

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

18th Annual Report of the Committee of Ministers







# SUPERVISION OF THE EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS AND DECISIONS

OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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### Chapter I

# Preface by the Chairs of the Human Rights meetings

In 2024, the year marking the 75th Anniversary of the Council of Europe, we recalled the extraordinary contribution made by the system of the European Convention on Human Rights to the protection of human rights and the rule of law on our continent. In the Reykjavík Declaration, our leaders firmly recommitted to the Convention system and reaffirmed the unconditional obligation of member states to abide by the final judgments of the Court in any case to which they were Parties. They further underlined the fundamental importance of the execution of the Court's judgments to ensure the long-term sustainability, integrity and credibility of the Convention system.

Reflecting those commitments, this annual report highlights many positive developments in the supervision of the execution of judgments in the course of 2024. Among them is Ukraine's continuous and active engagement in the execution process, which led to closure of numerous cases, despite facing the enormous challenge of the Russian full-scale war of aggression and continued, extraordinary suffering. Other positive developments include: an increase in the number of cases examined by the Committee of Ministers ("the Committee") at its quarterly meetings; significant engagement of civil society in the supervision process; a decrease in the overall number of cases awaiting information on payment; and a record number of missions and bilateral meetings undertaken by the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (DEJ) with national authorities.

The Committee closed supervision of nearly 900 cases in 2024 which is very encouraging. As outlined elsewhere in the report, major advances were made in a number of pending cases. However, the number of closed cases slightly decreased in comparison to the previous year. This development, together with an increase in the number of pending cases, call for a new reflection on possible ways to tackle the obstacles to full and effective execution of judgments.

Bearing in mind the Reykjavík Declaration's call for developing a more co-operative, inclusive and political approach based on dialogue, the Committee adopted enhanced tools for use in its supervision of the execution of judgments and agreed to reinforce the institutional dialogue with the Court. As regards the latter aspect, in November 2024 the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee organised the first annual meeting with the President of the Court and the Secretary General on general issues related to the execution of judgments. Further similar meetings are planned. In the same vein, synergies were strengthened between the DEJ and co-operation programmes, monitoring and advisory bodies, other relevant Council of Europe departments or bodies, as well as civil society and National Human Rights Institutions. These examples of cross-cutting co-operation enable joint support to member states in the effective implementation of the Court's judgments. The DEJ and the Registry of the Court also reinforced co-operation through

the "Dialogue Project" aimed at enhancing the work of both entities. Lastly, in June 2024 the Execution Co-ordinators' Network (ExCN) was launched under the aegis of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers with a view to strengthening national capacity to execute the Court's judgments across the member states. In order to further build upon the Lithuanian Presidency's initiative and to enhance synergies between the newly established Network and the Committee, a first exchange of views between the Chair of the ExCN and the Committee was proposed by the Maltese Presidency for the March 2025 Human Rights meeting.

However, we must recognise that some of the challenges to the Convention system present in the previous years persisted in 2024. The total lack of co-operation from the Russian Federation in the supervision process stalled any progress in cases pending against that State, which amount to over 40% of the Committee's pending caseload. The execution of those cases poses a particular challenge following the Russian Federation's expulsion from the Council of Europe over the grave breach of the Council of Europe Statute. Although it ceased to be a Party to the Convention on 16 September 2022, the Russian Federation remains under obligation to fully abide by the judgments of the Court. The engagement of civil society and the exchange of information with the United Nations are vital for the Committee to keep this issue under close scrutiny. Following the review of its strategy to ensure implementation of those cases in 2024, the Committee decided to continue its practice of examining at regular intervals implementation of judgments in inter-State cases and cases relating to interstate disputes and armed conflicts given their relevance for the issue of accountability in the context of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine. It further instructed the Secretariat to prepare, as of the March 2025 Human Rights meeting, a stocktaking document offering an overview of the execution measures required in all leading Russian cases pending execution. The Committee further underlined the role of the Court in ensuring international accountability and serving justice for Russia's crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine since 2014, as far as these constitute breaches of the Convention.

The continuous detention of the applicant in the case of Kavala v. Türkiye, despite the Committee's repeated calls for his immediate release in line with the Court's judgments, constitutes a salient challenge to the Convention system and one of the few regrettable exceptions to Türkiye's otherwise overall good record of compliance with the Court's judgments. Throughout 2024, the Committee closely followed that case, deeply deploring the fact that Mr Kavala remained detained. The Committee has continued its examination of the case at every Human Rights and ordinary meeting, adopting five decisions over the course of the year. The Committee welcomed two high-level technical meetings held with the Turkish authorities in 2024 and stressed that those meetings should bring concrete results to ensure full implementation of the judgments in question. As previous Presidencies of the Committee of Ministers have done, we have raised this case with our Turkish counterpart.

As we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Council of Europe, the system of the supervision of the execution of judgments has again confirmed its resilience. At the same time, some important challenges to the system remain. It is essential for all member states to make every effort to ensure the full effectiveness of the Convention system. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, stated when addressing the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly in October 2024 as President of the Committee of Ministers: "Executing final judgments of the European Court of Human Rights is not a choice, but an international legal obligation accepted voluntarily by the member states. Full and swift execution of the Court's judgments by all member states is vital for the Convention system and a priority for the Council of Europe".



### Chapter II

# Foreword by the Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law

2024 was a year with special significance, as the Council of Europe celebrated its 75th anniversary. One of the key achievements in the three-quarters of a century since its founding is the extraordinary contribution of the system established by the European Convention on Human Rights to the protection and promotion of human rights and the rule of law in Europe, as well as its central role in the maintenance and promotion of democratic security and peace throughout the continent. We need it now more than ever. And as underlined by Heads of States and Government in Reykjavik in 2023, the long-term sustainability, integrity and credibility of the Convention system depends on execution of the European Court's judgments - which is at the heart of the work of the Council of Europe. Indeed, great progress has been achieved over the years in many different areas across all member states, much of it further to the full and effective implementation of judgments and decisions of the Court.

The system, involving the delicate balance between the national and supranational components of the Convention, functions most effectively when all actors involved share a common vision about how this implementation can be done. For this common vision to be maintained, we must work collaboratively, engage in open and honest dialogue and respect and reconcile diverse positions. In my new role as Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, I have already personally witnessed the significant importance of this dialogue when discussing challenges and obstacles in the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in a number of different fora. Of course, it is key that this dialogue should not be seen or used as an end in itself but rather take place in good faith as the means to ultimately achieve concrete results and full implementation of all of the European Court's judgments without exceptions.

It is positive that in 2024 the Committee of Ministers successfully closed nearly 900 cases and that, as outlined in the report, significant steps were taken in a number of pending cases, a testament to the concerted efforts and determination of member states in addressing longstanding human rights issues. It is also right to make special mention of the enhanced synergies forged by the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the Court (DEJ) with, among others, co-operation programmes, monitoring/advisory bodies and other relevant Council of Europe departments, as well as civil society and National Human Rights Institutions. The continued commitment of Ukraine to executing the European Court's judgments despite the enormous challenges caused by the Russian full-scale war of aggression against it is also highly commendable.

Unfortunately, nevertheless, this report shows a highly mixed picture and that more needs to be done. Despite the firm commitments made in Reykjavik and the considerable efforts by the DEJ and the Council of Europe to support member states in their efforts to execute judgments, a tangible impact in terms of a decrease in the number of cases pending is yet to be seen. 60% of pending cases concern five member states.

After a steady decrease in recent years, it is also concerning that the number of leading cases pending for over five years is slowly back on the rise. We are thus faced with the reality that too many judgments are still waiting to be fully executed, leaving victims without redress and running the risk of repetitive cases coming to the Court and future similar violations. The speed of measures being taken by member states is not adequate to keep pace with the number of both new complex and repetitive cases coming from the European Court further to the increased efficiency in its working methods. The Committee is tasked with supervising a range of unprecedented challenges, which pose legal questions and demand solutions never encountered, such as environmental issues including climate change mitigation, the continuous incoming case load related to international conflicts, extensive migration concerns, and emerging digital technologies.

Member states need to keep up and must be ready to put their shoulder to the wheel, taking the decisions and putting in the hard work required to put all necessary changes into effect at home to discharge their obligations under Article 46 of the Convention to abide by the final judgments of the European Court.

The Council of Europe and the Directorate of Human Rights and the Rule of law continue to stand ready, as in 2024, to provide member states with the forum, structures and support that they may need to bring about change. Indeed, I am pleased to now have a more direct role overseeing the extensive work done both by the DEJ and all across the Directorate General to assist member states in their efforts to achieve the full, effective and rapid execution of judgments. Co-operation programmes play a crucial role in the implementation process whether through transversal projects that help to build domestic capacity for rapid execution (the creation of the Execution Co-ordinators Network), the HELP programme providing training on the Convention system for judges and other professionals, or through targeted support and advice to individual member states on particular issues.

But it is member states themselves that have the responsibility to lead and follow through these changes. Sustained political will and determination, as well as coordinated, coherent, long-term strategies accompanied by the allocation of necessary resources, are needed to address both sensitive and legally complex cases as well as to resolve systemic and structural problems which have been pending for many years.

I trust that you will find the overview of the activities in 2024 of the Committee of Ministers, and the DEJ providing assistance to the Committee in its work, informative. The continued success of the Convention system depends on our joint efforts, our perseverance and our daily commitment to the task.



Chapter III

Main developments
in 2024

#### A. Trends and challenges

2024 continued to be marked by the tragedy of war on the European continent with the continuation of the full-fledged aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, in flagrant violation of the Council of Europe Statute. This continued to have a major impact on the Convention system as a whole, including the execution of the European Court's judgments.

Indeed, the war of aggression has not only caused extraordinary suffering but has also had consequences on Ukraine's national capacity to promptly execute the Court's judgments, both in terms of individual measures (notably the ability to locate applicants and pay just satisfaction) and the adoption of general measures required to resolve longstanding structural problems. Nevertheless, as in 2022 and 2023, Ukraine continued to demonstrate its commitment to the Convention system by actively engaging in the execution process through the regular submission of action plans/reports, as well as participation in multiple co-operation activities, round tables and meetings targeted at structural problems revealed by the Court's judgments. Further to its determination and close co-operation and dialogue with the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (DEJ), 75 Ukrainian cases were closed in 2024 (including three leading cases) (see the state-by-state overview in Chapter V).

The lack of participation of and information from the Russian Federation in the supervision process also meant that no progress has been reported in any cases pending against the Russian Federation (which amount to over 40% of the Committee of Ministers' pending caseload). Nevertheless, the DEJ has continued to explore other avenues with international organisations (in particular the United Nations) and civil society organisations (CSOs) to keep the issue under close scrutiny (see Chapter VII for full details).

In the Reykjavík Declaration, adopted at the fourth Summit of the Heads of State and Government in 2023, leaders across the Council of Europe reaffirmed their deep and abiding commitment to the Convention and the European Court of Human Rights as the ultimate guarantors of human rights across the continent. They recommitted to resolving the systemic and structural human rights problems identified by the Court and underlined the fundamental importance of the full, effective and prompt execution of the Court's judgments and the effective supervision of that process to ensure the long-term sustainability, integrity and credibility of the Convention system. They also emphasised the need for a co-operative and inclusive approach, based on dialogue, in the supervision process to assist states and overcome the challenges and obstacles encountered.

In that spirit and throughout 2024, the DEJ has further intensified its extensive work to support states with a record number of 180 missions and bilateral meetings with national authorities, both online and in person, in either Strasbourg or capitals (see Chapter IV for full details). High level representatives from respondent states often participated in these bilateral meetings, engaging in discussions and demonstrating commitment to the full implementation of the Court's judgments. These activities require a lot of work, preparation and follow-up by the DEJ, but are productive and often lead to tangible results. The meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss the measures required as well as help to identify any obstacles and potential ways forward. They raise awareness of the execution process and help to strengthen domestic capacity to execute the Court's judgments and thus for respondent states to provide long awaited information to the Committee of Ministers.

Furthermore, in line with the importance given in the Reykjavík Declaration for greater synergies between the DEJ and Council of Europe co-operation programmes, monitoring and advisory bodies, as well as other departments, to facilitate the exchange of good practice and expertise, the DEJ significantly intensified its work in 2024 with multiple relevant events and round tables supported by Council of Europe co-operation programmes as well as participation in relevant activities organised by other departments. The DEJ maintained close communication and coordination with all these major stakeholders throughout the year, and the Committee of Ministers regularly relied on recommendations and reports of other Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies in the Notes on the Order of Business and decisions adopted during Human Rights meetings (see Chapter IV – sections C, D and G for details.

Also, in response to the call for a strengthening of the institutional dialogue between the Court and the Committee of Ministers on general issues related to the execution of judgments, the DEJ and the Registry of the Court have further enhanced cooperation through a project bringing together lawyers from both entities to exchange information, promote a holistic approach to the Convention and explore other avenues (for example targeted HELP modules) which may help to prevent similar violations and repetitive cases coming to the Court (see Chapter IV – section B).

Given the intensity of the work required to maintain these synergies effectively, it is welcome that states confirmed their commitment to ensure that the DEJ has the necessary resources to continue its work assisting member states and the Committee of Ministers. On this basis, DEJ was provided new jobs in the Programme and Budget 2024-2025. The recruitment of additional lawyers in the department throughout 2025 should help further intensify this important work. The provision of additional human resources through the secondment of officials to the DEJ by certain member states is also very useful.

As regards the Committee of Ministers' supervisory role more generally, with the support and advice provided by the DEJ, at its quarterly Human Rights meetings the Committee of Ministers examined 148 cases or groups of cases with 165 interventions concerning 32 states (including cases against the Russian Federation). This is again an increase compared to 2023, when 128 cases or groups of cases were examined with 160 interventions concerning 30 states, and a significant increase compared to over a decade ago (64 cases or groups examined in 2015 concerning 25 states). High-level interlocutors represented different respondent states during the examination of cases at those meetings, including for example, *D.H. and Others v. the Czech Republic* (the Deputy Minister of Education); *Tysiac, R.R.* and *P. and S. v. Poland* (the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Health); three groups of cases *Xero Flor/ Reczkowicz, Broda and Bojara, Grzeda, Walesa/ Juszczyszyn, Zurek, Tuleya v. Poland* (the Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Justice); *Sukachov, Nevmerzhitsky, Yakovenko* and *Melnik groups v. Ukraine* (the Deputy Minister of Justice); and *Rezmiveş and Others* and *Bragadireanu group v. Romania* (the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice).

