

OVERVIEW

1959

1959

2018

2018

1959

2018



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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Overview 1959-2018

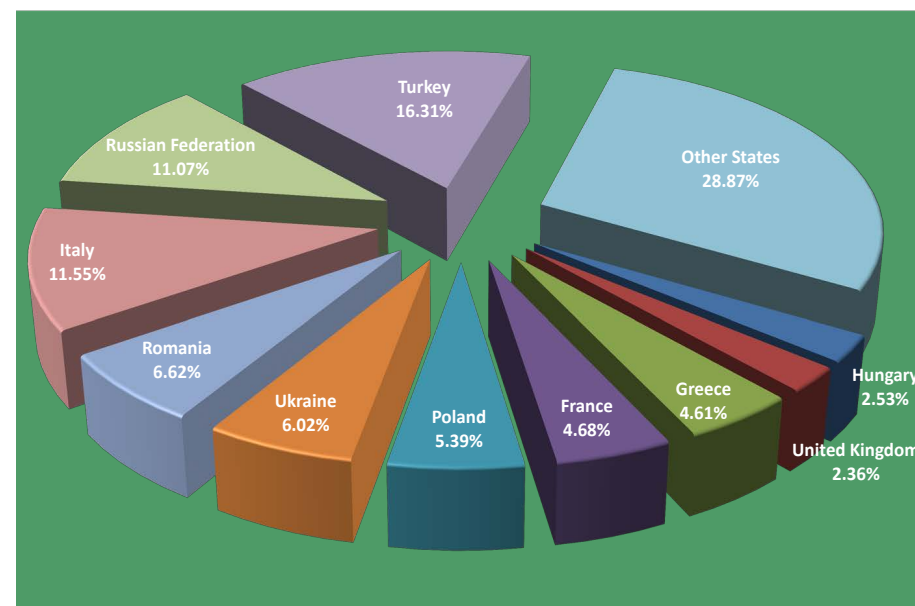
ECHR

Statistics 1959 to 2018

Judgments by State

Since it was established in 1959 the Court has delivered more than 21,600 judgments. Around 40% of these concerned 3 member States of the Council of Europe: Turkey (3,532), the Russian Federation (2,501) and Italy (2,396).

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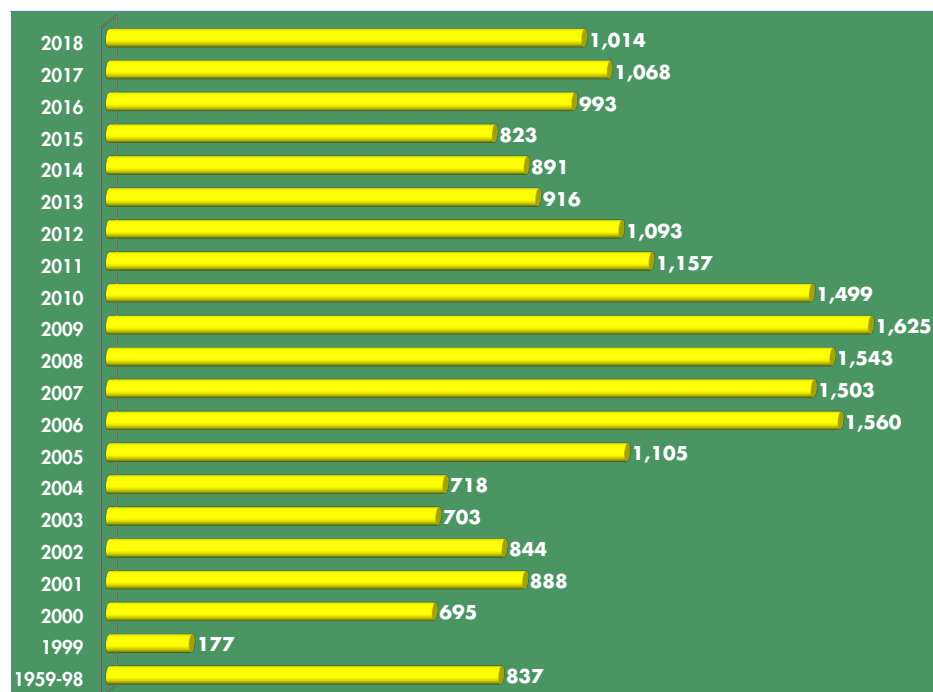
European Court of Human Rights
Public Relations Unit
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg cedex

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 841,300 applications through a judgment or decision, or by being struck out of the list.



