

OVERVIEW

1959

2017

EUROPE



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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Overview 1959-2017

ECHR

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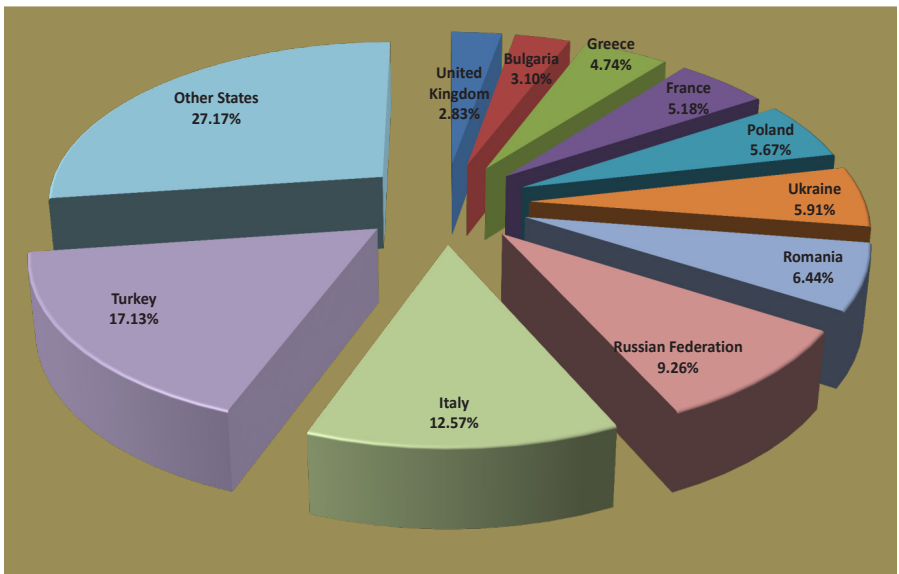
European Court of Human Rights
Public Relations Unit
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg cedex

Statistics 1959 to 2017

Judgments by State

Since it was established in 1959 the Court has delivered more than 20,600 judgments. Around 40% of these concerned 3 member States of the Council of Europe: Turkey (3,386) Italy (2,382) and the Russian Federation (2,253).

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.

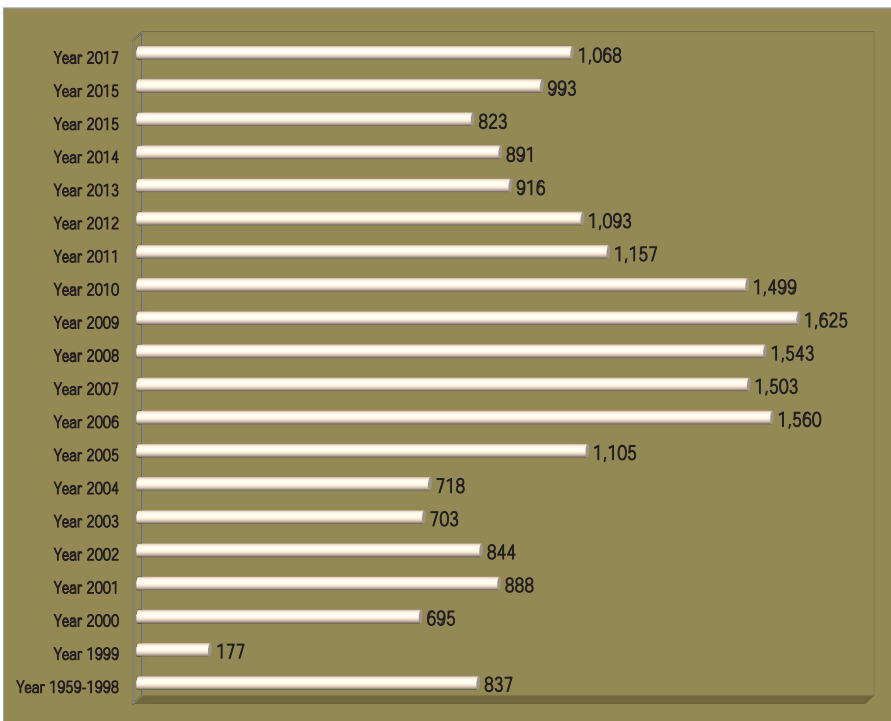


Judgments delivered by the Court

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 798,600 applications through a judgment or decision, or by being struck out of the list.