Despite the firm commitments made in Reykjavík in 2023 and the considerable efforts by the DEJ and the Council of Europe to support member states in their efforts to execute judgments, a tangible impact in terms of a decrease in the number of cases pending is yet to be seen. It is true that in 2024, the Committee of Ministers closed its supervision of the execution of 894 cases (including 161 leading cases requiring specific and often wide-ranging measures by states to guarantee non-repetition of the violations), following the adoption by respondent states of individual and/or general measures including, in some cases, significant legislative reforms (see section B below for examples of reforms taken across member states which led to closure in 2024). This however represents a decrease in the number of cases closed compared to 2023 in both absolute terms as well as in closure of leading cases and this despite the significant time and resources focused on this aim (see Chapter V – section E for full details).

The Committee of Ministers continued its practice of closing repetitive cases in which all the individual measures needed to provide redress to the applicant, and which can be taken, have been implemented. The importance of individual measures should not be downplayed as they are key for applicants who often receive compensation, reopening of domestic proceedings, and a rectification of their situation through any appropriate means. Unfortunately, in some cases, where the required individual measure is a fresh investigation, for example into allegations of ill-treatment, that measure can no longer be taken, due to the operation of statute of limitations meaning that no new or reopened investigation is possible. For this reason, the Committee has continued to encourage national authorities to put in place a system where reopening of investigations is considered at an early stage of the Convention process, for example, at the moment when the Court communicates an application.

In essence, the closures of repetitive individual cases do not alone provide a good indication of the progress of the execution process for a member state. They reveal that whilst some steps have been taken to redress the situation for the applicant, the general measures required to address the underlying problem and prevent similar violations remain awaited and under the Committee's supervision in the framework of the corresponding leading cases. Only when the general measures appear to be adequate to prevent similar violations in the future can the leading case be closed.

In this respect, even if, given the closure of repetitive cases in 2024, the overall number of cases pending against member states has only marginally increased (from 3,819 cases against member states at the end of 2023 to 3,916 cases at the end of 2024 (see Chapter V – section D)), the number of leading cases continues to increase at a higher ratio (from 1,088 at the end of 2023 to 1,149 at the end of 2024). This is seen both in leading cases in the enhanced procedure (from 325 to 345) and in the standard procedure (from 743 to 788). 10 states have over 30 leading judgments pending implementation. The number of leading cases which have been pending implementation for more than five years in the standard procedure is also continuing to increase despite the DEJ focus and efforts to address these cases bilaterally with the authorities.

Reflections on a new approach may be required as this trend is likely to consolidate further in 2025 given the continuing high number of new and often complex cases against member states being transmitted by the Court (around 1,000 every year,<sup>2</sup> after a 40% increase in 2021, see Chapter V – section C), as well as the Court's increased efficiency in its working methods. On the one hand, most likely due to the Court's focus on "impact" cases, which require changes in legislation and practice, touch upon societal issues or deal with emerging or otherwise significant human rights issues, the number of new judgments revealing new important structural and/or complex problems being transmitted by the Court, and thus classified in the enhanced procedure in 2024, has continued to increase steadily since 2021 (from 16 in 2021 to 33 in 2024; see Chapter V – section C).

Another issue which presents obstacles in the closure even of repetitive cases, is the increasing number of "WECL" judgments (judgments on the merits issued by a Committee of three judges, instead of a Chamber of seven judges, if the issues raised by the case are already the subject of "well-established case-law of the Court"). One WECL judgment can frequently relate to multiple joined applications (WECL judgments delivered in 2024 related to 10,241 applications, compared to 6,931 in 2023 and 4,168 in 2022: see also Chapter V – section C.1, Chapter V – section G.2

<sup>1.</sup> Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Türkiye and Ukraine.

<sup>2. 992</sup> in 2024 compared to 1,043 in 2023 and 1,046 in 2022.

and Chapter VII – section B.1). This leads to an increased workload for member states, the Committee of Ministers and DEJ. It may prolong the execution process of individual cases, since the Committee, in its supervisory role, is required to ensure that the required individual measures (payment of just satisfaction, release from detention, reopening of domestic proceedings etc) have been taken for every applicant in a single judgment. Even if the individual measures have been taken for nine out of ten applicants, the supervision of the case must continue, and the case cannot be closed by the adoption of a final resolution until redress has been provided to every applicant concerned. This can also give a false impression of overall delays in execution with some judgments still pending due to a particular issue encountered for only one out of many applicants.

Overall, in light of the increasing number of cases still pending and the increasing complexity of some of those cases, there is still a clear need to further reinforce domestic capacity for the implementation of judgments, as also underlined in the Reykjavík Declaration and the 2022 Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the prevention and remedying of violations of the Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This may be the only way to ensure that domestic authorities are also in the position to follow and implement detailed advice given in the context of targeted co-operation programmes and activities (see Chapter IV – section C). It is also true that whilst there are exceptions, problems encountered in implementing judgments at the national level are often due to limited resources and technical expertise and the fact that the implementation process is not given sufficient priority. Political support for the process at the highest level may be required more generally to ensure that even technical changes take place and are followed through to the end.

The establishment in 2024 of the Execution Coordinators Network, with the support of the cooperation project "Support to efficient domestic capacity for the execution of the European Court's judgments (Phase 1), funded by the Human Rights Trust Fund, is important. It brings together all the national coordinators of Council of Europe member states to exchange good practice and experiences through both an online platform and annual meetings. The multi-country study (produced by the same project) on domestic capacity, highlighting good practices, should inspire member states to ensure that effective national co-ordination mechanisms are in place, with sufficient authority, resources, and participation from across government to enable the timely and effective implementation of the Court's judgments (see Chapter IV – section C for full details).

It is positive that a continued high number of action plans and reports were submitted in 2024 (833 compared to 835 in 2023 and 610 in 2019). However, less action plans and reports were submitted within the applicable time limits, and there was therefore a small increase in the number of "reminder letters" that needed to be sent (82 in relation to 19 member states compared to 80 in relation to 17 member states in 2023; see Chapter VI – section A).

There has also been progress in terms of the payment of just satisfaction by member states. There has been an increase in the number of cases where just satisfaction was paid within the deadline (from 696 in 2023 to 711 in 2024). Furthermore, there was a continued decrease in the overall number of cases awaiting information on payment (from 1,137 in 2023 to 1,010 in 2024) as well as in the number of cases awaiting confirmation of payment for more than six months after the payment deadline (from 690 in 2023 to 634 in 2024; see Chapter V – section F).

Despite the caveats set out above in terms of the numbers of cases where supervision closed, 2024 was a year where many important advances took place in pending cases which should not be overlooked. Indeed, it is worth underlining that the fact that a case remains under the supervision of the Committee does not mean that the judgment is being ignored by a respondent state or that the process of execution is not under way or even, in some cases, very advanced. Some examples of cases still pending where significant steps forward were reported in 2024 include: the adoption of a combined compensatory and acceleratory remedy for lengthy proceedings in Croatia (*Kirinčić and Others v. Croatia*); the establishment of a compensatory remedy for length of proceedings in Ireland (*McFarlane v. Ireland*); a legislative reform concerning the system of controlled rents in Malta (*Apap Bologna, Ghigo and Amato Gauci* groups); significant progress achieved in the reduction of the length of judicial proceedings in Romania (*Vlad and Others v. Romania*); the adoption and coming into force of a law providing former shareholders with access to a legal avenue to challenge the shares and bonds cancelled in 2013-2014 (*Pintar and Others v. Slovenia*). Further examples are set out in section C below.

It is also positive that the recent trend of a high level of communications from civil society organisations (CSOs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) continued in 2024, albeit with a small decrease in communications from CSOs. A total of 229 communications were received concerning 30 states (compared to 239 concerning 33 states in 2023) (see Chapter VI – section D). Whilst the number of CSOs communications slightly decreased, the number of communications received from NHRIs increased to the highest ever level of 20 (compared to 14 in 2023). This is the concrete result of the ongoing work to increase the transparency of the execution process and reinforce as far as possible its participatory character. During missions to states, the DEJ frequently meets with NHRIs, and also representatives of CSOs, to raise awareness of the potential of their involvement in the implementation system. Nevertheless, more work needs to be done. Given the key role of NHRIs and CSOs, recognised also in the Reykjavík Declaration, in monitoring compliance with the Court's judgments, it is worth reflecting on other avenues to increase their participation in the process the future.

Finally, as in the last two annual reports, much of the statistical information related to the current situation as regards execution in each member state can be found in the detailed state-by-state overviews (see Chapter V).

#### **B.** Developments that led to closure of cases

In 2024, significant progress was achieved in several cases pending before the Committee of Ministers for their execution supervision, notably through a number of legislative reforms. Thanks to the measures taken, in some of these cases, the Committee was able to end its supervision of the implementation of the Court's judgments.

The Committee of Ministers ended its supervision of the execution of the *Laçi v. Albania* case concerning a violation of the right of access to a court due to the failure of the domestic courts in 2015 to properly assess the applicant's eligibility for exemption from excessively high "stamp duty", a requirement under domestic law obliging claimants to make an advance payment of the court fees at the moment of filing their claim. In response, Albania undertook a comprehensive reform to strengthening its free legal aid system. Amendments to the legislation on free legal aid, along with the necessary by-laws, established primary and secondary legal aid services at central and local levels across the country. These reforms led to a significant increase in the number of individuals receiving legal aid, a notable increase of the budget for legal aid, and timely judicial decisions on secondary legal aid. Additionally, inter-institutional cooperation was strengthened through the signing of several memoranda of understanding, legal professionals received training and public awareness was raised.

The Committee of Ministers also closed its supervision of the *Liebscher v. Austria* judgment, concerning a violation of the applicant's right to private life, as a result of the domestic courts' failure to conduct, in 2016, a comprehensive examination of the requirement to enter into the public land register a full divorce settlement (instead of an excerpt thereof excluding personal data) in order to have his share of a real estate property transferred to his former wife. In response, the Supreme Court, in its decision of 30 March 2022, ruled that the competent domestic court (the Land Registry Court) may decide, despite the lack of a legal basis, to only publish a partial copy in the archive document collection to take into account a persons' fundamental right to personal data protection. To address the legislative gap identified in the Supreme Court's judgment, new legislation was adopted, which came into effect in September 2024.

In the Virabyan v. Armenia group of cases, mainly concerning ill-treatment in police custody and the lack of effective investigations in this respect, including as to possible political motives, the authorities adopted a wide range of legislative, institutional and practical measures. These included the adoption of the new Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, which abolished pardons, amnesties and the statute of limitations for torture; enhanced safeguards against ill-treatment, including documentation and reporting of ill-treatment cases; an obligation on investigative authorities to conduct video recording of investigative actions; the installation of audio and video surveillance at the entry and exit points of police stations; measures to ensure investigations into political motives underlying ill-treatment; a comprehensive police reform, continuing capacity building for investigative bodies; and measures aimed at increasing public trust in police officers. Noting these important developments and the progress achieved, the Committee decided to close its supervision of the Virabyan case and to continue the examination of the remaining individual and general measures in the framework of the Vardanyan and Khalafya group of cases. Significant developments and progress were also achieved through a series of general measures adopted by the authorities to reform the prison healthcare system, as examined in the Ashot Harutyunyan v. Armenia group of cases. These reforms included the establishment of a Centre for Penitentiary Medicine under the Ministry of Health, the adoption of a new Penitentiary Code, amendments to the sub-legislation regulating various important aspects of the organisation of treatment and healthcare services in the penitentiary, regular training for medical staff, improvements in primary healthcare, regular screenings, the introduction of telemedicine, and increased medical assistance for detainees in civil medical institutions. While noting this important progress, the Committee strongly encouraged the authorities to continue improving the penitentiary healthcare system, including tackling the issues noted by the CPT in its preliminary observations following its visit to Armenia in September 2023. As a result, the Committee decided to end its supervision of the Ashot Harutyunyan case and to continue examining the remaining measures related to providing adequate healthcare in prisons in the Shirkhanyan group of cases.

The Committee of Ministers welcomed the significant progress achieved by the Bulgarian authorities in eradicating prison overcrowding and substantially improving material conditions of detention. It recalled that the European Court considered that the domestic preventive and compensatory remedies introduced in response to the *Neshkov and Others v. Bulgaria* pilot judgment can be regarded as effective. It also noted that prison conditions continue to improve, which facilitates the functioning of the preventive remedy, and that there is a relative increase of the amounts awarded under the compensatory remedy. In view of this progress, it decided to end its supervision of the pilot judgment. The remaining questions regarding further improvement of the material conditions of detention and residual overcrowding (mainly in investigative detention facilities), and the outstanding questions on functioning of the remedies will continue to be examined under the standard supervision procedure in the framework of the *Kehayov* case. In view of the progress achieved in improving the conditions of detention in police facilities, the Committee also transferred this issue, examined in the *Boris Kostadinov* case, to the standard supervision procedure. The use of remedies related

to restrictive penitentiary regimes and to excessive isolation of detainees will continue to be examined under the enhanced procedure, in the *Harakchiev and Toloumov* case.

Following the reorganisation of the administrative judiciary in Croatia and the establishment of a two-tier system of adjudication, the Committee of Ministers closed its supervision of the *Idžanović* case concerning the failure to hold an oral hearing in proceedings before the administrative courts. As a general rule, the first instance administrative courts must now hold oral hearings. In appellate proceedings, if the High Administrative Court finds it expedient, it may also hold an oral hearing. The Committee also ended its supervision in *Zahirović* and *Dragojević* due to amendments to the Criminal Code Procedure. As regards *Zahirović*, which concerned the right to defend oneself in person and the failure to forward the submission of the competent State Attorney's Office to the defence, the 2013 amendments of the Criminal Procedure Code excluded the possibility for state attorneys to submit their opinions to the courts in appellate criminal proceedings after reviewing case files. Further legislative amendments introduced possibilities for defendants to attend appeal panel sessions. Regarding *Dragojević*, which concerned unlawful surveillance, the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code regulating disclosure of evidence obtained through secret surveillance entered into force, enabling the defendant to have access to recordings and the possibility to request their reproduction during the hearing. The domestic courts aligned their case law with the Convention and with the new provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code in both *Zahirović* and *Dragojević*.

The Committee of Ministers ended its supervision of the execution of the European Court's judgments in *Savran v. Denmark* and the follow-up case *Abdi v. Denmark*. The cases concerned expulsion orders combined with long-term or permanent re-entry bans following criminal convictions. Both applicants were "settled migrants" who arrived in Denmark at a young age. In response to these judgments, amendments were made to the Danish Aliens Act which entered into force on 23 June 2022. Firstly, the amendments clarified that the domestic courts, when undertaking a subsequent review of an expulsion order, must make a full examination of whether the enforcement of the expulsion would be in breach of Article 8 of the Convention (right to respect for private and family life). Secondly, the domestic courts, in connection with a subsequent review of whether an expulsion order should be revoked, must be able to reduce the period of the imposed re-entry ban. Similar amendments to the Aliens Act were already adopted in May 2018 and gave the domestic courts the discretion to set, in criminal trials, periods of re-entry bans for expulsion decisions in line with Convention requirements. Following the amendments, the authorities provided examples of domestic case law showing how practice is now aligned with Convention requirements.

