



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

HUDOC-ECHR FAQ – Frequently asked questions



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1. Is it possible to generate statistics in the HUDOC-ECHR database?

For statistics please refer to the Court's [annual reports](#) and regular updates which are published online. The HUDOC-ECHR database is not intended for such research.

2. How do I search in the HUDOC-ECHR database?

The user manual and video tutorials are available under "[Help](#)" available at the bottom of the HUDOC-ECHR interface.

For details and examples on how to use filters and search fields, place the cursor on the question mark (?) to the right of every filter name in the HUDOC-ECHR interface.

3. In which languages is the HUDOC-ECHR interface available?

The HUDOC-ECHR interface is available in [English](#), [French](#) and also in [Armenian](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Georgian](#), [Romanian](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), [Turkish](#) and [Ukrainian](#) by selecting the language in the 'Other Languages' link.

4. What document collections are available?

The case-law of the Convention organs is classified in separate collections, which can be searched either individually or together – Judgments (Grand Chamber, Chamber and Committee), Decision (Grand Chamber, Chamber, Committee, Commission and Screening Panel), Communicated Cases, Legal Summaries, [Advisory Opinions](#) (article 47 and Protocol No. 16), Reports and Resolutions (execution and merits) of the Committee of Ministers.

You can make searches in one or several of these categories.

Only judgments of Grand Chamber and Chamber are selected by default (ticked box). If you wish to consult different collections, please select them by the same method.

The [Simplified case-processing flow chart by judicial formation](#) can help you understand the document collection.

5. In which languages are texts available?

Official Languages:

Judgments, decisions and other texts are available in HUDOC-ECHR in one or both of the Court's official languages (English and French). Only Grand Chamber judgments and texts selected for the Reports or as Key cases are available by default in both languages.

Non-official Languages:

Translations into non-official languages have also been added to HUDOC-ECHR.

Unless otherwise indicated, translations into non-official languages are not produced by the Registry of the Court and the Registry does not check their accuracy or linguistic quality.

These translations are published in HUDOC-ECHR for information purposes only and the Court accepts no responsibility for their quality or content.

Multiple translations into the same language of individual judgments or decisions may appear.

If you do a copy of the URL address of the session related to your non-official language search, every time you will paste it in the address bar you will obtain the updated results concerning this search.

Example: you will have all results to date of the Grand Chamber judgments in Croatian by pasting the copy of the following URL address in the address bar: `http://HUDOC-ECHR.echr.coe.int/eng#{"languageisocode":["HRV"],"documentcollectionid2":["GRANDCHAMBER"]}`

6. What is a Text search?

The text-search function enables you to search for a word, sentence or sequence of words within the documents in the relevant collections.

It is used, among others, for research on a theme such as asylum, terrorism, data protection, etc.

You can use Boolean operators such as AND (to find documents containing both terms in any order), OR (to find documents containing either of the two terms), and NEAR (to find documents in which the specified terms are near each other), and quotation marks " " (to group together words in the order you wish to find).

7. What is a search with filters?

You can narrow easily your search with filters.

Filters are composed of: Language, Importance, State, Article, Non-violation and Violation.

You can also filter your search by Keywords.

You will also find Document type, Date, Judge, Originating body, Court and Organisation filters under More filters.

The results list will be updated each time you use a filter.

8. What is an importance levels search?

This filter 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 key cases, 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 be selected as key Cases. For example, a case that was provisionally classified as level 1 but ultimately selected as key case will change category as Key cases. The list of cases selected by the Bureau can be found on the Court's website under Case-law → Judgments and decisions → [Selection of key cases](#).

Key cases: 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 from 1998 to 2015 or, since 2016 selected as key cases. The selection from 2007 onwards has been made by the Bureau of the Court¹ following a proposal by the Jurisconsult². Judgments of the former Court (published either in Series A or subsequently in Reports of Judgments

¹ The Court shall have a Bureau, composed of the President of the Court, the Vice-Presidents of the Court and the Section Presidents (Rule 9A of the Rules of Court).

² For the purposes of ensuring the quality and consistency of its case-law, the Court shall be assisted by a Jurisconsult. He or she shall be a member of the Registry. The Jurisconsult shall provide opinions and information, in particular to the judicial formations and the members of the Court (Rule 18B of the Rules of Court).

and Decisions) and cases published in the former Commission's series Decisions and Reports have not been included in the Key cases category and are therefore classified by levels 1, 2 and 3 only.

1 = High importance: Judgments, decisions and advisory opinions not selected for the Case Reports or as Key cases, but which nevertheless 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).

The importance levels are mentioned in the Case Details which accompanies each judgment or decision.

9. What is a Keywords search?

The legal issues dealt with in each case are summarised in a [list of Keywords](#) which contains terms taken (in most cases) directly from the text of the European Convention on Human Rights and additional Protocols.

Searching with these keywords will enable you to find a group of documents with similar legal content.

10. What is a Strasbourg case-law search?

Use the Strasbourg case-law field in the Advance Search table to search for judgments and decisions in which a particular Court or former Commission case has been cited.

The Court's reasoning is based on the reasoning given in earlier judgments and decisions.

Example: typing Hatton or 36022/97 in this field will return all cases in which the *Hatton v. United Kingdom* judgment was cited.

11. What are Case Details? Where can I find them?

The **Case Details** page provides information associated with each document in the HUDOC-ECHR collection and gives a brief overview of the scope of the case.

The **information** under Case Details includes basic data (Originating Body, Document Type, Language(s), Title, Application Number, Respondent State(s), Date), as well as more specific legal data (Importance Level, Applicability, Conclusion(s), Article's), Rules of Court, Separate Opinion, Strasbourg Case-Law, Domestic Law, International Law & Other Relevant Material, Keywords, and ECLI).

Case Details can be opened from the results list by clicking on the Case Details link.

It is also available via the Case Details tab on the Html version of the document.

12. Which texts are analysed?

Only cases of importance levels Key cases, 1 and 2 contain a full analysis and can be searched under all the search fields.

Owing to the large number of cases concerned, from 2007 onwards only limited analytical information is available in respect of judgments and decisions of lesser jurisprudential interest (importance level 3).

Only the following fields are operational for searches concerning this category: Text, Language, Importance, State, Date, Article and Keywords.

The following search facilities are not available in respect of importance level 3 judgments and decisions: Strasbourg Case-Law, Rules of Court, Applicability, Separate Opinion, Domestic Law and International Law and Other Relevant Material fields.

13. Which Boolean operator is used between advanced search fields and filters?

The **default Boolean operator** used in the HUDOC-ECHR database **search fields** is AND, so field searches are cumulative.

If you use more than one field, such as Text and Applicability, your search will cover terms entered in these two fields.

The **default Boolean operator for filters** is OR.

All filters except for Language, Importance and Date enable you to use the Boolean operators AND and OR so you can search under more than one category for the same filter.