Throughput of applications 1959* - 2018

	Applications allocated to a judicial formation	Applications inadmissible or struck out	Applications declared or judgment delivered	Applications in which judgment was delivered	Total number of applications decided
	1959-2018	1959-2018	1959-2018	1959-2018	1959-2018
Albania	1,352	665	128	793	
Andorra	81	72	8	80	
Armenia	3,583	1,590	106	1,696	
Austria	8,322	8,946	431	9,377	
Azerbaijan	5,631	3,246	356	3,602	
Belgium	4,466	4,788	286	5,074	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9,774	8,747	183	8,930	
Bulgaria	16,534	15,251	816	16,067	
Croatia	15,466	14,519	436	14,955	
Cyprus	1,196	1,045	105	1,150	
Czech Republic	13,004	12,655	280	12,935	
Denmark	1,736	1,787	57	1,844	
Estonia	3,445	3,316	65	3,381	
Finland	5,548	5,346	189	5,535	
France	33,163	31,324	1,141	32,465	
Georgia	6,108	4,152	90	4,242	
Germany	26,028	29,741	380	30,121	
Greece	8,978	7,012	1,277	8,289	
Hungary	22,280	20,601	683	21,284	
Iceland	270	216	26	242	
Ireland	971	998	35	1,033	
Italy	45,977	36,788	3,377	40,165	
Latvia	4,581	4,259	148	4,407	
Liechtenstein	161	153	9	162	
Lithuania	6,401	6,013	228	6,241	
Luxembourg	642	650	46	696	
Malta	397	257	101	358	
Republic of Moldova	14,152	12,445	481	12,926	
Monaco	101	92	5	97	
Montenegro	2,568	2,379	70	2,449	
Netherlands	10,559	10,484	188	10,672	
North Macedonia	5,587	5,106	164	5,270	
Norway	1,814	1,765	56	1,821	
Poland	69,248	66,814	1,183	67,997	
Portugal	3,959	3,159	521	3,680	
Romania	79,343	68,230	2,651	70,881	
Russian Federation	160,828	143,841	5,457	149,298	
San Marino	102	75	17	92	
Serbia	28,869	26,995	693	27,688	
Slovak Republic	8,527	7,979	399	8,378	
Slovenia	9,512	9,066	376	9,442	
Spain	12,439	11,980	244	12,224	
Sweden	10,014	9,935	154	10,089	
Switzerland	7,078	6,998	193	7,191	
Turkey	103,114	90,596	5,592	96,188	
Ukraine	92,800	67,898	17,659	85,557	
United Kingdom	22,342	22,464	1,843	24,307	
TOTAL	889,051	792,438	48,933	841,371	

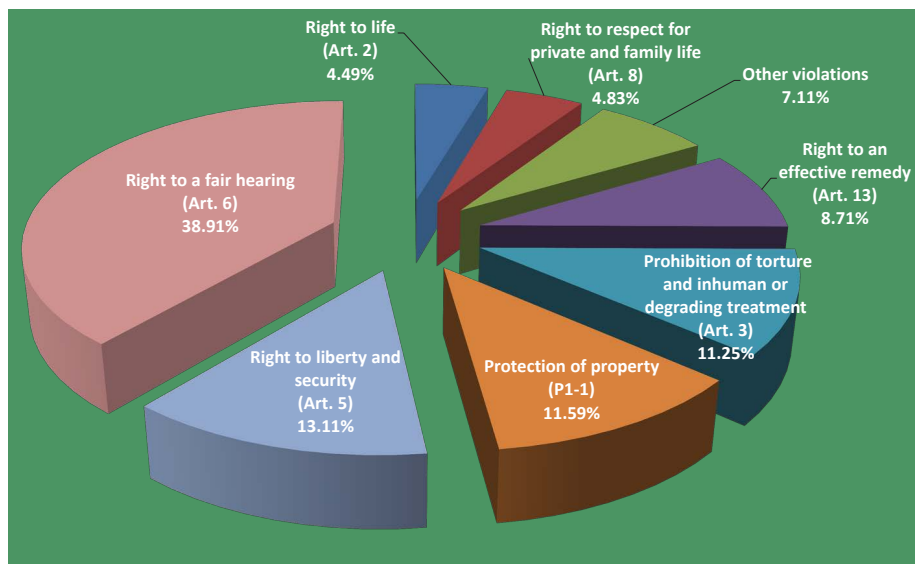
* This table includes cases dealt with by the European Commission of Human Rights prior to 1959.

Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (1959-2018)

Nearly 40% of the violations found by the Court have concerned Article 6 of the Convention, whether on account of the fairness (17.01 %) or the length (20.06 %) of the proceedings.