The Committee of Ministers closed its supervision of the execution of the European Court's judgment in *X v. Finland* concerning extensions of confinement in psychiatric hospitals and forcible administration of medication without adequate legal safeguards. The case had been pending under the Committee's supervision since 2012 and under its enhanced supervision since 2021. In response to the judgment, the Mental Health Act was amended in 2014 to provide patients with a right to request a second independent opinion before involuntary confinement is extended and to initiate themselves an appeal against the extension of involuntary confinement. Further legal amendments to the Mental Health Act and the Administrative Court Act entered into force on 1 April 2024, enabling patients to challenge decisions about forcible administration of medication directly before the administrative courts.

The Committee of Ministers ended its supervision of the execution of the Drelon v. France judgment. This case concerned the disproportionate interference with the applicant's right to respect for his private life, as a result of the collection in 2004 and retention by the Établissement Français du Sang (French Blood Establishment) of personal data containing information about his alleged sexual orientation, which had led to several refusals to accept the applicant as a blood donor. The applicable legislation has been amended several times, and since a decree of 16 March 2022, sexual orientation is no longer considered a contraindication to donating blood. It is therefore now forbidden to collect data on this subject. Data collected prior to 2022 will continue to be kept by the Établissement Français du Sang but will only be accessible to a very limited number of medical practitioners, and they will be kept for 15 to 30 years from the last blood donation, depending on the nature of the data. The Committee also ended its supervision of the Waldner v. France case, concerning a lawyer who was subject to a 25% increase in his taxable income for the years 2006 to 2011, for having refused to join a management body approved by the tax authorities to receive its members' tax returns. The Court found a violation of the applicant's right to respect for his property considering that this increase did not have a sufficient 'reasonable basis', being contrary to the general philosophy of the system based on taxpayers' declarations presumed to be made in good faith and to be correct. Prior to the Court's judgment, the Finance Act 2021 already provided for the gradual reduction of this surcharge until its complete abolition from 2023. Henceforth, the absence of recourse to a management or other approved body or chartered accountant by holders of income from self-employed activities will no longer give rise to a tax surcharge. For situations prior to the repeal of the said surcharge, the taxpayers concerned may lodge a claim, which is dealt with on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the Court's judgment and the conditions of admissibility set out in the General Tax Code.

The Committee of Ministers ended its supervision of the execution of the *Basu v. Germany* judgment which concerned the authorities' failure to ascertain through an independent body that an effective investigation is carried out by the state authorities into the applicant's arguable allegation of racial profiling during an identity check by the federal police

in 2012. Following changes in the domestic courts' case law, including the Federal Administrative Court, administrative courts in Germany now are in principle obliged to hear arguable allegations of racial profiling during identity checks by police on the merits. The Committee was therefore reassured that similar violations will be prevented in the future, given that a Convention compliant investigation of such allegations will be carried out by an independent body (the administrative courts). In addition, in March 2024, the authorities also created a Parliamentary Commissioner for the Federal Police Authorities. This fully independent body is entitled to investigate arguable allegations of racial profiling during identity checks. The Committee also ended its supervision of the Mitzinger and Wolter and Sarfert v. Germany judgments, concerning the exclusion of children born outside wedlock from asserting inheritance rights in respect of their late biological fathers. These cases were similar to the previously closed *Brauer* case, following which German legislature passed the Second Inheritance Rights Equalisation Act 2011. The Children Born outside Marriage (Legal Status) Act 1969 was changed retroactively to the effect that the difference in treatment between children born outside wedlock before and after 1 July 1949 was set aside in cases where the deceased had died on or after 28 May 2009. In cases where the deceased had died before 28 May 2009 the difference remained in force. Following the case of Wolter and Sarfert, the Federal Court of Justice changed the application of the amended legislation through its teleological interpretation of the domestic legislation. It came to the conclusion that, despite the wording of the applicable legal provision and following a Convention compliant proportionality assessment, children born outside wedlock before 1 July 1949 can be granted, inheritance claims even where the deceased has died before 28 May 2009. The main elements to be taken into account in the proportionality assessment are the knowledge of the persons concerned, the status of the inheritance rights involved, and the passage of time in bringing complaints.

The Committee of Ministers ended its supervision of the *Abenavoli v. Italy* case, which has been the leading judgment in a group of cases concerning the excessive length of administrative proceedings. More than one hundred repetitive cases belonging to this group of cases were already closed as all necessary individual measures had been taken. Following the entry into force in 2010 of the new Code of Administrative Procedure, the Italian authorities adopted a wide range of measures reorganising the public administration system, modernising and streamlining administrative justice, limiting the number of new proceedings, and speeding up absorption of backlogs. These measures were reinforced by the increased recruitment of judges and supporting staff, the full digitisation of administrative court proceedings and the additional financial resources awarded by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. They yielded positive and consolidated results with regard to all major relevant indicators (i.e. clearance rate, disposition time, and influx of cases). The average length of administrative proceedings is now within acceptable limits, and it is expected that the system will continue improving. Given the availability of an effective compensatory remedy for excessive delays in judicial proceedings, similar violations should no longer occur.

The Committee of Ministers further closed the case of *Moculskis v. Latvia*, concerning a violation of the applicant lawyer's right to respect for private life on account of the search and seizure in 2012 of his computer, which contained confidential information, in the absence of adequate and effective safeguards. In 2022, legislative amendments to the Criminal Procedure Law introduced new procedural safeguards in respect of searches carried out at the professional premises, homes and vehicles of sworn attorneys. Such searches must now be attended by an observer from the Latvian Bar Association, who has the right to enter comments in the procedural search record. The sworn attorney has to inform the investigating authorities if a piece of evidence containing privileged information has been identified for seizure. The investigators may seize such items, but they are not allowed to examine their content. Instead, these items are sealed and brought before the investigating judge, who decides, on the basis of the criminal case file and possible additional written observations from the attorney, whether they may be examined. In case of a refusal, the seized items are returned to the attorney and not added to the criminal case file.

The Committee of Ministers decided to close its supervision of the execution of the Catana v. the Republic of Moldova judgment, concerning two disciplinary proceedings in 2012 against an investigating judge. The Court found a violation of the right to a fair trial on account of the lack of independence and impartiality of the Superior Council of Magistracy, which examined the disciplinary proceedings, due to the presence of the Prosecutor General and the Minister of Justice as ex officio members as well as the flawed procedure of selecting professors of law as members of this body. Following constitutional amendments in 2022, the Minister of Justice, the Prosecutor General, and the President of the Supreme Court of Justice were excluded from the Superior Council of Magistracy. The Council is now composed of six judges, elected by secret ballot by the General Assembly of Judges, and six lay members appointed by Parliament with a qualified majority, thus ensuring an open and transparent process. The Disciplinary Board of the Superior Council of Magistracy consists of four judges with at least two years' experience and three lay members from civil society, all of whom must have an impeccable reputation and at least seven years of experience in the field of law. Additionally, the Law on the Superior Council of Magistracy was amended in 2018, granting the Supreme Court of Justice the authority to examine both the admissibility and merits of decisions made by the Superior Council of Magistracy in disciplinary cases against judges. The Committee of Ministers also decided to close its examination of the case A.C. v. the Republic of Moldova, examined in the group I.D. v. the Republic of Moldova, concerning the breach of the applicant's right to file an individual application under Article 34 of the Convention due to the prison administration's actions to intimidate or dissuade him from pursuing his case before the Court. To prevent such intimidation of detainees in the future the National Prison Administration (NPA), in 2022, issued a circular reflecting the Court's findings in the A.C. case. Additionally, regular inspections of penitentiary institutions are conducted to ensure compliance with the circular. Prisoners are interviewed, and their complaints are promptly investigated, enabling the NPA to take swift action if there are reasonable grounds to believe that intimidation has occurred.

The Committee of Ministers ended its supervision of the execution of the *Keskin* and *Safssafi v. the Netherlands* judgments, concerning the domestic courts' refusal, for reasons not in line with the Court's case law, to allow defendants to cross-examine prosecution witnesses whose statements were used as evidence in criminal proceedings conducted between 2013 and 2019. In response, the Dutch Supreme Court in 2021 delivered a landmark judgment revising its case law in this respect and aligning domestic practices with the European Convention and the Court's case law. The amended case law ensures that where a witness has made an incriminating statement, the defence's interest in summoning and examining that witness is in principle presumed and therefore the defence cannot be required to further substantiate the interest. Defendants are thus granted the right to summon and cross-examine prosecution witnesses in domestic court proceedings in line with the Court's case law.

The Committee of Ministers closed the "Orthodox Ohrid Archdiocese (Greek-Orthodox Ohrid Archdiocese of the Peć Patriarchy)" v. the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia group of cases, concerning violations of the applicant associations' right to freedom of association on account of the domestic courts' refusal to register them as religious entities between 2004 and 2012. The domestic case law concerning registration of religious associations that share identical or similar doctrinal sources was modified in a Convention-compliant manner. The Committee had previously welcomed the willingness demonstrated by the authorities to adopt awareness raising measures targeting domestic courts, including the organisation of workshops and round tables for the judiciary by the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors. As a result, three other churches, two religious communities and three religious groups were registered. The Committee also concluded its supervision of the case Memedova and Others v. North Macedonia, concerning a violation of the applicants' right to liberty of movement as they were refused permission to leave the territory in 2014. They were also discriminated against in the exercise of their right to liberty of movement, since the way in which the relevant domestic border control instructions were applied in practice resulted in a disproportionate number of Roma<sup>3</sup> being prevented from travelling abroad. Following the facts of these cases, the Minister of Interior issued instructions to the border police aimed at preventing any discrimination at the border. New anti-discrimination legislation was adopted harmonising it with the Convention and the relevant EU directives, including those on the shifting of the burden of proof before domestic courts. Trainings were organised by the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors on the application of the new anti-discrimination legislation.

The Committee of Ministers closed its supervision of the case *Milka v. Poland*, concerning the lack of a plausible justification for body searches of a convict in 2011 and 2012 and the absence of an examination in any procedure before the domestic courts of whether there had existed genuine and valid reasons for these searches. In response to this judgment the authorities amended the 1997 Code of Execution of Criminal Sentences, with effect from 1 January 2023, providing for detailed rules on conducting personal searches of inmates, imposing an obligation on the prison staff to inform the searched person about the factual and legal basis for the search, and providing a remedy to challenge the decision.

The Committee of Ministers also concluded its supervision of the *Mucha v. Slovakia* case, related to objectively justified doubts as to the domestic court's impartiality in the applicant's criminal proceedings from 2012 to 2019. These doubts arose because the court had previously endorsed plea-bargain agreements made with the applicant's accomplices, which, due to their wording, were prejudicial to the applicant's right to be presumed innocent. Additionally, the same judges who had rendered these earlier judgments were involved in the applicant's trial. Recent examples of the Supreme Court's case law show that it addressed the question of the trial courts impartiality in line with the Convention and the Court's case law.

The Committee of Ministers concluded its supervision in the case of *S.E. v. Serbia*, which concerned the authorities' refusal to issue a travel document to the refugee applicant owing to a failure by the respective Ministers of the Interior to enact, since 2008, any regulations, as subsidiary legislation, governing the content and design of the travel document for refugees, despite being required to do so by the Asylum Act. In November 2023, one month after the Court's judgment became final, the Minister of the Interior adopted the Rules on the form and content of travel documents for refugees. These rules, which became applicable on 1 February 2024, now allow for the issuance of the required travel documents for refugees.

The Committee of Ministers also ended its supervision of the execution of the *İzzettin Doğan and Others v. Turkey* case. In this case the applicants complained about the authorities' refusal to provide the followers of the Alevi faith with the same religious public service as provided for the followers of the Sunni branch of Islam. They further alleged that they

<sup>3.</sup> The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

had been the victims of discrimination on the ground of their religion, as they had received less favourable treatment than followers of the Sunni branch of Islam, without any objective and reasonable justification. The Court found that the domestic authorities' refusal had numerous adverse and discriminatory consequences for the Alevi community violating the applicants' right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and that there had been a discrimination on account of the differential treatment in religious services, creating imbalance for the Alevi community. The authorities took several measures to address the adverse consequences, such as the establishment of the "Presidency of Alevi Bektashi Culture and Cemevis" as well as the adoption of a series of legislative amendments to allow the Alevi community to benefit from state funded religious services. The numerous measures adopted enabled the construction, maintenance, and reimbursement of various costs for *cemevis*, as well as employment of the Alevi religious leaders by State funds. The Committee of Ministers welcomed the legislative measures and their practical impact providing the Alevi community with a public religious service financed by the state. It deemed these measures to be capable of eliminating the imbalance in the religious public services provided by the state for the Alevi community.

The Committee of Ministers ended its supervision of the execution of the Big Brother Watch and Others v. United Kingdom group, concerning violations of Articles 8 and 10 of the Convention due to shortcomings in the secret surveillance regime including bulk interception and obtaining communications data from communication service providers in the UK prior to 2018. In response to shortcomings found by the Court in the old legislative regime (Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000), the authorities adopted the Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) 2016, together with the Data Retention and Acquisition Regulations 2018. In 2024, the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (Remedial) Order 2024 further amended certain parts of the IPA to bring it in line with the European Court's judgment. The IPA introduced a 'double lock' which requires warrants for the use of these powers to be authorised by the Secretary of State and approved by a senior judge in the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office prior to being issued. The IPA also requires that applications for a bulk interception warrant must specify all the operational purposes for which any material obtained under that warrant may be selected for examination. Beyond the IPA, operational procedures have been amended which now require that when an analyst intends to target strong selectors referable to an identifiable individual who has not previously been approved, their targeting must be confirmed by an 'approver' to verify that the targeting is necessary and proportionate. In addition, the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (Remedial) Order 2024 strengthened the existing safeguards for journalists in the IPA. It is now ensured that approval from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner is obtained before any search criteria (included in a bulk interception warrant) are used with the purpose of selecting material for examination that is confidential journalistic material, a source of journalistic material, or where the use of the relevant criteria is highly likely to identify such material or identify or confirm such a source. The retention of confidential journalistic material or sources of journalistic material must also be authorised by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner. The introduction of these enhanced safeguards for journalists and journalistic material under the IPA has ensured that the regime is compliant with Article 10. The Data Retention and Acquisition Regulations 2018 further strengthened the safeguards for the IPA's communications data regime by amending the IPA to introduce a serious crime threshold and independent authorisation of relevant communications data requests.