Throughput of applications 1959* - 2017

	Applications allocated to a judicial formation	Applications or struck out inadmissible	Applications declared inadmissible	Applications judgment delivered	Applications in which judgment was delivered	Total number of applications decided
	1959-2017	1959-2017	1959-2017	1959-2017	1959-2017	1959-2017
Albania	1,253	620		119		739
Andorra	78	70		8		78
Armenia	3,416	1,518		90		1,608
Austria	8,083	8,714		423		9,137
Azerbaijan	5,318	2,985		313		3,298
Belgium	4,289	4,606		276		4,882
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8,876	8,064		171		8,235
Bulgaria	15,760	14,410		778		15,188
Croatia	14,797	13,901		411		14,312
Cyprus	1,144	1,003		98		1,101
Czech Republic	12,655	12,322		266		12,588
Denmark	1,699	1,749		52		1,801
Estonia	3,313	3,187		61		3,248
Finland	5,374	5,176		189		5,365
France	32,292	30,548		1,104		31,652
Georgia	6,009	4,011		80		4,091
Germany	25,539	29,263		357		29,620
Greece	8,558	6,642		1,239		7,881
Hungary	21,378	17,283		592		17,875
Iceland	246	201		23		224
Ireland	941	972		33		1,005
Italy	44,285	34,532		3,350		37,882
Latvia	4,322	4,025		145		4,170
Liechtenstein	152	144		9		153
Lithuania	5,963	5,584		187		5,771
Luxembourg	607	615		45		660
Malta	367	238		87		325
Republic of Moldova	13,338	11,587		437		12,024
Monaco	96	88		5		93
Montenegro	2,250	2,115		57		2,172
Netherlands	10,130	10,025		184		10,209
Norway	1,730	1,680		53		1,733
Poland	67,307	64,814		1,159		65,973
Portugal	3,810	3,028		512		3,540
Romania	75,974	64,048		2,132		66,180
Russian Federation	148,680	136,583		4,549		141,132
San Marino	98	67		17		84
Serbia	26,741	25,771		648		26,419
Slovak Republic	8,137	7,559		380		7,939
Slovenia	9,238	8,763		366		9,129
Spain	11,847	11,504		225		11,729
Sweden	9,820	9,766		151		9,917
Switzerland	6,806	6,733		185		6,918
'The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia'	5,282	4,843		149		4,992
Turkey	96,397	83,807		5,272		89,079
Ukraine	89,593	65,145		17,369		82,514
United Kingdom	21,988	22,106		1,839		23,945
TOTAL	845,976	752,415		46,195		798,610

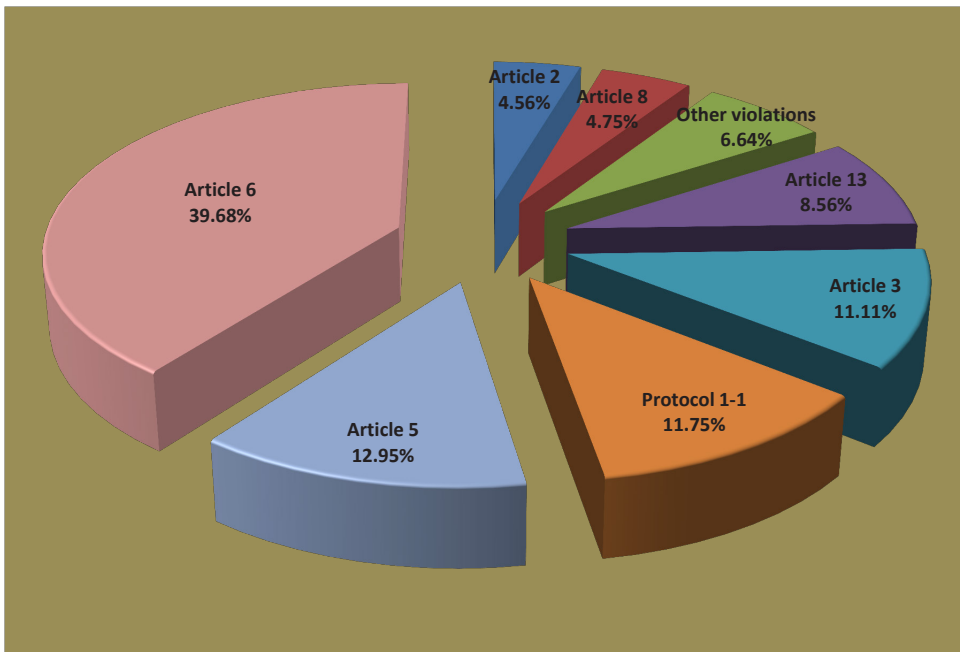
* This table includes cases dealt with by the European Commission of Human Rights prior to 1959.

Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (1959-2017)

Nearly 40% of the violations found by the Court have concerned Article 6 of the Convention, whether on account of the fairness (17.21 %) or the length (20.70 %) of the proceedings.

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

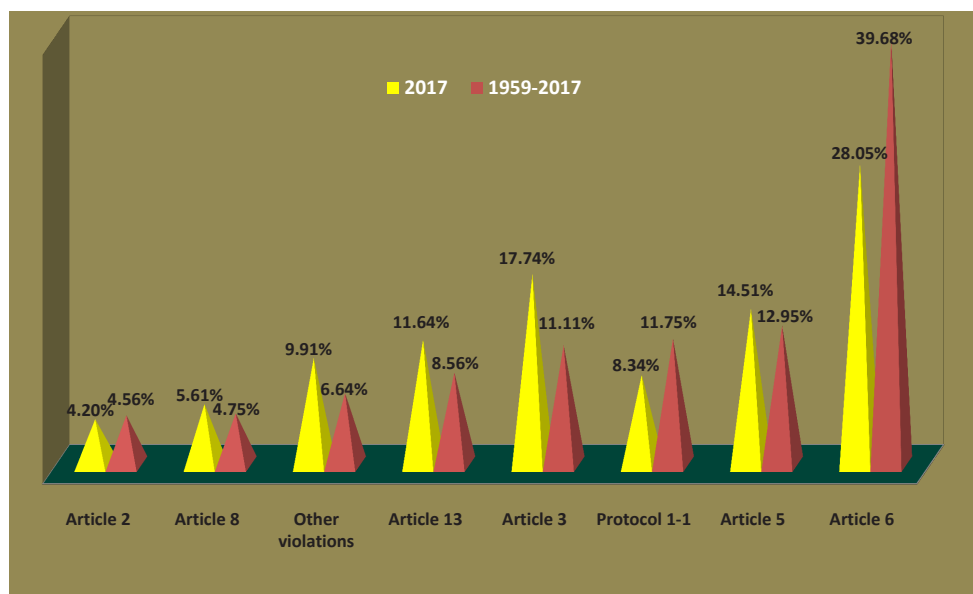
Lastly, in more than 15% of cases, the Court has found a serious violation of the Convention, concerning the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3).



Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (Comparative Graph 1959-2017 & 2017)

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 2017 more than 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 2017 this was particularly the case with regard to the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3) and the right to liberty and security (Article 5).



