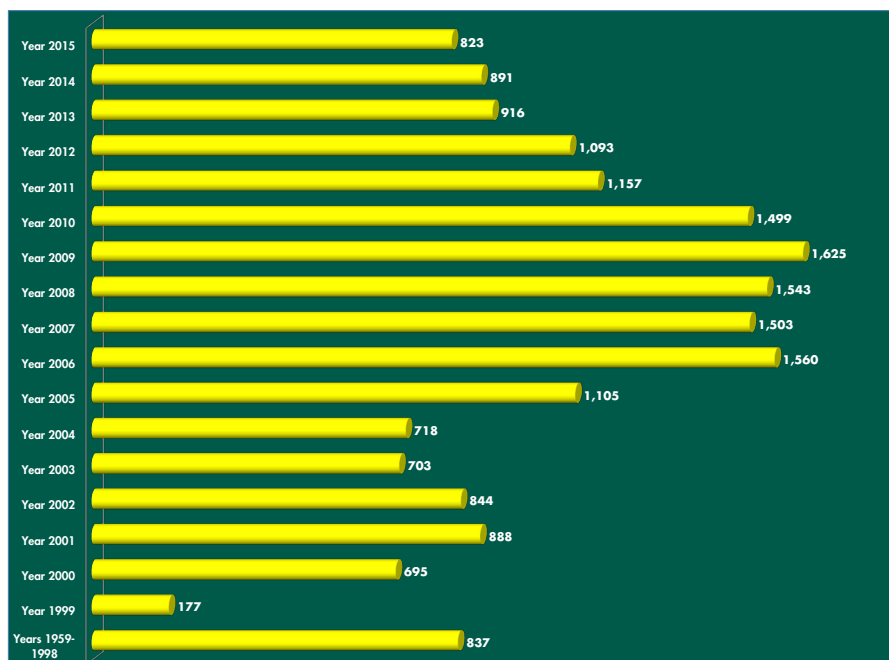


Judgments delivered by the Court

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 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 674,000 applications.



Throughput of applications 1959* - 2015

	Applications allocated to a judicial formation	Applications or struck out inadmissible	Applications declared inadmissible	Applications judgment delivered	Applications in which decision was reached	Total number of applications decided
	1959-2015	1959-2015	1959-2015	1959-2015	1959-2015	1959-2015
Albania	1,012	520	97	617		
Andorra	72	63	6	69		
Armenia	2,306	1,276	62	1,338		
Austria	8,901	8,215	385	8,600		
Azerbaijan	4,315	2,638	166	2,804		
Belgium	4,895	4,271	249	4,520		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6,980	6,019	126	6,145		
Bulgaria	14,296	12,881	674	13,555		
Croatia	13,312	12,476	344	12,820		
Cyprus	1,080	939	91	1,030		
Czech Republic	11,939	11,560	251	11,811		
Denmark	1,722	1,638	47	1,685		
Estonia	2,951	2,827	54	2,881		
Finland	4,997	4,802	186	4,988		
France	30,618	28,765	1,060	29,825		
Georgia	5,846	3,631	64	3,695		
Germany	28,510	27,984	319	28,303		
Greece	7,801	5,799	1,131	6,930		
Hungary	13,859	8,805	466	9,271		
Iceland	218	180	16	196		
Ireland	947	908	31	939		
Italy	42,524	29,864	3,182	33,046		
Latvia	3,797	3,536	108	3,644		
Liechtenstein	135	122	8	130		
Lithuania	5,157	4,680	132	4,812		
Luxembourg	592	541	44	585		
Malta	320	209	72	281		
Republic of Moldova	11,787	10,204	393	10,597		
Monaco	83	75	4	79		
Montenegro	1,947	1,741	37	1,778		
Netherlands	9,461	8,952	170	9,122		
Norway	1,574	1,464	47	1,511		
Poland	62,839	60,123	1,110	61,233		
Portugal	3,477	2,550	465	3,015		
Romania	61,292	56,192	1,660	57,852		
Russian Federation	135,152	123,330	2,748	126,078		
San Marino	74	52	16	68		
Serbia	24,602	22,957	545	23,502		
Slovak Republic	7,403	6,864	352	7,216		
Slovenia	8,633	6,646	349	6,995		
Spain	10,579	10,312	200	10,512		
Sweden	9,704	9,471	146	9,617		
Switzerland	6,567	6,240	165	6,405		
'The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia'	4,598	4,236	123	4,359		
Turkey	62,147	49,702	4,163	53,865		
Ukraine	76,585	57,982	4,815	62,797		
United Kingdom	23,408	21,239	1,795	23,034		
TOTAL	741,014	645,481	28,674	674,155		