#### C. Significant steps forward in pending cases

Over and above cases that were closed, it is worth underlining that the fact that a case remains under the supervision of the Committee does not mean that a judgment is being ignored by the respondent state or that the process of execution is not under way or even, in some cases, very advanced. Some examples of cases still pending where significant steps forward were reported in 2024 are set out below.

For example, the Committee of Ministers welcomed the adoption in the first reading of a draft Law addressing the main shortcomings in the national legislation identified in the *Statileo v. Croatia* group concerning the long-standing issue of statutory limitations on the landlords' use of flats subject to protected tenancy. In March 2024, the legislation was also adopted in the second reading and entered into force. It appears to secure the balance between the rights of landlords and lessees and to provide the necessary global solution to the issue of the protected lease scheme. Moreover, in response to the *Kirinčić and Others v. Croatia* group of cases, concerning excessively lengthy civil proceedings from 2000 onwards, the 2024 amendments to the Law on Courts introduced provisions for a combined compensatory and acceleratory remedy and to effectively protect the right to a fair trial within reasonable time.

In response to the European Court's judgment in *Schmidt and Smigol v. Estonia* concerning excessive solitary confinement, amendments to the legislation on consecutive enforcement of punishment cell sanctions were adopted in 2024, shortening the maximum period for solitary confinement from 45 to 14 days. For minors, the time spent in a punishment cell shall not exceed three consecutive days. The law requires that once the maximum number of consecutive punishment days allowed has been reached, there must be a reasonable break before the punishment continues. This break cannot be shorter than 48 hours and shall be assessed individually for each person, taking into consideration the specifics of each case. Meetings with family members shall be allowed under the same conditions as for all other prisoners.

To address the issue of racially motivated crimes against Roma in Hungary, dealt with in *Balázs v. Hungary*, pending under the Committee's supervision and concerning the inhuman and degrading treatment of Roma and ineffective investigations into possible racial motives, a training of trainers was organised by the Council of Europe's Roma and Travellers Division, in cooperation with the DEJ, the Government Agent of Hungary, and Hungarian policing authorities gathering police officers from across the country working on the specific subject of hate crime. The seminar aimed at informing participants of the Council of Europe's standards and improving their skills in applying them in their every-day work. Furthermore, as regards discrimination in public education against children of Roma origin, in particular the discriminatory misplacement and overrepresentation of Roma children in special schools for children with mental disabilities, resulting from their systematic misdiagnosis, as well as the segregated education of Roma children in Staterun primary schools, the Committee of Ministers noted with satisfaction, in *Szolcsán v. Hungary*, that the authorities' targeted desegregation measures adopted in the Jókai Mór school have resulted in visible positive trends and appear to be capable of "correcting the situation and avoiding its perpetuation and resultant discrimination" as requested by the Court. It also noted with interest the adoption of a wide range of measures aimed at eliminating segregation and furthering inclusive education throughout the country.

In *McFarlane v. Ireland*, concerning the excessive length of both criminal and civil proceedings and the lack of an excessive remedy for these problems, the Committee of Ministers welcomed the enactment of the Court Proceedings (Delays) Act 2024 in May 2024, which establishes a statutory remedy for excessive length of proceedings and provides individuals with a right to seek a declaration and compensation for unreasonable delays in civil and criminal proceedings before an assessment mechanism. It encouraged the authorities to continue prioritising the establishment of the assessment mechanism so that the remedy can become fully operational and accessible without further delay.

Important developments also occurred in the execution of the *Macate v. Lithuania* judgment, concerning a violation of the right to freedom of expression on account of the temporary suspension of a children's fairy tale book depicting a same sex relationship and its subsequent labelling as harmful to children under the age of 14. The Lithuanian Constitutional Court, in December 2024, declared unconstitutional the provision of the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information, which prohibited the dissemination of public information that portrays same-sex relationships as essentially equivalent to opposite-sex relationships. It recalled that the constitutional concept of family is neutral in terms of gender and ruled that a legal regulation imposing limitations on the freedom to receive and impart information, including a legal regulation limiting information about the diversity of family models and relationships, hinders the development of minor children as mature and well-rounded personalities. Moreover, it was incompatible with the constitutional duty of the state to ensure the harmonious and comprehensive development of the child, based on respect for human rights and dignity, as well as on the values of equality, pluralism, and tolerance, which are inherent in a democratic society.

In respect of the *Apap Bologna v. Malta* group of cases, mainly concerning the operation of rent control legislation related to requisitioned properties and imposition or indefinite extension of private leases, the Committee of Ministers noted that the extent and the complexity of the problems revealed by these cases had been significantly reduced since a new legislative framework was put into place in 2021, and therefore decided to continue the examination of this group under the standard procedure. The Committee further noted that the implementation in practice of the new mechanism introduced in 2021 is alleviating some of the effects of the controlled rents on the owners by providing non-discriminatory enjoyment of their rights under Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 and thus the violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 was fully addressed by the Maltese authorities.

In the I.D. v. Republic of Moldova group of cases, concerning poor material conditions of detention and the absence of effective domestic remedies in this respect, the Committee noted with interest the information provided by the authorities regarding the significant improvements of material conditions in police detention facilities through the closure of sub-standard facilities and the refurbishing of the remaining facilities, as reported by the CPT in the Report on its visit to the Republic of Moldova in 2020, which observed that the newly refurbished detention facilities offered very good material conditions, including sufficient space, ventilated cells, adequate lighting, appropriate temperature and communication devices for detainees to contact guards. Against this background, the Committee decided to close the examination of this aspect of the group. In the case of Stoianoglo v. the Republic of Moldova, concerning a breach of the right of access to a court due to the applicant's automatic suspension from his position as Prosecutor General, in October 2021, for over two years and with no possibility of judicial review, following criminal charges brought against him, the Law on the Prosecution Office was amended even before the European Court's judgment became final in January 2024. The amendment stipulates that in case of criminal proceedings being initiated against the Prosecutor General, the latter shall be suspended from his duties for three days. Before the expiration of this term, the Superior Council of Prosecutors shall convene an extraordinary meeting and decide whether to maintain or lift that suspension. When it is not possible to convene an extraordinary meeting, the decision is to be taken by the President of the Superior Council of Prosecutors, which shall be validated at the very next meeting of the Superior Council of Prosecutors, convened no later than fifteen days after the date of the decision. The Court acknowledged in its judgment (§ 34) that, in response to the events in the present case, the authorities had amended the legislation in line with recommendations from the Venice Commission.

The Committee welcomed the change in the position of the Polish authorities and their commitment to thoroughly execute the judgment in Xero Flor w Polsce Sp. z o.o. v. Poland, in which the applicant company was denied a determination of its constitutional complaint by a "tribunal established by law" as a result of serious irregularities in the election of a Constitutional Court judge who sat on the panel that rejected the applicant's constitutional complaint. It noted with interest the ongoing legislative work on a new draft Act on the Constitutional Court, draft temporary provisions and the amendment to the Constitution, aimed at ensuring a lawful composition of the Constitutional Court, addressing the status of decisions adopted with the participation of irregularly appointed judges and preventing undue influence on the appointment of judges of the Constitutional Court and to guarantee the independence of the Constitutional Court. Furthermore, the Committee of Ministers welcomed the amendment to the Law on the National Council of the Judiciary in the Reczkowicz group of cases (examined together with the Wałęsa pilot judgment, Broda and Bojara, and Grzeda), mainly concerning violations of the right to a tribunal established by law as a result of deficiencies in the procedures for the appointment of judges at the request of the National Council of the Judiciary (NCJ). The amendment foresees that the judicial members of the NCJ will be elected by judges, thus addressing one of the general requirements for the enforcement of the judgments from the Reczkowicz group. It also noted that a comprehensive reform of the NCJ is still foreseen, in addition and independently from the above-mentioned legislative changes, including to address the status of deficiently appointed judges and the status of judgments adopted with their participation and that the authorities are seeking in this respect advice from the Venice Commission. As to Zurek, Juszczyszyn and Tuleya v. Poland, concerning disciplinary or other measures aimed at discouraging judges from examining the legality of judicial appointments or defending the rule of law and judicial independence, the Committee welcomed the authorities' commitment to thoroughly execute these judgments and the first results of their efforts relating to the elaboration of general measures, notably the ongoing work to amend the Law on Common Courts to ensure unrestricted rights for courts to verify the lawfulness of judicial appointments and to eliminate the restrictions introduced by the 2019 amendment to the Law on Common Courts and the Law on the Supreme Court.

In the Parascineti v. Romania and Centre for Legal Resources on behalf of Valentin Câmpeanu v. Romania groups of cases, raising issues of serious deficiencies in the mental health care system and regarding the treatment of persons with mental health conditions and/or intellectual disabilities in Romania, the Committee of Ministers welcomed the adoption of a national action plan for 2024-2029, prepared under the high-level co-ordination of the Prime Minister's Chancellery. In particular, it commended the Romanian authorities' approach to involve a wide range of stakeholders in this work, including the Ombudsperson and the National Council for the monitoring and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as relevant civil society and professional organisations. The Committee also welcomed the commitment of the authorities to implement the 2020-2025 action plan in the Bragadireanu v. Romania and Rezmives and Others v. Romania groups of cases concerning the longstanding structural problems of overcrowding and inhuman and degrading conditions of detention and noted with interest the progress made in providing new premises for the accommodation of prisoners. It expressed satisfaction with the measures taken to combat reoffending and support social reintegration, welcomed the consolidation of the jurisprudential effective compensatory remedy and encouraged the authorities to strengthen the role of the post-sentencing judge supervising the execution of sentences, which could remedy various aspects related to the material conditions of detention, pending the reduction of the prison population to a level which would allow the proper functioning of the preventive remedy. Furthermore, the Committee welcomed the significant progress achieved in the reduction of the length of judicial proceedings in the Vlad and Others v. Romania group of cases, as a result of the wide-ranging general measures adopted by the authorities, including the adoption of new Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure, which entered into force in 2013 and 2014, respectively. It noted with satisfaction that the interested parties have at their disposal an effective compensatory remedy, which applies both to terminated and pending proceedings. Therefore, the Committee decided to continue its examination of the outstanding questions concerning the excessive length of civil and criminal proceedings under the standard supervision procedure.

In *Pintar and Others v. Slovenia*, the Court had identified a structural problem affecting thousands of former holders of cancelled shares and bonds as a result of the extraordinary measures taken by the Bank of Slovenia in 2013 and 2014, and indicated that it is essential that all the affected persons have access to a legal avenue enabling them to effectively challenge the interference with their right of property, and that these proceedings are conducted without any further unnecessary delays. The Committee of Ministers noted with satisfaction the entry into force in June 2024 of a law, which provides the former holders of the cancelled shares and bonds with access to a legal avenue enabling them to challenge the interference with their right of property, and which includes various legal solutions which appear to have the potential to make the legal avenue effective. It strongly encouraged the authorities to sustain their efforts to ensure the proper implementation of the 2024 Law and the efficiency of any related proceedings.

In Spain, legislative reforms, which entered into force in March 2024, established the possibility for the Spanish Government Agent's Office to intervene in proceedings initiated before the Supreme Court by applicants seeking the reopening of domestic proceedings following a judgment of the European Court. The Government Agent's Office may, on its own initiative or at the request of the Supreme Court, provide information or submit written observations on issues relating to the execution of European Court's judgments. In this context, it holds a status similar to that of

an *amicus curiae* that provides an additional perspective to the Supreme Court, thus facilitating its assessment of the impact of the Court's judgments on final domestic judicial decisions. The participation of the Government Agent's Office in these proceedings also secures the prompt and comprehensive communication to the Committee of Ministers of information on measures relevant for the execution of a case.

Lastly, given the progress made by the Ukrainian authorities in the execution of the *Balitskiy v. Ukraine* group of cases, the Committee decided to transfer these judgments to the standard supervision procedure. The group concerns the applicants' convictions on the basis of self-incriminating statements made in the absence of a lawyer and in circumstances giving rise to a suspicion that the confessions had been given against the applicants' will. The Court indicated that Ukraine must urgently implement legislative and administrative reforms to resolve the problems which led to the violations. The authorities took measures to address these indications by adopting the new Code of Criminal Procedure and the Free Legal Aid Law, which provide for an extensive range of human rights safeguards in criminal proceedings, including as regards access to a lawyer, free legal representation and solid standards on evidence. The Committee of Ministers welcomed the authorities' efforts to effectively implement the above-mentioned safeguards in practice, including the development of the domestic courts' case law, which appears capable of preventing similar violations in the future, and encouraged the authorities to continue their efforts.



### Chapter IV

## Co-operation, assistance and dialogue

In the Reykjavík Declaration, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need for a co-operative and inclusive approach, based on dialogue, in the supervision process to assist states in the execution of the Court's judgments. They called for reinforced synergies with all relevant stakeholders: not only a strengthened dialogue with member states, but also a strong institutional dialogue between the Court and the Committee of Ministers, and synergies – among others with Council of Europe co-operation programmes, monitoring/advisory bodies and other relevant Council of Europe departments, as well as civil society and National Human Rights Institutions.

As in previous years, the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (DEJ) has followed this roadmap with determination. In accordance with its dual mandate, it not only assists the Committee of Ministers, but has also for many years provided extensive advice and support to member states in their efforts to achieve full, effective and prompt execution of judgments (including through ongoing bilateral dialogue, thematic events and round tables, participation in training programmes and activities facilitating exchanges of experiences between interested states).

In 2024, the DEJ continued to enhance and increase outreach activities and dialogue with states to foster the execution process and provide technical and expert assistance, notably through over 180 missions and bilateral meetings with national authorities which took place in person or on-line in Strasbourg or in the capitals concerned. It also published two new thematic factsheets and a record number of news items on its website keeping all stakeholders informed about important developments in the execution process at national level and following the quarterly Human Rights meetings.

At the same time, the support and guidance offered by the Council of Europe through general co-operation activities, national action plans and targeted Convention-related activities continued to provide valuable assistance to member states. The work of other monitoring advisory bodies and departments of the Council of Europe also greatly feeds into the process to ensure that member states have the necessary capacity and expertise. The DEJ maintained close communication and co-ordination with all these major stakeholders throughout the year.

#### A. Enhanced dialogue

#### With states

In 2024, the DEJ continued to deepen the on-going dialogue with national authorities, in order to support member states in the fulfilment of their obligations to ensure the full, effective, and prompt execution of the final judgments of the European Court.

To this end, the Execution Coordinators Network (ExCN) was created in June 2024, with the support of the co-operation project "Support to efficient domestic capacity for the execution of ECtHR judgments (Phase 1)", funded by the Human Rights Trust Fund. The Network brings together all the national coordinators of Council of Europe member states to exchange good practice and experience through an online portal and at annual meetings. It is intended to enable member states to support each other in the process of executing judgments of the Court and to strengthen the dialogue between national coordinators and relevant Council of Europe stakeholders.