1959-2017	Total number of judgments		Judgments finding at least one violation		Friendly settlements/striking-out judgments		Right to life – deprivation of life		Lack of effective investigation		Inhuman or degrading treatment		Lack of effective investigation		Prohibition of slavery/forced labour		Right to liberty and security		Length of proceedings		Non-enforcement		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	3	4	5	6	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	P1-1	P1-2	P1-3	P7-4										
Albania	70	57	4	2	7			1	2	1			3	28	7	24	1	1						27		29											2	
Andorra	8	4	2	1	1									2			1						1	1														
Armenia	87	79	5		3	2	3	1	9	4			29	34		4		2	4	1	8			4	1	19		1								9		
Austria	386	272	75	24	15			1	4		1		13	94	111			18	1	35	1		16	27	4		1	4										
Azerbaijan	148	142	1	2	3	1	6	1	15	14			45	60	7	16		2		4	30		7		31		23									15		
Belgium	242	171	37	18	16	3		1	22	3	3		49	61	58			12		4			14	9	1											2		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	56	49	7					1	1				8	10	5	19	1	1	1				1	4	31											7		
Bulgaria	653	588	41	5	19	15	29	4	78	39	1		270	90	179	11		74	9	16	12		179	8	103	1	5	1	22									
Croatia	377	301	45	26	5	2	10		14	11			28	99	97	3	1	40		3	1	1	33	7	33			2										
Cyprus	75	62	6	3	4		2		5	3		1	14	10	35		1	7		1			12	3	4		1		1							1		
Czech Republic	230	186	22	13	9	1	1		2	2			32	68	79			19		1	1		16	2	12													
Denmark	48	15	21	11	1								1	1	8			2		1	1		2	1	1													
Estonia	54	41	12	1					6	2			10	15	7		4	2		1			7		1													
Finland	188	140	35	9	4				1				2	37	62			24		20			10		2			6										
France	997	728	168	64	37	7	3	2	33		13	2	70	272	283	2	3	47	4	37	6		35	9	30											4		
Georgia	80	61	15	1	3	1	3	1	19	10			23	16	5	1		6	3	1	1		4	7	6		1									6		
Germany	321	193	102	13	13				4	1			31	24	102	1	10	23		9	2		24	13	4											1		
Greece	963	864	34	20	45	4	5	1	104	7	1	3	74	134	525	13		12	13	13	7		251	14	75	1	3	2	1									
Hungary	472	448	12	6	6	2	1		28	6			41	19	292		1	18		24	9		29	6	33		3									4		
Iceland	23	17	3	3									1	4				1		7	2							1							1			
Ireland	34	22	7	1	4				1				2	5	11			5		2			7	1														
Italy	2,382	1,819	68	355	140	3	6	9	30	13			42	282	1,193	15	4	163		8	3		93	7	365	1	17	1	30									
Latvia	137	110	22	3	2	1	2		19	13			59	19	17		1	29	3	4	1		5	1	2		3									9		

[illegible]

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

3. Figures in this column are available only from 2013 onwards.

* Some judgments are against 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, 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, which were not yet in force in 2017.

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.

Working methods

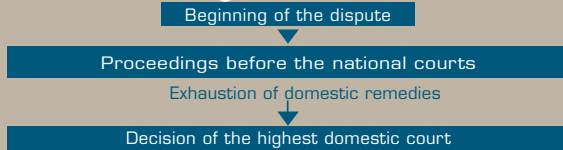
The Court has reformed its working methods in order to increase its efficiency.

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.

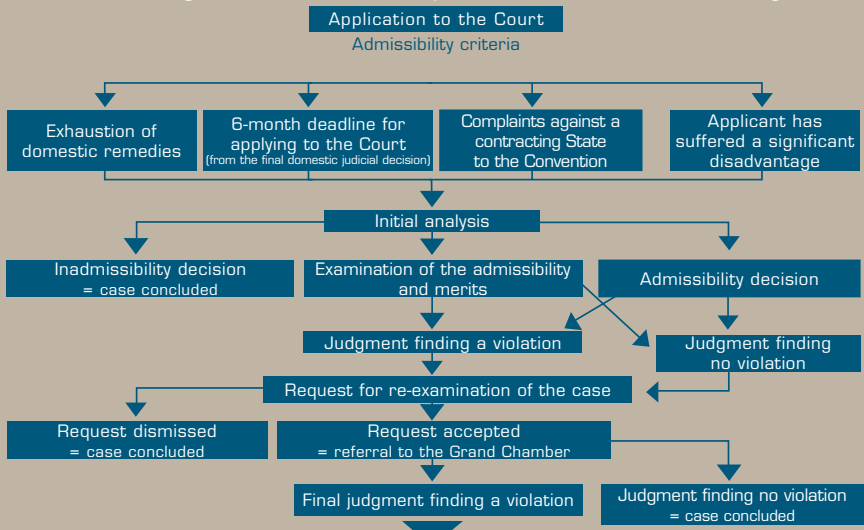
The Court has also adopted a priority policy so as to take into consideration the importance and urgency of the issues raised when deciding the order in which cases are to be dealt with.