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

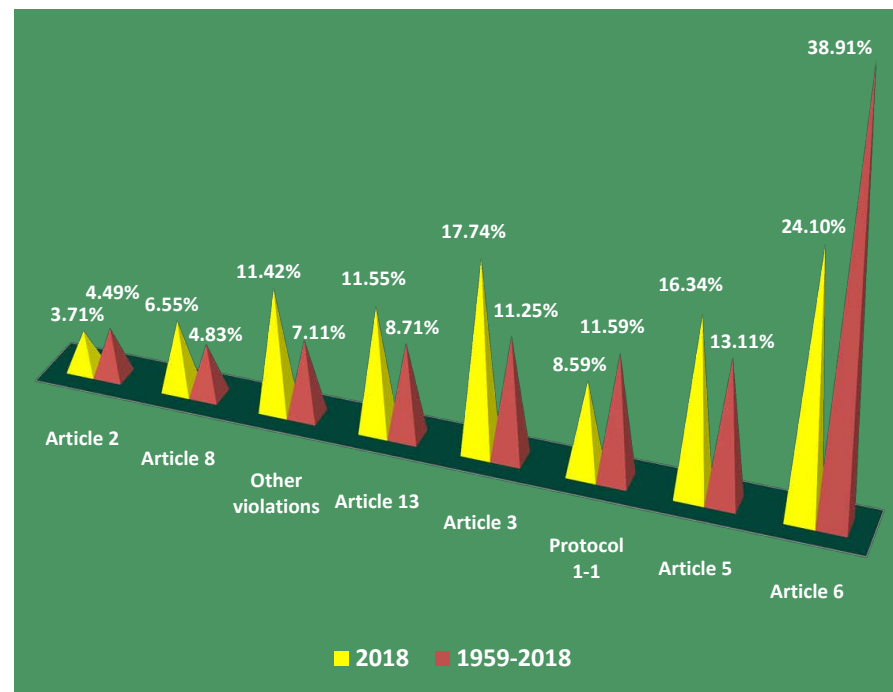
Lastly, in more than 15% of cases, the Court has found a serious violation of the Convention, concerning the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3).



Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (Comparative Graph 1959-2018 & 2018)

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 2018 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 2018 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).



Overview 1959-2018

This table has been generated automatically, using the conclusions recorded in the metadata for each judgment contained in HUDOC, the Court's case-law database.

1. Other judgments: just satisfaction, revision, preliminary objections and lack of jurisdiction.
2. Figures in this column may include conditional violations.
3. Cases in which the Court held there would be a violation of Article 2 and/or 3 if the applicant was removed to a State where he/she was at risk. Figures in this column are available only from 2013 onwards.
4. Including fifty-five judgments which concern two or more respondent 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.

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. It will enter into force as soon as all the States Parties to the Convention have signed and ratified it.

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

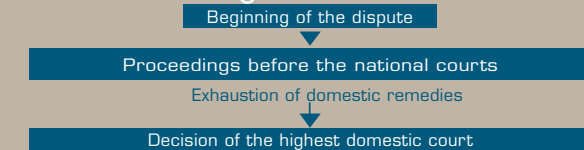
The Court has reformed its working methods in order to increase its efficiency.

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.

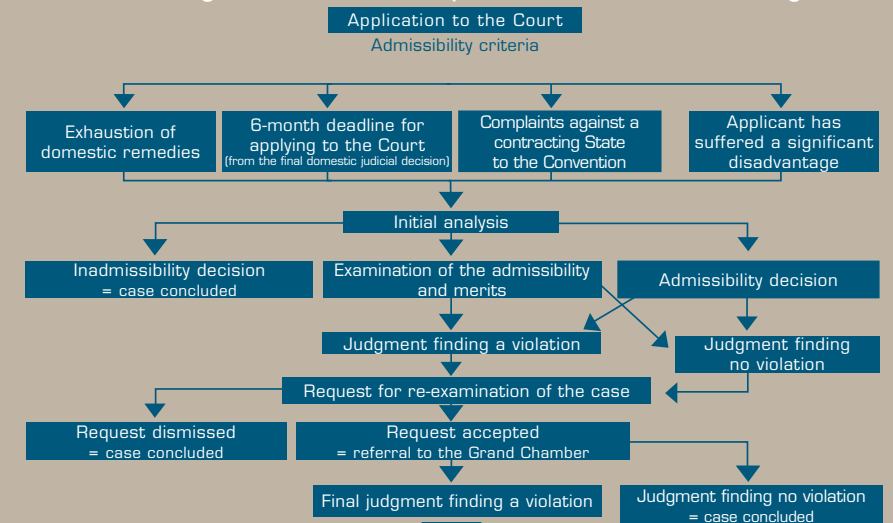
The Court has also adopted a priority policy so as to take into consideration the importance and urgency of the issues raised when deciding the order in which cases are to be dealt with.