In 2024, the DEJ participated in the first annual meeting of the ExCN held in Helsinki, where 43 out of 46 member states were represented. This was a direct follow-up to a request made in the Reykjavík Declaration.

Throughout the year, the DEJ held regular bilateral meetings (both online and in person) with the national coordinators and, where applicable their teams, of most member states. Other meetings with different authorities included the following.

The DEJ carried out a mission to Tirana to discuss and promote various aspects related to the implementation of the Court's judgments pending against Albania. The delegation met with the Deputy Minister of Justice, the Prime Minister's Office, the State Advocate's Office, and representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance, the High Judicial Council, the General Directorate of Prisons, as well as from the relevant local institutions. The discussions focused on the status of execution, current challenges and possible ways forward in cases pending before the Committee of Ministers, notably regarding the length of judicial proceedings (*Luli and Others* group), protection against ill-treatment (*Strazimiri*), discrimination in schools (*X and Others*), and protection of property (*Shaxhi and Others*).

The DEJ carried out a mission to Yerevan, organised in co-operation with the Office of the Representative on International Legal Matters of Armenia. The Delegation met with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Investigative Committee, the Ministry of Justice, the Prison Administration, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and with the Representative on International Legal Matters. The discussions focused on the status of execution, current obstacles and future perspectives in the pending cases, both under enhanced and standard supervision, including notably concerning noncombat deaths and ill-treatment in the army and ineffective investigations (*Muradyan* group), ill-treatment by police and ineffective investigations (*Virabyan* group), lack of adequate medical care in detention (*Shirkhanyan* group) and lack of protection against homophobic attacks and hate speech (*Oganezova*). An exchange of views also took place with the Supreme Judicial Council on the *Mnatsakanyan* case concerning the lack of judicial review of the decision to dismiss a judge.

A mission was also carried out to Sarajevo to meet the Minister of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the Chairwoman of the Council of Ministers, to discuss pending cases, notably the Sejdić and Finci group (concerning electoral discrimination) ahead of its examination by the Committee of Ministers in March, and to raise awareness of the work, practice and procedures of the Committee of Ministers and DEJ. In addition, the DEJ also held meetings with other authorities, including the Office of the Prime Minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to discuss steps taken to implement judgments concerning violations of property rights with respect to pre-war military flats (Đokić and Mago group), violations of the right to liberty and security on account of the unlawful placements in a social care home (Hadžimejlić), and excessive length of civil proceedings (Hadžajlić and Others). Lastly, the DEJ delegation met with relevant ministries to discuss the non-execution of domestic decisions and friendly settlements rendered against the Sarajevo canton (Brulić), and the modalities and functioning of the action plan on the repayment of the outstanding cantonal debts.

The DEJ participated in two round tables organised in Sofia on the execution of cases in respect of **Bulgaria**, with the participation of representatives of ministries, state agencies, the public prosecution service, domestic courts, the Ombudsperson, and civil society. Prior to their examination by the Committee of Ministers in September and December, participants discussed proposals of legislative and practical measures for the implementation of judgments concerning the failure to prevent deaths of children placed in public care and lack of prompt and effective investigation into these deaths (*Nencheva*), and evictions or demolition orders without proportionality assessments (*Yordanova and Others* group). The execution of the latter group of cases was also discussed during the first visit of a delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to Bulgaria aimed at supporting the execution of the Court's judgments by the Bulgarian authorities at local level in June, with participation of the Minister of Justice of Bulgaria and representatives of local authorities and the DEJ (see also Section D for further details).

The DEJ carried out a mission to Nicosia, organised in close co-operation with the Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus and other relevant authorities, to discuss and promote various aspects related to the implementation of the Court's judgments concerning Cyprus. Key issues in cases pending before the Committee of Ministers were addressed, including lengthy proceedings (Altius Insurance LTD and Foutas Aristidou group), detention conditions in prisons (Danilczuk), detention conditions pending deportation (Khanh group), and asylum-seekers' detention and its speedy review (B.A. group).

In relation to **France**, the DEJ held a meeting in Strasbourg with the <u>Prosecutor General and Attorney General of the Court of Cassation</u>, to present the execution process and take stock of the list of French cases pending before the Committee of Ministers.

A delegation of the DEJ met in Budapest with the Deputy State Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and the staff of the Government Agent's Office to discuss cases in respect of **Hungary** on the agenda of the Committee of Ministers at its Human Rights meetings in 2024, as well as a number of other important general questions regarding the execution of judgments by the Hungarian authorities. The DEJ also held meetings with numerous national experts, including from the National Judicial Office, the prosecution services, the Ministry of Interior, the prison service, the police service as well as the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing to exchange on the implementation of pending cases, as well as possible avenues for future co-operation.

Representatives of the DEJ also carried out a mission to Vilnius to exchange on the progress made in the execution of the Court's judgments against **Lithuania**, current obstacles, and further perspectives. In particular, the cases on the lack of implementing legislation on full gender reassignment (*L. v. Lithuania*), on freedom of expression (*Macate v. Lithuania*), on poor conditions of detention (*Mironovas and Others v. Lithuania*), and the lack of adequate access to asylum procedures (*M.A. and Others v. Lithuania*) were discussed. The DEJ met the Minister of Justice, but also representatives of other competent ministries and national authorities.

In the context of a mission organised in co-operation with the State Advocate of Malta, the DEJ held meetings with relevant Maltese authorities concerning the short-term and long-term perspectives for the execution of the Court's judgments concerning rent control legislation related to requisitioned properties and indefinite extension of private leases (*Apap Bologna* and *Amato Gauci* groups), issues of immigration and asylum (*Feilazoo* and *S.H.*), excessive length of proceedings (*Galea and Pavia* group), and the development of an effective remedy for inadequate conditions of detention (*Abdilla*).

A delegation of the DEJ carried out a visit to Chişinău in April to discuss cases pending before the Committee of Ministers in respect of the **Republic of Moldova** and raise awareness of the relevant practice and procedures of the Committee of Ministers. Several meetings were held with relevant authorities to discuss the most pressing issues, notably related to censorship and political control of public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova (*Manole and Others*), extra-legal transfer of persons to Türkiye (*Ozdil and Others*), non-enforcement of domestic courts decisions (*Olaru* group), ill-treatment in police custody and lack of effective investigations (*Levința* group), and domestic violence (*T.M. and C.M*).

Ahead of the first examination of *Murray* by the Committee of Ministers in June 2024, the DEJ met with a delegation from the Ministry of Justice of Curação, an autonomous country situated in the Caribbean and belonging to the Kingdom of the **Netherlands**, together with the Government Agent of the Netherlands and the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe. This case concerns the *de facto* irreducibility of the life sentence imposed on the applicant suffering from a mental illness who served the first 19 years of his sentence in a prison in Curação.

As regards **North Macedonia**, the DEJ carried out a mission to Skopje to discuss the implementation of several Court's judgments with national stakeholders, including: the Minister of Interior who presented legislative measures adopted and envisaged to implement the *Trajkovski and Chipovski* judgment (detention of DNA profiles of convicted persons); the Minister of Digital Transformation concerning domestic procedures for legal gender recognition (*X*); the Director of Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors about the training of prosecutors and the judiciary to help ensure that pre-trial detention measures are applied in line with the European Convention (*Vasilkoski and Others* group); the Ministry of Justice on the ongoing measures for the implementation of the *Mitovi* group (non-enforcement of decisions concerning contact rights with children) and *Mitrevska* (inability of adoptees to obtain information about their biological origin); and the Minister of Education and Science on the measures to overcome the segregation of Roma children in State-run primary schools attended predominantly by Roma children and with Roma-only classes (*Elmazova and Others* – see also section C).

A delegation of the DEJ accompanied the then Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law and the Secretary to the Venice Commission to take part in high level-meetings in Warsaw, Poland, with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The authorities presented their action plan to reinstate rule of law in Poland in order to implement cases concerning notably the composition of the Constitutional Court (*Xero Flor*), the appointment of judges of the Supreme Court (*Reczkowicz*), the premature termination of the term of office of presidents of domestic courts without judicial review (*Broda and Bojara*), and the negative measures applied against judges defending the rule of law and judicial independence (*Żurek*, Juszczyszyn, *Tuleya*). Later in 2024, the DEJ carried out another mission to Warsaw to discuss short-term and long-term perspectives for the execution of the Court's judgments against Poland. Meetings

were notably held with representatives of relevant ministries, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, the Ombudsman for Children, the National Prosecution Service, the Border Guards and the Prison Guards.

In co-operation with the Permanent Representation of **Portugal** to the Council of Europe and the Government Agent before the Court, the DEJ carried out a mission to Lisbon to discuss the status of execution, current obstacles and future perspectives in pending cases concerning notably overcrowding and poor conditions of detention (*Petrescu* group), renewal and the conditions of the high security prison regime (*Fernandes*), preventive detention of persons declared not criminally responsible due to their mental disorders (*Miranda Magro*), length of proceedings (*Vicente Cardoso* group), and freedom of expression (*Almeida Arroja*). Meetings were notably held with the Minister of Justice, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, the Deputy Minister of Justice, and the Director-General for Reintegration and Prison Services.

In the context of a mission to Bucharest, Romania, in January, the DEJ held consultations with the Secretary General of the Romanian Government to exchange on the process of reparation for properties nationalised during the communist period and on institutional measures underway at the level of the Government General Secretariat to guarantee the prompt and voluntary implementation of domestic court decisions by the State or State-controlled entities. The same month, DEJ representatives also took part in consultations chaired by the Counsellor of State in the Chancellery as part of a dedicated inter-institutional working group bringing together representatives of more than 20 national stakeholders. These consultations focused on the draft national action plan on mental health, developed to implement several judgments of the Court delivered between 2012 and 2021, in particular concerning the legality of involuntary placements of people with mental health conditions or disabilities in psychiatric hospitals or residential social care facilities, the mechanism for decision-making support or representation for these people, and the problems of overcrowding and inadequate conditions and care available in psychiatric hospitals. In April, the DEJ hosted a study visit for members of the Romanian Government Agent's Office and the Ministry of Justice of Romania, which allowed in-depth exchanges on the supervision of the execution of the Court's judgments, the Committee of Ministers' working methods, and remaining questions in some pending cases concerning Romania. In June, the DEJ had an online meeting with relevant Romanian authorities on the progress made in making the mechanism of prevention and control established under the Government General Secretariat to oversee the implementation of domestic court decisions by public debtors fully operational (Săcăleanu). Relevant good practices developed at national level which could be adapted and generalised, and areas where the authorities should consider further measures, were also discussed. Finally, in November, the DEJ went to Bucharest and met with representatives from the Ministry of Justice and the General Directorate of Prisons. The discussions focused on the status of execution, current challenges and possible ways forward in cases pending before the Committee of Ministers, notably regarding conditions of detention.

In February and October, the (previous, in February and current, in October) Director General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law, together with a DGI delegation, held high level technical meetings with the Turkish authorities in Ankara on the implementation of the *Kavala* case. The Director of Human Rights and the DEJ furthermore carried out a mission to Türkiye in December to meet representatives of the Constitutional Court, the Court of Cassation, the Directorate General for Prisons and Detention Houses, and several relevant ministries. Discussions focused on the status of execution, current obstacles and future perspectives in pending cases relating for example to prisons (overcrowding, healthcare), violence against women, freedom of expression, or the implementation of national judicial decisions relating to the environment.

The DEJ met the President of the Supreme Court of **Ukraine** in January. Later in February, it held **online consultations** with the High Council of Justice to discuss challenges and steps taken in order to implement certain Court's judgments in respect of Ukraine, including the issue of lack of judicial independence in matters relating to judicial discipline and careers. This issue was also addressed in the context of a **study visit** hosted by the DEJ in 2024 with several Ukrainian judicial bodies, notably the Supreme Court, the High Council of Justice, and the High Qualification Commission of Judges, enabling in-depth expert discussions on the progress made and the outstanding measures required for the execution of the Court's judgments concerning the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary. In co-operation with the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice, the DEJ organised a round table in Lviv in May on the structural problem of non-enforcement and delayed enforcement of domestic judicial decisions identified by the Court in *Zhovner / Yuriy Ivanov / Burmych and Others*. The participants included notably representatives of the Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Ministries of Justice and Social Policy, as well as other relevant State agencies, and the discussions focused on the current state of play and challenges regarding the system of social payments and moratoria on execution of domestic decisions, and the ongoing and planned measures for resolving the long-standing problems. A meeting with a delegation of judges from the Constitutional Court of Ukraine also took place in November.

The DEJ accompanied the Director of Human Rights on a visit to the **United Kingdom** in November. In Belfast, the delegation met with the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and a number of NGOs to discuss the status of implementation of the *McKerr* group of cases, concerning investigations into deaths that took place during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. In London, the delegation participated in an awareness event organised by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office as

well as bilateral meetings with policy teams in different Ministries responsible for implementation of cases pending against the United Kingdom. Meetings were also held with the Northern Ireland Office on the *McKerr* group; with the Home Office on *V.C.L.* and *A.N.* and *Big Brother Watch and Others*; and with the Ministry of Justice on *S.W.*.

At the margins of the Opening of the Judicial Year of the European Court in January, the DEJ also held meetings with representatives from across the highest levels of the judiciary of Belgium, Greece, the Republic of Moldova and the United Kingdom.

#### With other international organisations

In March, the DEJ participated in an expert meeting in Warsaw, organised by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), on judicial independence and the Rule of Law in Poland. Discussions focused on the necessary reforms, particularly addressing the lack of independence of the National Council of Judiciary and its impact on judicial appointments. The DEJ provided updates on the status of execution of the Court's judgments concerning the Rule of Law and judicial independence, and the position of the Committee of Ministers on required general measures. A follow-up meeting was organised by ODIHR in November, in which the DEJ also took part.

The DEJ also took part in the Seminar on the European Convention on Human Rights and international refugee law compliant procedures at state borders, organised jointly by the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights and the UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions. This event gathered judges from 27 member states, judges from the Court and representatives of the UNHCR. The DEJ presented measures taken by member states to implement the Court's judgments concerning the prohibition of collective expulsions and the protection against refoulement under Article 3 of the Convention and removal to a "safe third country".

The DEJ also participated in December in a round table, organised by UNHCR, in Malta on *Detention Practices: Individual Assessments and Effective Alternatives to Detention for Migrants, Asylum-Seekers and People in Need of International Protection.* 

In December, the DEJ met with a delegation from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in the context of a study visit organised by the Registry of the Court. The DEJ presented its work and mandate, as well as the working methods of the Committee of Ministers.

Throughout the year, the DEJ continued its close co-operation with the European Union, further strengthening dialogue and collaboration on human rights protection across Europe. Meetings were held with the European Commission, European Union Agencies for Fundamental Rights and Asylum, and discussions focused on the implementation of key judgments and the broader impact of the Court's case law on EU policies.