The life of an application

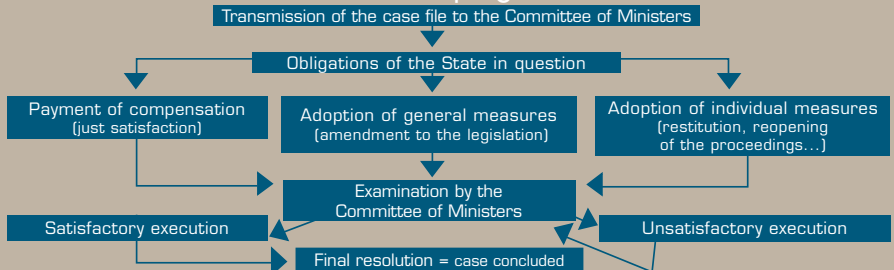
Proceedings at national level



Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights

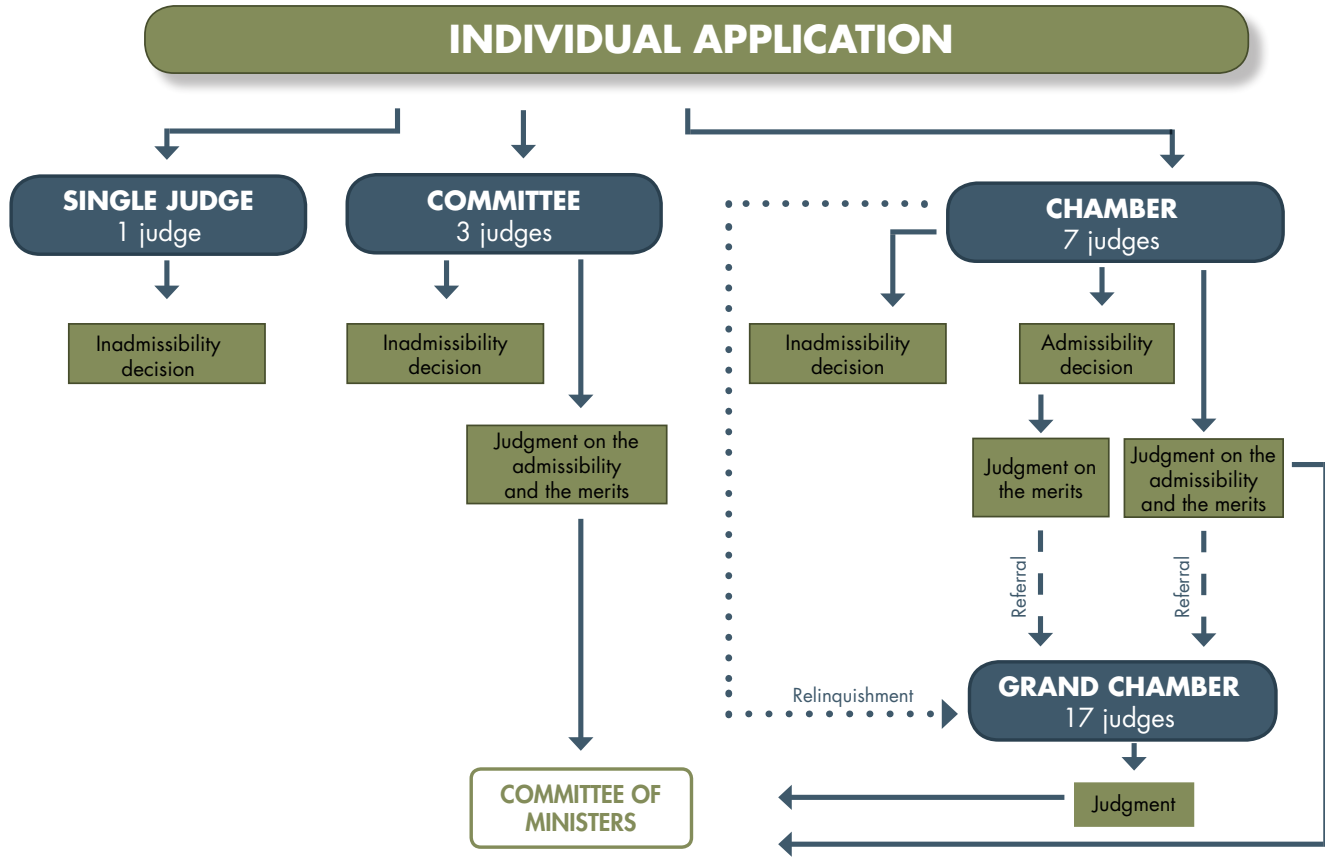


Execution of judgments



Simplified flow chart of case-processing by the Court

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