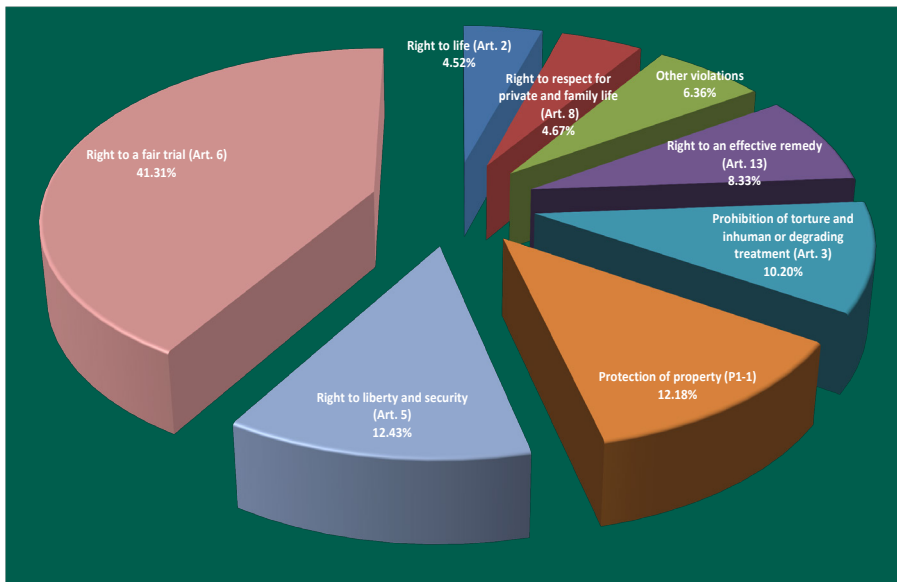
* This table includes cases dealt with by the European Commission of Human Rights prior to 1959.

Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (1959-2015)

More than 41% of the violations found by the Court have concerned Article 6 of the Convention, whether on account of the fairness (17.63%) or the length of the proceedings (22.13%).

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

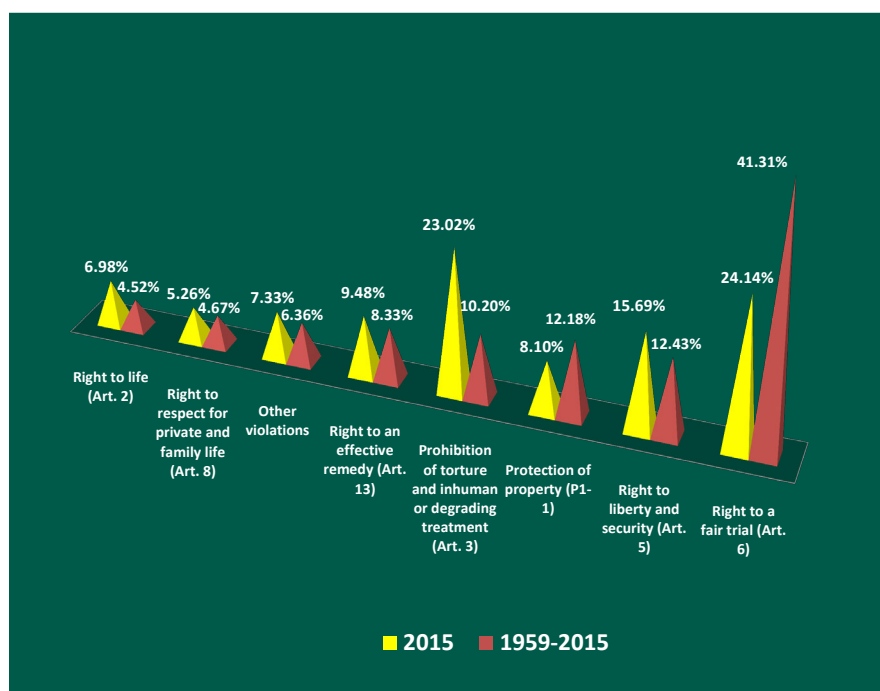
Lastly, in 14.72% of cases, the Court has found a serious violation of the Convention, concerning the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3).



Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (Comparative Graph 1959-2015 & 2015)

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 2015 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. One example is the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3): in 2015 this provision also accounted for almost one quarter of all the violations found.



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Overview 1959-2015

Violations by Article and by State*

1959-2015		Total	Total	Total	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	P1-1	P1-2	P1-3	P7-4	
Total number of judgments		Total	Total	Total	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	P1-1	P1-2	P1-3	P7-4	
Judgments finding at least one violation		44	33	8	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	17	4	3	1	4	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	
Judgments finding no violation		66	46	10	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	19	9	9	1	1	4	3	1	3	14	3	14	3	14	3	
Friendly settlements/Striking-out judgments		316	288	4	3	21	2	9	70	39	70	118	11	21	22	4	17	14	46	4	104	2	2	2	2	9	
Other judgments ¹		2	2																								
Right to life - deprivation of life		22	20	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	2	1	3	5	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	4	4				
Lack of effective investigation		146	85	33	16	12	4	1	8	1	1	28	25	8	17	7	7	5	7	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	
Prohibition of torture ²		40	28	12	6	6	6	2	34	9	3	299	106	434	4	107	1	25	1	2	25	4	52	1	1	7	
Inhuman or degrading treatment		1,099	925	116	42	16	6	2	34	9	3	28	131	4	10	20	6	6	17	2	35	1	47	1	1	7	
Lack of effective investigation		309	232	13	56	8	1	1	1	1	1	107	410	121	45	3	75	1	24	5	22	30	464	5	1	15	
Right to liberty and security		1,197	1,076	39	25	57	9	33	2	178	63	107	410	121	45	3	75	1	24	5	22	30	464	5	1	15	
Conditional violations ³		1,720	1,612	80	13	15	259	285	50	548	152	21	1	663	674	178	72	1	137	8	27	15	390	10	516	2	
Prohibition of slavery/forced labour		14	10	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Length of proceedings		132	117	9	6	2	2	3	4	2	2	7	25	24	41	12	6	6	6	17	2	51	2	2	2	1	
Right to a fair trial ²		336	300	10	21	5	2	1	4	2	1	52	37	198	2	19	9	9	34	2	35	1	47	1	1	1	
No punishment without law		337	317	16	3	1	2	2	6	2	2	6	15	262	3	10	1	1	1	265	1	2	2	2	2	1	
Freedom of expression		135	86	43	3	3	2	8	2	8	2	5	42	13	4	10	4	4	1	4	2	1	4	2	1	1	
Freedom of thought, conscience and religion		144	56	56	28	4	1	1	4	1	1	2	27	12	1	9	2	2	2	2	1	6	1	1	1	1	
Right to respect for private and family life		162	97	57	5	3	1	1	1	1	2	16	31	7	1	22	1	16	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	
Freedom of assembly and association		121	110	6	3	2	2	1	3	5	10	14	33	61	5	3	3	1	1	10	7	7	7	7	7	7	
Freedom of expression		3,182	2,812	67	204	99	125	186	31	305	198	685	821	582	61	4	94	9	258	70	265	11	647	5	9	32	
Prohibition of discrimination		1,053	1,036	11	2	4	9	40	13	136	66	235	494	303	29	1	51	3	10	5	192	2	336	2	2	28	
Right not to be tried or punished twice		526	305	132	67	22	2	20	2	17	1	1	65	91	28	1	68	1	11	4	4	33	44	3	2	6	
Other Articles of the Convention		15,570	1,357	1,080	613	458	653	133	1,670	662	39	6	3,053	4,329	5,435	381	41	1,146	61	619	179	8	2,045	242	2,992	13	
Sub-total		18,577**																									79
Total																											293

* This table has been generated automatically since 2012, using the conclusions in the HUDOC database.