Similarly, in 2024 the DEJ maintained contacts with the United Nations, and in particular the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, in respect of the pending cases against the Russian Federation (see Chapter VII for more details).

#### **B.** Institutional dialogue between the Court and the Committee of Ministers

To further strengthen the institutional dialogue between the Court and the Committee of Ministers, further to the call in the Reykjavík Declaration, several initiatives were undertaken in 2024.

In February 2024,<sup>4</sup> the Committee of Ministers agreed to reinforce its institutional dialogue with the Court on general issues related to the execution of judgments, in particular through the organisation of an annual meeting between the Presidency of the Court, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. The first of these meetings took place in November 2024.

Successive Presidents of the Court held exchanges of views with the Committee of Ministers on two occasions in April and October 2024.

The DEJ and the Registry of the Court have continued to enhance their co-operation, and, having originally started in November 2023, a "Dialogue Project" was officially launched at the beginning of 2024, bringing together lawyers from both entities to promote a holistic approach to the Convention. Throughout the year, three thematic meetings were organized to enable exchanges on matters of common interest falling under the concurring jurisdiction of both the Court and the Committee of Ministers with a view to identifying best practices and harmonising approaches. Similarly country specific meetings have continued aimed at identifying and aligning priorities, in particular in relation to cases stemming from structural problems.

Regular exchanges of information continue and the creation of common databases (for example related to the legal provisions governing reopening of proceedings in every member state) is underway.

Training programmes to raise awareness and ensure a better understanding of the procedures by lawyers on both sides have started and will continue in 2025.

Finally, a joint project is underway to create a targeted HELP module in a transversal area of common interest (effective remedies for conditions of detention) to enhance domestic capacity to address this structural problem, strengthen general measures to prevent similar violations in the future and prevent repetitive cases coming to the Court.

#### **C. Synergies with Council of Europe co-operation programmes**

#### Introduction to co-operation activities and Action Plans for states

Co-operation programmes play a crucial role in facilitating ongoing discussions with decision-makers at domestic level, promoting experience-sharing, enhancing national capacity-building, and disseminating relevant knowledge about the Convention as interpreted by the Court, as well as from various Council of Europe monitoring or advisory bodies, such as the CPT, CEPEJ, GRECO, ECRI, and the Venice Commission. These programmes are essential in ensuring the adoption of appropriate and sustainable measures to address the issues highlighted in the Court's judgments.

The Directorate of Programme Co-ordination plays a significant role in guaranteeing that national Action Plans and other co-operation frameworks consistently incorporate suitable actions to address specific needs arising from the Court's judgments and the Committee of Ministers' supervision of their execution. National Action Plans serve as strategic programming instruments aimed at aligning a state's legislation, institutions, and practices with European standards in the areas of human rights, rule of law, and democracy; they support a country's commitment to fulfilling its obligations as a member state of the Council of Europe. The Action Plan for Georgia 2024-2027 was officially launched in Tbilisi in January 2024. It aims to align Georgia's legislation, institutions, and practices with European standards in human rights, the rule of law, and democracy. The Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova 2025-2028 was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in November 2024 and will support the implementation of the country's ambitious reform agenda which is key for achieving progress towards integration into the European Union as most of the EU-benchmarks relate to the values and principles enshrined in Council of Europe conventions and recommendations, particularly in the areas of rule of law, justice, and fundamental rights. Furthermore, in 2024, Council of Europe Action Plans continued to be implemented in Armenia (2023-2026), Azerbaijan (2022-2025), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2022-2025), and Ukraine (2023-2026).

Other co-operation projects outside Action Plans systematically integrate needs deriving from judgments of the Court pending execution, as appropriate. Funding is mainly secured through voluntary contributions (through Action Plans or separately), the Human Rights Trust Fund (HRTF),<sup>5</sup> or European Union funding tools: country-specific joint programmes, Partnership for Good Governance, Horizontal Facility, Technical Support Instruments. In 2024, the Committee of Ministers also strengthened the co-operation dimension of the Ordinary Budget by increasing funding (+ 5.75 million euros in 2024) for the Council of Europe action plans concerning Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The DEJ also reserves ordinary budget funding for stand-alone activities outside co-operation programmes (often where a quick intervention is necessary to help the execution process), and subject to the availability of funds.

#### Targeted co-operation activities related to the execution of judgments

Throughout the years, the DEJ has maintained close contact with Council of Europe co-operation programmes to ensure that problems revealed in the Court's judgments or during the execution process are taken into account where possible in Council of Europe co-operation activities.

In 2023, in the Reykjavík Declaration, the Heads of State and Government committed to scaling up co-operation programmes to assist member states in the implementation of judgments, which may involve, as appropriate, states facing the same or similar issues in implementation, and to increase the synergy between the DEJ and the Council of Europe co-operation programmes. To enhance transparency and visibility of the Council of Europe's co-operation programmes where related to the implementation of a judgment or group of judgments concerning a particular state, the DEJ now includes the names of the relevant projects in the headings of the Notes it prepares for the Committee of Ministers' examination.

In 2024, Council of Europe projects continued to provide targeted support for implementing the European Convention at the national, regional, and multilateral levels. This support focused on member states with a high number of applications before the Court and those having systemic and repetitive issues requiring concrete action and a multilateral/thematic approach.

<sup>5.</sup> The Fund brings together eight contributors – Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

In the design and implementation of co-operation projects, particular attention is given to the findings of the Court and priority is given to co-operation programmes assisting member states in the implementation of the Court's judgments. Such programmes can therefore tackle substantial shortcomings identified in specific judgments of the Court and in the Committee of Ministers' decisions. The thematic scope of these programmes primarily covers issues within the mandate of the Directorate of Human Rights, including criminal justice, efficiency of the judiciary, prevention of torture, and access to justice (programmes mainly implemented in the Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal co-operation standards, as well as the Division for Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty). There are also programmes related to non-discrimination, education, Roma and Travellers and freedom of expression. Geographically, they cover all 46 member states; however, most of the projects related to the execution of the Court's judgments target non-EU member states, in particular the Western Balkans countries, the Eastern Partnership countries, and Türkiye. Some projects and activities aimed at increasing the efficiency of the judiciary are also being implemented in EU member states including for example Bulgaria, Romania, and Cyprus. The programmes are implemented in close co-ordination with the DEJ.

In 2024, the Council of Europe continued its efforts to support the efficient domestic capacity for the execution of Court judgments, in particular through the Project "Support to efficient domestic capacity for the execution of the European Court judgments (Phase 1)" launched in 2023 and funded by the Human Rights Trust Fund. The aims of the project included raising awareness and equipping member states to establish effective legislation and/or implement practices aimed at execution of judgments as well as supporting member states in introducing more effective structures and mechanisms for exchange of good practices. After an initial phase, in February 2024, the Network Development Study for the Establishment of the Execution Co-ordinators Network was published, proposing a structure and format for the same. The first annual meeting of the national co-ordinators with participation of the DEJ took place in June 2024 in Helsinki, Finland and 43 out of 46 member states were represented. This meeting marked an important step towards improving and strengthening the execution process, as called for by the Reykjavík Declaration. The national co-ordinators established the "Execution Co-ordinators Network" (ExCN) as a means to facilitate the exchange of expertise and experience among national co-ordinators of member states. Nicola Wenzel from Germany, Oana-Florentina Ezer from Romania and Marharyta Sokorenko from Ukraine were elected respectively as the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Network. The project also produced a multi-country study on domestic capacity for rapid execution of the judgments and decisions of the Court highlighting good practices in human rights implementation. The study based its findings on 27 national studies carried out with the support of the Council of Europe using methodology specifically designed for this purpose. The ExCN has already planned a number of thematic events to take place in 2025. The Council of Europe will continue to support the strengthening of the ExCN through a second phase of the project in 2025 and is expected to create an online platform to facilitate exchanges between execution co-ordinators.

In January, a DEJ representative participated online in a round table in Tirana, Albania, on the Achievements and Challenges of the Albanian Penitentiary System - findings of the CPT report, organised with the support of the Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty Division (CPDL) implementing a project: "Enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners in Albania" in the context of the joint European Union and Council of Europe programme "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye". The DEJ presented the decisions of the Committee of Ministers adopted in relation to the execution of the Strazimiri v. Albania judgment, which concerns inappropriate living conditions and insufficient psychiatric and therapeutic treatment for a mentally ill person who was deprived of liberty based on a court-ordered compulsory medical treatment. The round table was an example of the synergies built between the DEJ, the CPT, and the CPDL. In 2024, the DEJ participated also in several online discussions and co-ordination meetings related to the X and Others v. Albania judgment, which concerns the failure of the authorities to implement swift and comprehensive desegregation measures in an elementary school in Korça attended almost exclusively by Roma and Egyptian children. These discussions and meetings were organised in the framework of the project "Improving the protection of the right to property and facilitating execution of European Court of Human Rights judgments in Albania", as well as co-operation activities provided by the Council of Europe Roma and Travellers Division.

In 2024, the DEJ continued to engage with **Armenia** in the context of the "Support to the Effective Execution of the Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in Armenia" project. In January, the DEJ participated in a workshop on the practical aspects of reopening of domestic judicial proceedings following the Court's judgments and decisions, held in Yerevan. The event brought together judges and judicial experts of the Court of Cassation of Armenia and of the Office of the Representative of Armenia on International Legal Matters. On the margins of the workshop, the DEJ held a bilateral meeting with the Office of the Representative of Armenia on International Legal Matters to discuss cases pending execution, including the Virabyan group of cases. In September, representatives of the Office of the Human Rights Defender (Ombudsperson) of Armenia carried out a study visit to the Council of Europe. The visit was organised by the Division of Co-operation Programmes and Division of Human Rights and Biomedicine under the projects "Strengthening human rights safeguards for the displaced population in Armenia" and "Protection of human rights in biomedicine II". The DEJ presented its work and discussed several cases pending execution, including Oganezova and Virabyan. In November, an Armenian delegation of representatives from the Penitentiary and Probation services of the Ministry of Justice visited the Council of Europe for a study visit which aimed to increase awareness and understanding

of the Council of Europe mission and values, learn about recent developments and standards in relation to human rights, prison management, probation services and rehabilitation. The visit was within the framework of the projects "Strengthening the protection of the rights of persons in detention" and "Strengthening the Probation service in Armenia".

In June, in the context of the joint European Union and Council of Europe programme "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye", the DEJ participated in an exchange of best practices related to procedural guarantees in deportation proceedings on national security grounds to assist the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The discussion aimed to identify and share good practices adopted in Romania for the execution of Muhammad and Muhammad judgment, which could serve as a model for measures to be taken in Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the Scepanovic judgment.

Throughout the year, the DEJ worked with the Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards on issues related to the execution of the *S.Z. v. Bulgaria* judgment. In close co-ordination with the Bulgarian authorities, an expert report was prepared with the aim of exploring options for reducing the formalism of the trial phase.

In March 2024, the launch event of the project "Reinforcing National Execution of the European Court's Judgments by Georgia" took place. Later, in September 2024, the DEJ participated in a round table in Tbilisi on enhancing co-ordination among national stakeholders for the execution of the Court's judgments by Georgia. The event brought together representatives of various state agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Supreme Court and Parliament, to discuss existing modalities of co-ordination and co-operation at the national level and ways of enhancing its effectiveness. The DEJ also participated in a workshop on the execution of the Court's judgments for legal staff of the Georgian courts, which took place in September 2024. The participants were familiarised with the Committee of Ministers' supervision process and the main pending issues in the cases concerning Georgia. Both events were organised within the framework of the above-mentioned project.

In December 2024, the DEJ participated in a training of trainers held in Budapest for law enforcement officials to enhance capacities in addressing racially motivated crimes against Roma in **Hungary**. The training was organised by the Council of Europe's Roma and Travellers Division, in co-operation with the DEJ and Hungarian authorities. The DEJ presented the Committee of Ministers' supervision of the Court's judgments, including the *Balázs* group, which concerns the inhuman and degrading treatment of Roma applicants. This event marked the first co-operation project between the Council of Europe and the Hungarian authorities concerning this issue and brought together police officers from across the country working on tackling hate crimes.

In 2024, the DEJ participated in several events in the context of the Council of Europe project "Strengthening the Human Rights Compliant Criminal Justice System in the Republic of Moldova". First, the DEJ participated in three meetings of the Advisory Council of the Government Agent of the Republic of Moldova (in April, May and October), launched in November 2023, which provides a platform to tackle complex and systemic issues concerning the execution of several judgments of the Court against the Republic of Moldova, through coordinated action of all national actors concerned and by ensuring the necessary support at the highest political level. It is composed of the Government Agent and representatives of the relevant national authorities, the Ombudsperson, academia and civil society. The DEJ also participated in a workshop on the preventive and compensatory remedy to challenge poor conditions of detention and the lack of adequate medical assistance in detention in the Republic of Moldova, attended by judges of lower and higher courts, the National Administration of Penitentiaries, the Government Agent, civil society, as well as international consultants from Italy and Romania, who shared their experience with the implementation of similar domestic remedies. In Strasbourg, the DEJ hosted a meeting with representatives of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Superior Council of Magistrates to provide an overview of the most pressing issues pending before the Committee of Ministers, including pre-trial detention and violations of the rule of law. This was organised within the framework of the joint European Union and Council of Europe project "Support to the Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova" and the Council of Europe project "Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Moldova".

In 2024, the DEJ participated in several events related to the execution of the Court's judgments in North Macedonia. The first was a round table "Quality Education for All" organised by the Council of Europe Education Department in response to the Court's judgment Elmazova and Others that found discrimination of Roma pupils due to their segregation in two State-run primary schools which were attended predominantly by Roma children and with Roma-only classes. Experts and representatives from central and local institutions, schools, the Council of Europe, national human rights institutions, and civil society discussed concrete measures to address segregation in schools and to advance the integration of Roma children in education as well as their timeline. To this aim, discussions also focused on avenues to maintain inter-institutional synergies throughout the process and ensuring sustainable solutions to prevent segregation in schools in the future. The DEJ also had consultations with the experts contracted by the Council of Europe's Roma and Travellers Division that drafted amendments to the Law on Primary Education and the draft desegregation plan. In May, the DEJ also took part in a workshop on best practices regarding the execution of the Court's judgments in the field of the right to liberty and security of persons (Vasilkoski and Others group - insufficient reasoning

of decisions extending pre-trial detention and the lack of equality of arms in detention review proceedings), which was co-organised with the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors of North Macedonia and the Transversal Challenges and Multilateral projects Division of the Council of Europe. It brought together consultants from Croatia who shared with their North Macedonian colleagues the best practices in this area which led to the closure of a similar group of cases against Croatia (*Krnjak* group). Additionally, in June, the DEJ participated in a study visit to Croatia, organised for key stakeholders from relevant institutions of North Macedonia, working on the execution of the Court's judgment in *Elmazova and Others*. The study visit aimed to identify good practices adopted in Croatia for the execution of a similar Court judgment, which could serve as a model for measures to be taken in North Macedonia. The January and June events were organised in the framework of the project "*Quality Education for All – North Macedonia*", implemented by the Council of Europe and funded by Germany, while the May workshop was organised in the framework of the project "*Support to efficient domestic capacity for the execution of the European Court of Human Rights judgments (<i>Phase 1*)" funded by the Human Rights Trust Fund.