The life of an application

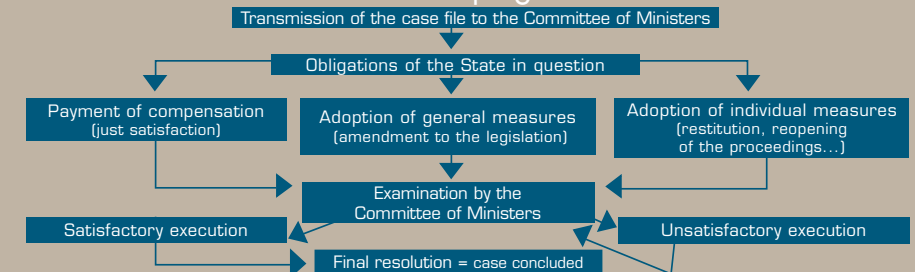
Proceedings at national level



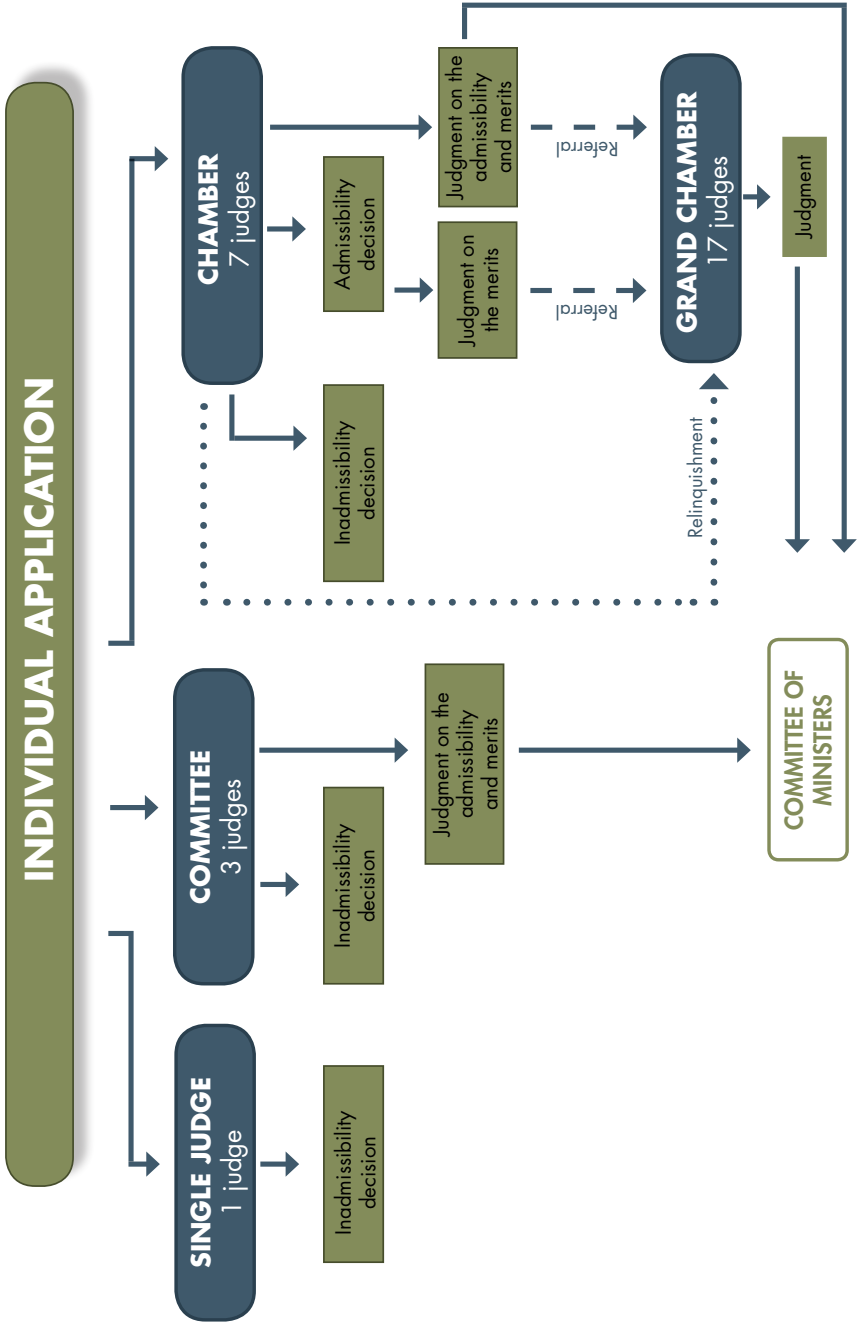
Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights



Execution of judgments



Simplified flow chart of case-processing by the Court





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