1. Other judgments: just satisfaction, revision, preliminary objections and lack of jurisdiction.

2. Figures may include conditional violations.

3. Figures are available only from 2013.

** Some judgments concern several States.

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).

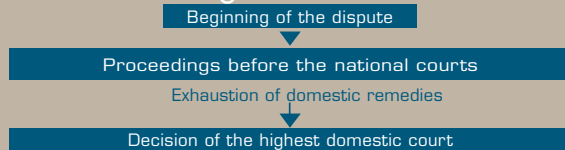
Since 2010, three high-level conferences on the future of the Court have been convened to identify methods of guaranteeing the long-term effectiveness of the Convention system. These conferences have, in particular, led to the adoption of Protocols Nos. 15 and 16 to the Convention, which were not yet in force in 2015.

Protocol No. 15, adopted in 2013, will insert references to the principle of subsidiarity and the doctrine of the margin of appreciation into the Convention's preamble; it will also reduce from 6 to 4 months the time within which an application must be lodged with the Court after a final national decision.

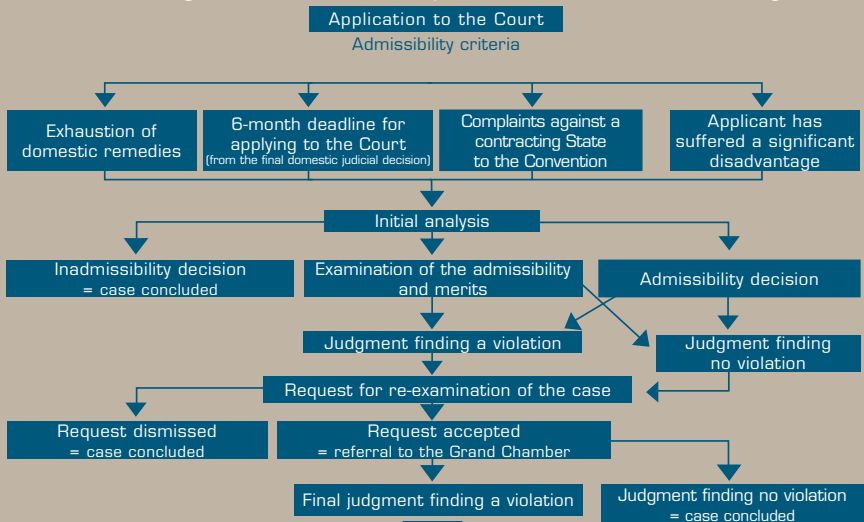
2013 also saw the adoption of **Protocol No. 16**, which will allow the highest domestic courts and tribunals to request the Court to give advisory opinions on questions of principle relating to the interpretation or application of the rights and freedoms defined in the Convention or the protocols thereto. Protocol No. 16 is optional.