In 2024, the DEJ participated in two online round tables related to the execution of the Court's judgments in Serbia. The first round table concerned the prevention of ill-treatment by police officers and effective investigations thereof (Stanimirović group), and focused on the general measures foreseen or already taken by the domestic authorities. A delegate from the CPT also attended this event and gave an overview of the main findings and recommendations from the recently published CPT report of its ad hoc visit to Serbia in March 2023. The second round table concerned the implementation of Negovanović and Others concerning discrimination of blind chess players who were denied certain financial benefits for winning medals as part of the national team of former Yugoslavia, at the Blind Chess Olympiads between 1961 and 1992. In the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Sport, competent for taking the measures required for the execution of this case, these meetings led to the conclusion that amendments to the Law on Sports and a number of by-laws currently in force were required. Both events were organised in the context of the joint European Union and Council of Europe programme "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye".

In October, the DEJ participated in a round table which took place in Ljubljana, **Slovenia**, where the first results of the joint European Union and Council of Europe project "Ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings" were presented. The DEJ's intervention focused on the execution of the Court's judgment *Q* and *R*, concerning a violation of the right to a fair trial on account of the excessively long foster care proceedings. Other key topics were also discussed, including child participation throughout the proceedings, the role of guardians and children's advocates, custody arrangements, effective co-operation between legal and social services, preventive and protective measures, and family support programmes.

The DEJ welcomed a judge rapporteur from the Constitutional Court of **Türkiye** as a study visitor between September and December 2024 within the context of the project "Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgments in the Field of Fundamental Rights".

The DEJ has been actively involved in various activities in **Ukraine**. In January, the DEJ met with the President of the Ukrainian Supreme Court to discuss Ukrainian cases scheduled to be examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024, focusing on strengthening judicial independence and reforming the system of judicial discipline (*Oleksandr Volkov*), as part of the Council of Europe project "Support to the functioning of justice in the war and post-war context in Ukraine". In April, the DEJ took part in the event "Safety of journalists and other media actors in Ukraine in the context of Martial Law", in the framework of the Council of Europe project "Safeguarding Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Media in Ukraine". It discussed with participants the measures required to address different issues linked to the protection of the safety of journalists and other media actors, notably the need to strengthen domestic capacity of specialised investigations into allegations of offences committed against journalists (Gongadze), interference with a journalist's right to the protection of her sources (Sedletska), and disproportionate refusal of the authorities to provide an NGO and journalists with information requested (Centre for Democracy and the Rule of Law).

The DEJ also participated in a meeting with representatives of the International Legal Co-operation Department of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, organised as part of the Council of Europe project "Fostering Human Rights in the Criminal Justice System in Ukraine". Participants exchanged views on the progress made by the Ukrainian authorities as well as on further steps required for the execution of judgments where the prosecutorial service is the main or one of the main stakeholders, including: issues of prosecutorial independence (Lutsenko group), prevention and effective investigation of ill-treatment (Kaverzin/Afanasyev group) and conditions of detention (Sukachov group).

In October, the DEJ participated online in the round table "European Court of Human Rights and women's rights: execution of cases Levchuk and Ivashkiv" for lawyers, judges and prosecutors organised by the project "Combating Violence against Women in Ukraine – Phase II". The intervention concerned the progress in the execution of the Court's judgments related to domestic violence in Ukraine: achievements and outstanding measures. In October, the DEJ participated online in the Forum Combating Discrimination and Hate Crimes: European Standards for Human Rights Protection, organised by the joint European Union and Council of Europe project "Support for implementing European standards relating to anti-discrimination and the rights of national minorities in Ukraine". The DEJ intervention concerned specifically the cases of Fedorchenko and Lozenko and Karter, and effective investigations into hate crimes based on race

and/or sexual orientation. Finally, in November, in the framework of the joint European Union and Council of Europe project "Support to development of the constitutional justice in Ukraine (Partnership for Good Governance III Ukraine)", the DEJ met with a delegation of judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine. The DEJ stressed the importance of the role of constitutional courts in the execution of the Court's judgments. In addition to the issue of the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary, other issues were discussed including the structural problem of non-execution of domestic court judgments in Zhovner / Yuriy Ivanov / Burmych and Others.

### D. Synergies with monitoring/advisory bodies and other relevant Council of Europe bodies and departments

The DEJ maintains regular contact with Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies to identify issues related to the execution of the Court's judgments that may be of common interest. In 2024, multiple initiatives were undertaken to further enhance synergies between the DEJ and other Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies. The DEJ held meetings with various bodies from across the organisation to brainstorm and exchanges on issues that would aid in the implementation of judgments. It has collaborated widely across the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), including the CPT, as well as across the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII), with the different Departments working on for example Roma and Travellers, education, sexual orientation and gender identity. It has also coordinated with the Secretariats of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) and the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).

In 2024, the Venice Commission adopted a significant number of opinions and reports, in which it commented on human rights provisions in national constitutions and legislation, drawing on the Court's case-law as its main benchmark. These opinions contributed to the implementation of the Court's judgments. For instance, in June 2024, the Venice Commission issued an opinion with recommendations on the draft Constitutional Law on "Protecting Family Values and Minors" in Georgia, which was found to be non-compliant with European and international standards, notably with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Court's case-law (impacting the execution of Identoba and Others group). Earlier, in February 2024, the DEJ accompanied the then Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law and the Secretary to the Venice Commission in high-level meetings in Warsaw with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the execution of cases concerning the rule of law in Poland. As regards in particular this country, in 2024 the Venice Commission issued four opinions: on the draft law amending the Law on the National Council of the Judiciary of Poland, on European standards regulating the status of judges, on the draft amendments to the Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office, on the draft constitutional amendments concerning the Constitutional Tribunal and two laws on the Constitutional Tribunal. The last opinion assessed the reforms proposed first and foremost as a measure of execution of the Court's judgments, notably the case of Xero Flor w Polsce sp. z o.o. v. Poland. Also, in 2024 the Commission issued an opinion concerning Türkiye and the composition of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors and the procedure for the election of its members, in which it assessed the composition of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (CJP) and the procedure for the election of its members (issues related to the execution of the Kavala and Selahattin Demirtas (No. 2) cases).

The Committee of Ministers regularly relied on the recommendations and reports of other Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies in the Notes on the Order of Business and decisions adopted during Human Rights meetings, where relevant to the execution process. These bodies include, for example, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in cases concerning minorities or discrimination, for example *Paketova and Others v. Bulgaria*, the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) in cases concerning excessive length of proceedings, for example *Luli and Others group v. Albania*, the CPT in cases related to poor conditions of detention or ill-treatment by police/law enforcement officers, for example *Virabyan group v. Armenia*.

Also in 2024, and further to the Committee of Ministers' instruction in CM/Del/Dec(2024)1488/4.4 adopted in February 2024, the DEJ has developed more synergies with PACE, including regular in-person briefings to national PACE delegations on the implementation of judgments concerning their own states during PACE sessions, such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine. The DEJ also provides regular input to briefings for different meetings/hearings and before rapporteur country visits and reports, such as the meeting of the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights held in Armenia in December 2024. In June 2024, the Committee of Ministers replied to PACE Recommendation 2252 (2023) "Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights", reiterating the invitation to the PACE and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to strengthen their dialogue with their respective national interlocutors on the implementation of judgments, at both the political and technical levels, and instructed the DEJ to assist as appropriate. In the same month, following a fact-finding visit to Ankara and Istanbul in June 2024, the co-rapporteur for the monitoring of Türkiye in the PACE, reiterated his call for the Turkish authorities to implement the judgments of the Court and to maintain a high-level dialogue with the Council of Europe.

In June 2024, also in light of the Committee of Ministers' instruction mentioned above, the DEJ conducted its first-ever joint mission with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to support the execution of the Court's judgments by the Bulgarian authorities at the local level, specifically in the case of *Yordanova and Others v. Bulgaria*. This mission

highlighted the importance of joining forces and working with locally elected representatives to ensure the execution of judgments that concern them, and thus contributing to the implementation of human rights and the upholding of the rule of law at the community level. The DEJ also held several meetings with its counterparts in the Congress to discuss further ways of co-operation on cases or on topics where execution often depends on local authorities, and to explore further opportunities for joint action.

The effective implementation of the Convention is a core aspect of the Commissioner for Human Rights' mandate. In 2024, the Commissioner drew attention to practices, legislation, or reforms in member states that may weaken human rights protection or raise questions about compliance with the Convention and the Court's case-law. The Commissioner also published thematic documents containing recommendations that encourage member states to adhere to the Convention and the Court's case-law. In March 2024, the Commissioner submitted Rule 9 communications to the Committee of Ministers regarding the supervision of the execution of several groups of judgments, including the Centre for Legal Resources on behalf of Valentin Campeanu and N. (No. 2) v. Romania, and Cristian Teodorescu, Parascineti, R.D. and I.M.D., Atudorei and N. v. Romania. In June 2024, the DEJ met with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, which outlined the priorities of the new Commissioner for Human Rights for his six-year mandate, which commenced in April 2024.

Finally, the DEJ regularly participated in events organised in the context of the HELP Programme (see section G for further details).

## E. Synergies with Civil society organisations (CSO) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI)

As stressed in the 2023 Reykjavík Declaration, the role of NHRIs and CSOs in monitoring compliance with the European Convention and the Court's judgments is crucial, and in 2024 the DEJ continued to reinforce and further enhance its outreach to and meaningful engagement with them.

Throughout the year, the DEJ organised many meetings, training and consultations with NHRIs and CSOs involved in the execution process, both online and in person. During missions and visits to states, the DEJ also tried to meet with civil society to raise awareness of the potential of their involvement in the implementation system.

In February, during its visit to Lithuania, the DEJ met with CSOs, stressing the important role they can play in the execution process.

In March, the DEJ invited representatives of NHRIs and civil society as speakers to take part in the High-Level Conference "Of Unsound Mind: Convention-compliant approaches to the execution of judgments concerning involuntary detention and treatment on mental health grounds" (see section F below).

Later in March, the DEJ gave training for the Ombusdman of the Republic of Moldova and his office about the system of supervision of execution of the judgments of the Court, including a presentation of the most pressing issues pending before the Committee of Ministers.

In May, the DEJ met different CSOs during its visit to Hungary, including Amnesty International Hungary, Háttér Society, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Hungarian Helsinki Committee, and the Rosa Parks Foundation. Later in May, the DEJ had the opportunity to exchange with the CSO Promo-Lex in the context of a workshop held in Chişinău on the preventive and compensatory remedy to challenge poor conditions of detention and the lack of adequate medical assistance in detention in the Republic of Moldova.

In September, the DEJ presented its work and the supervision process in the context of a study visit of the Office of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia (Ombudsperson).

During its visit to Poland in October, a general exchange of views related to the execution of the Court's judgments against Poland took place with representatives of the Office of the Polish Ombudsman and with the Chair of the Subcommission for the execution of the judgments of the Court of the Polish Sejm.

In the same vein, in November the DEJ met with the Portuguese Ombudsperson's Office to discuss cases under supervision in respect of Portugal. Whilst on a visit to Bucharest, the DEJ also met with representatives from the relevant National Human Rights Institution and civil society organisations. The same month, the DEJ met with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and a number of NGOs in the context of a mission to Northern Ireland focused on discussing developments in the *McKerr* group of cases, concerning investigations into deaths that took place during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. The DEJ also had an exchange of views with the Commission for the Prevention and Protection of Discrimination of North Macedonia on the implementation of the *Elmazova and Others* case concerning Roma school segregation. The DEJ met with representatives of civil society organisations from Georgia and discussed several cases pending execution, in a meeting was organised within the framework of the Council of Europe project "Supporting freedom of expression and media in Georgia".

In December, the DEJ held meetings with representatives from CSOs in the context of a mission to Cyprus, stressing their role in the execution process. Similarly during the visit to Türkiye in December, the DEJ met with the Ombudsman Institution, the Human Rights and Equality Institution and the Union of Turkish Bar Associations; and during their visit to Albania, the DEJ met with the Ombudsperson and the Albanian Anti-discrimination Commissioner as well as with representatives from civil society to discuss the cases under supervision and increase their awareness on their role in this process. During a mission to Bulgaria, the DEJ also met with representatives of CSOs to discuss cases and answer questions about their potential role.

In pursuit of enhancing its contact with Russian civil society, the Committee held a thematic, informal exchange of views in March 2024, with CSOs in respect of execution of several judgments. Further, in November 2024, representatives of the DEJ held an online meeting with representatives of ten NGOs, in which the UN Special Rapporteur on Russia also participated, to discuss the work done in 2022-2024 and explore possible developments. In its decision adopted at the December 2024 Human Rights meeting, the Committee instructed the Secretariat to seek further avenues to reinforce co-operation with civil society, including through further informal exchanges of views between the Committee of Ministers and representatives of Russian NGOs relating to cases pending against the Russian Federation (see Chapter VII for further details).

The publication of the indicative annual planning for Human Rights meetings after the December 2023 meeting helped to increase the efficiency and transparency of the supervision process enabling NHRIs and CSOs to plan their interventions throughout 2024. In 2024, the DEJ also updated its webpage on NHRIs/CSOs communication in order to clarify the process for submitting Rule 9 communications in the context of the Committee's supervision of the execution of judgments.

The actions undertaken in 2024 permitted to maintain the high number of Rule 9 communications being submitted to the Committee of Ministers, with 209 communications from CSOs and 20 communications from NHRIs concerning 30 states (see Chapter VI – section D). However, efforts must be further strengthened to ensure a better involvement of NHRIs in the execution of judgments, through better transparency and awareness-raising activities.

#### F. Thematic events and round tables

In 2024, the DEJ organised the High-Level Conference "Of Unsound Mind: Convention-compliant approaches to the execution of judgments concerning involuntary detention and treatment on mental health grounds", with the Committee of Ministers' Presidency of Liechtenstein. The event gathered experts and representatives from different departments of the Council of Europe, notably the President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law. Speakers included mental health practitioners working in both inpatient and community settings, persons with lived experience, as well as representatives from CSOs and NHRIs. It was attended by officials and experts from government ministries and other national authorities, Permanent Representatives to the Council of Europe and members of the national preventive mechanisms. The presentations and exchanges outlined the relevant legal standards regarding rule of law safeguards and conditions of detention, and exemplified, through inspiring Convention-compliant practices, how national authorities and stakeholders can approach legislative and policy-making processes but also identified sources of support to ensure effective protection of these standards.