The life of an application

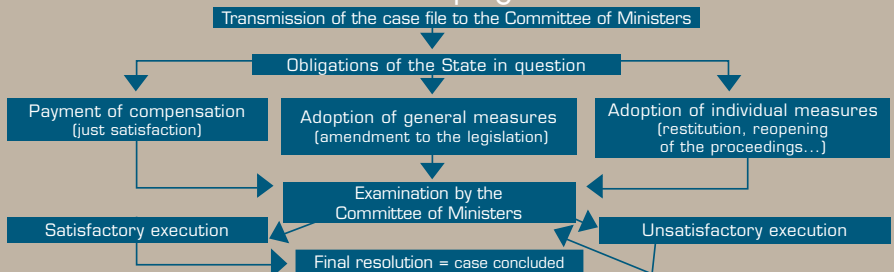
Proceedings at national level



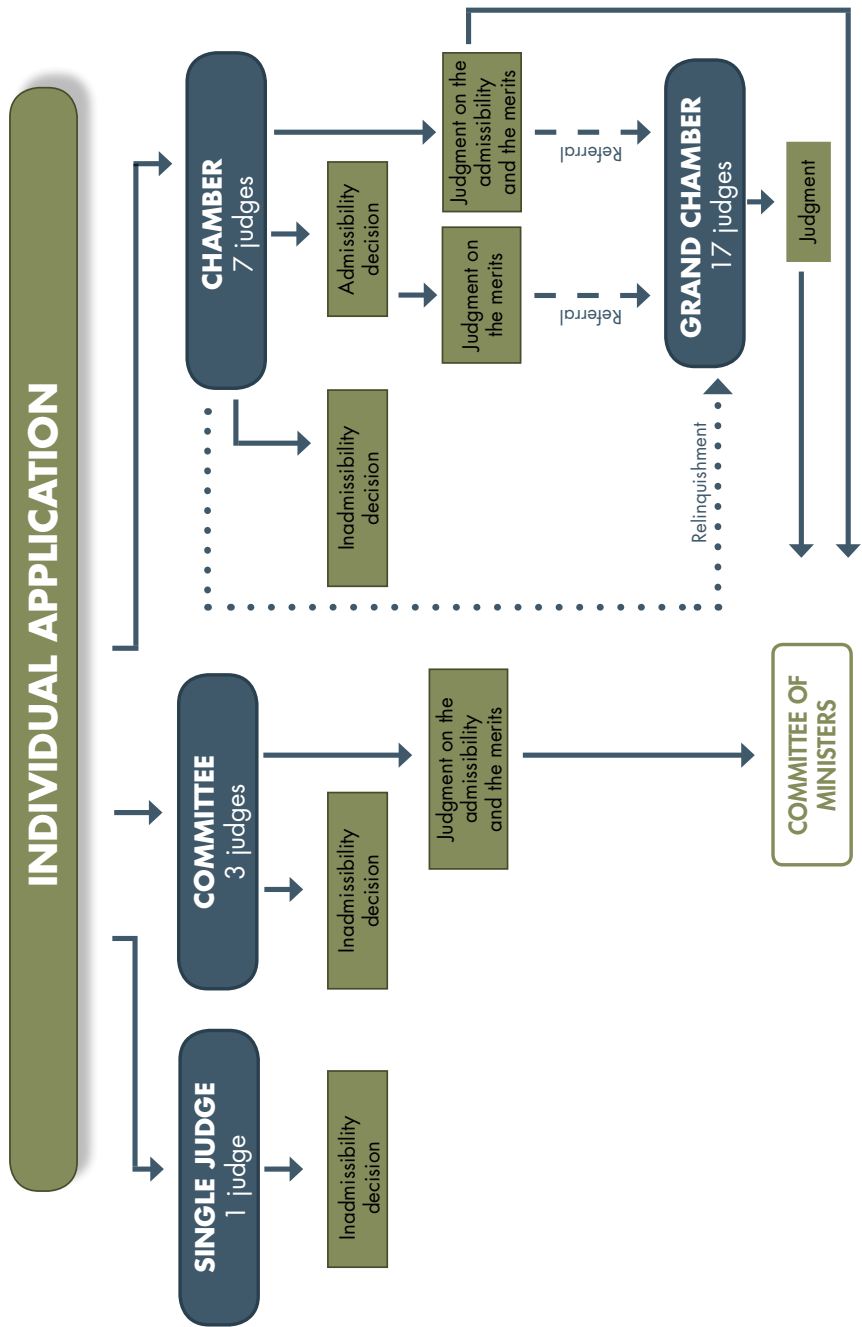
Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights



Execution of judgments



Simplified flow chart of case-processing by the Court





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