The DEJ also took part in the "Vilnius Dialogue" Conference on fostering the culture of public debate in Europe, which focused on the role of the Court and domestic courts in the protection of freedom of expression. Participants discussed defamation cases and the limits of permissible criticism of public officials, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers, judicial protection against SLAPPs, the role of the judiciary in ensuring access to information as well as countering propaganda and disinformation in times of war and public emergency. Following a presentation by the DEJ on the practice of the Committee of Ministers in important freedom of expression cases and best practices for the implementation of such cases, the participants highlighted such implementation as an avenue to significantly enhance democratic processes and the quality of a public debate.

The DEJ participated again, as in 2023, in the Warsaw Human Rights Seminar organised by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focusing this year on the *Role of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights in strengthening democratic institutions*. In the presence of the Presidents of the European Court and Venice Commission, the DEJ presented the relevance of the execution of the Court's judgments for Convention-compliant legislation at domestic level.

In March, the DEJ participated in a round table focusing on the necessary general measures for the execution of *the Stanimirovic* group concerning ill-treatment by police and ineffective investigations in this regard. It brought together representatives of the State Public Prosecutor, the Ministry of Interior (the Internal Affairs Sector and the Commission for the Implementation of Standards of Police Treatment in the Field of Torture Prevention), the Ministry of Justice (the Department for Execution of Criminal Sanctions, the Department for the Protection of Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty and the Department for Finance and Administration) as well as the Ombudsman. A delegate from the CPT also participated in this round table.

In April, the DEJ took part in an International Conference on the execution by Romania of judgments concerning rights of persons with intellectual and/or psychological disabilities, which marked the closing of the project AdaptJust implemented by the Romanian NGO Centre for Legal Resources in partnership with the General Prosecutor's Office. Discussions focused on the national action plan for the execution of judgments finding violations of the prohibition of ill-treatment and of the rights to life, to liberty and security, to respect for private life, and to an effective remedy in respect of people placed in psychiatric establishments or in the social care system.

Also in April, the DEJ participated in a round table co-organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Administrative Court of Piraeus, Greece, on the *Use of Immigration Detention and exploration of effective alternative measures: challenges in the current legal framework in Greece and its implementation.* This event brought together administrative judges, legal officers of the Agent of the Greek Government, the Greek Ombudsman, representative of the Ministries of Citizen Protection and Migration and Asylum as well as representatives of civil society.

A representative of the DEJ also participated in the conference celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Switzerland's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. The DEJ presented the process of the supervision of the execution of the Court's judgments by the Committee of Ministers and the DEJ's mandate, as well as Switzerland's positive record in executing the Court's judgments.

As regards Ukraine, the DEJ took part in various thematic events in 2024. In February, a delegation participated in a round table on combating discrimination and ensuring diversity, held in Kyiv, organised by the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine, with the involvement of multiple national stakeholders, other international organisations and representatives of civil society. The DEJ seized this opportunity to inform participants about the recently adopted *Maymulakhin and Markiv* case, where the Court found violations of Articles 8 and 14 due to the fact that the applicants, a same-sex couple, were treated differently from different-sex couples on account of the impossibility to register their partnership.

In April, the DEJ participated virtually in a round table attended by the Minister of Justice, the Government Agent, the chairs of parliamentary committees and representatives of the general prosecutor's office, on current legislative initiatives for the implementation of the Court's judgments. There was an exchange of views with the participants on measures required for implementing the *Nevmerzhitkiy/Sukachov* group (overcrowding, inhuman and/or degrading conditions of detention).

In June, the DEJ attended the International Conference "The Constitution of Ukraine and European Values: Challenges of the European Integration Process", organised by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine and with the support of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine. Discussions focused on recent developments in constitutional doctrine and jurisprudence as well as protection of human rights during martial law. In particular, participants referred to the Constitutional Court's recent decisions leading to legislative reforms, which played a crucial role for the implementation of cases concerning the problem of irreducibility of life sentences (*Petukhov (No.2*) group), the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (*Oleksandr Volkov* group).

In July, the DEJ participated in the VII<sup>th</sup> International Scientific and Practical Conference "Administrative Justice in Ukraine: Issues of Theory and Practice" dedicated to judicial protection of political and civil rights and freedoms in pre-war, war and post-war periods. Discussions notably dealt with the balance between private and public interests and the influence of administrative case-law on the development of the state's social policy.

In addition, the DEJ participated in the International Forum "Transforming the Penitentiary System: Finding Solutions to Stop Torture in Prisons", attended by representatives of the Government, Parliament, law-enforcement authorities, academia, civil society as well as international partners. Discussions focused on combating torture and inhuman or degrading treatment in the penitentiary systems of other states and in the light of the Court's case-law, as well as on the means to prevent torture in Ukraine. In this respect, special attention was paid to the <code>Sukachov/Nevmerzhitsky/Yakovenko/Melnik</code> group, concerning the long-standing structural problems of prison overcrowding, poor conditions of detention, nutrition and transportation, and the continued absence of a Convention-compliant system of domestic remedies in this respect.

Lastly, the DEJ participated online in the XII International Forum on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights "Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in Ukraine". The aim of this event was notably to discuss the main achievements and challenges in implementing the Court's judgments by Ukraine. The DEJ highlighted some recent positive developments, but also discussed the current challenges and unresolved structural problems, including non-enforcement or delayed enforcement of domestic judicial decisions, excessive length of civil and criminal proceedings, and lack of effective investigations. A separate panel discussion was devoted to the topic of integrity of the judiciary. The DEJ's intervention focused on the issues of independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Oleksandr Volkov group), and independence of the public prosecution service (Lutsenko).

#### **G. Human Rights Education for legal professionals**

In 2024, the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP Programme) continued to provide invaluable support for the implementation of the Court's judgments in the 46 member states. Its flexible methodology and reliance on a hybrid training format (face-to-face and online training) has proved crucial in supporting European Justice Training Institutions and legal professionals, and increasingly other professional groups. By the end of 2024, the number of users of the HELP online Platform reached 143 0006 (29 000 new users joined the platform in 2024, compared to 32 000 in 2023). The top users of HELP courses in the reporting period (in order) came from Türkiye, Ukraine, Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation and Georgia.

The HELP Programme now has 57 online training courses in its catalogue, covering most Convention issues. In 2024, some 115 HELP courses have been launched in 32 member states and beyond, with 6 500 legal practitioners and students enrolled in the tutored courses and a consistently high success rate of 75-80%.

HELP activities are usually tailored to the country's legal framework, including specific Convention issues raised in the national context. More than 630 national adaptations of HELP courses have already been carried out in member states and are available on the HELP platform. HELP courses related to the Rule of Law have been widely requested and contextualised at the national level in 2024, such as Ethics for judges, prosecutors and lawyers; Procedural Safeguards in Criminal matters and Victims' Rights; Judicial Reasoning; Access to Justice for Women; and Freedom of expression.

In support of these efforts, the Committee of Ministers, in its decisions adopted during Human Rights meetings, frequently invites respondent states to take advantage of the various co-operation programmes and projects offered by the Council of Europe, including the HELP Programme (see for example the decisions adopted in 2024 in *Tonello (Shaw) v. Hungary* or *Kitanovski v. North Macedonia*).

In 2024, the HELP online course on Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights (which includes a dedicated module on the execution of the Court's judgments and was developed in close co-operation with the Registry of the Court and the DEJ) remained one of the most demanded by HELP users. Some judicial training institutions (for example in Italy, Romania, Serbia, Spain, and Türkiye) are using the course for candidate judges and prosecutors, as part of their initial training. In the self-learning format, the online course (available in 29 languages) has been followed by some 3 200 new users (for a total of 17 477 registrations) and 2 300 new electronic certificates have been issued this year to users who have successfully completed the course (out of a total of 7 900).

The DEJ exchanged with the HELP Network members from the EU on the role of HELP courses in enhancing compliance with European standards at the national level and on specific challenges faced by different countries in complying with European human rights standards, focusing on matters in relation to which violations were found by the Court in judgments whose implementation is on-going. It was noted that HELP may be one of the major tools by which awareness raising and systematic training on the European Convention may be pursued, in order to resolve especially persistent, structural or complex problems at national level.

Furthermore, in 2024 the DEJ again actively participated in the HELP Annual Network Conference and numerous HELP course launch events on various topics (ethics for judges, prosecutors and lawyers, mental health and human rights, CPT standards etc.), as well as in project steering committees (for instance for the HELP in the Western Balkans project) focused on assessing the relevance of the planned interventions to the measures needed for better implementation of the Court's judgments.

#### **H. Media and Publications**

In order to implement the 2023 Reykjavík Declaration calling for greater transparency and visibility from the Council of Europe, the DEJ engaged in 2024 in coordinated efforts with the Directorate of Communication and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) to increase communication about its activities and the supervision process, in line with the Council of Europe's 2020-2025 Communication Strategy.

2024 was therefore marked by a continued increase in the DEJ's transparency about its activities and the supervision process, with 90 news item published on its website (75 in 2023), and 26 summaries of recent achievements in pending cases or cases closed by the Committee of Ministers (20 in 2023).

These coordinated efforts also helped to improve the visibility of the DEJ's activities on the DGI LinkedIn account and the Council of Europe portal, as well as to increase the number of followers on the CoEHumanRights X account by 12%. The functionality of the HUDOC-EXEC database was enhanced and its use simplified to facilitate access to information related to the supervision of the execution of the Court's judgments. The database's traffic increased by 45% in 2024, with 186 121 visits (compared to 128 050 in 2023).

<sup>6.</sup> In 2024 some 29 000 inactive accounts have been deleted, in order for the statistics to best reflect the real growth.

In addition, the DEJ published two new thematic factsheets with relevant examples of general and individual measures adopted by member states for the implementation of the Court's judgments, on the following topics: Limitation on the use of restrictions of rights (Article 18) and Rights of persons with disabilities. The DEJ also sought to enhance the accessibility of its thematic factsheets by publishing unofficial translations, thanks to increased co-operation with various stakeholders, notably the Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara (the Turkish version of the Migration and Asylum factsheet), the Department for the implementation of Human Rights, Justice and legal co-operation standards (the Romanian version of the Migration and Asylum factsheet, Azerbaijani versions of ten factsheets), and the Representative Office of the Republic of Croatia before the European Court of Human Rights (the Croatian version of the Excessive formalism by courts and Migration and Asylum factsheets).

Last but not least, the DEJ prepared and published 19 memoranda (H/Exec documents) providing assessment and analysis of issues concerning individual and/or general measures required in cases/groups of cases pending against seven member states (Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Malta, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine) and the Russian Federation.



## Chapter V

## **Statistics about member states**

All of the statistics in this chapter relate only to member states and do not include the Russian Federation.

Information related to the current situation as regards execution in each member state can be found in the detailed state-by-state overviews.

# 2024 IN FIGURES



992 NEW CASES
FROM THE EUROPEAN COURT



894 CASES CLOSED
BY THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS



165 INTERVENTIONS
OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS







**RULE 9 COMMUNICATIONS** 



20

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

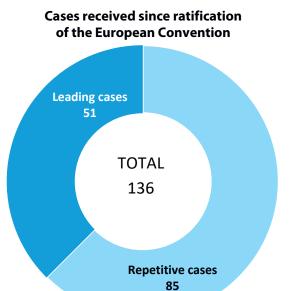
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

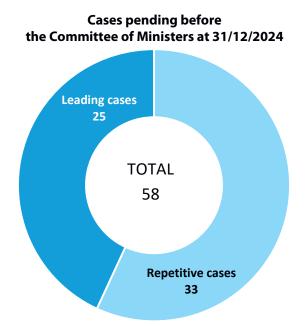


### **B. State by state overview**

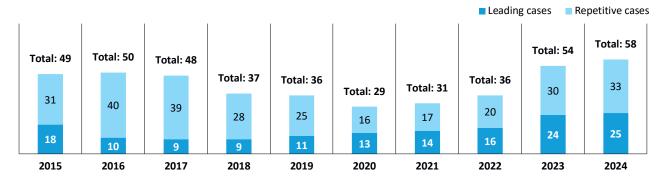


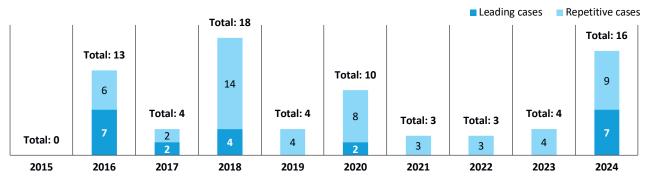
### **ALBANIA**





### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 20 cases against Albania for supervision of their execution (compared to 22 in 2023 and eight in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned a violation of protection of private and family life, some concerned the excessive length of judicial proceedings, and some concerned non-enforcement of domestic decisions in relation to restitution of property.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 58 cases pending execution (compared to 54 in 2023 and 36 in 2022), of which six were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to four in both 2023 and in 2022), and 19 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, two have been pending for five years or more; similarly, eight of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to seven in 2023 and three in 2022).

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted eight action plans, 15 action reports and seven communications. Updated action plans/action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of two groups and four cases, in which feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 22 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in six cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

#### Closures and main achievements in 2024

The Committee closed 16 cases in 2024, including seven leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close two leading cases concerning the lack of access to court following a comprehensive reform which strengthened the free legal aid system and a legislative amendment that clarified the time limits for appeals following the notification of the reasoned decision to the parties. It was possible to close another leading case concerning protection of private and family life, following legislative amendments which clarified the regime governing the suspension of a magistrate from office.

In addition, nine repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include the targeted awareness raising and training about the protection of right to property in relation to demolitions and expropriations of property in disregard of a court order, and the functioning of the constitutional complaint in such situations.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of four leading cases or groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- ▶ Poor conditions of detention and inadequate medical treatment of a mentally ill person subject to a court-ordered compulsory medical treatment; unlawful detention in an inadequate (penitentiary) institution without proper psychiatric treatment; failure to examine speedily the lawfulness of the applicant's detention; absence of right to compensation.

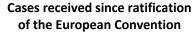
  Strazimiri case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Demolition of the applicants' flats and business premises in disregard of an interim court order restraining the authorities from taking any action that could breach property rights.
  Sharxhi and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Excessive length of civil and criminal proceedings and absence of a remedy in that respect.
   Luli and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Failure to implement swift and comprehensive desegregation measures in an elementary school attended almost exclusively by Roma and Egyptian children.

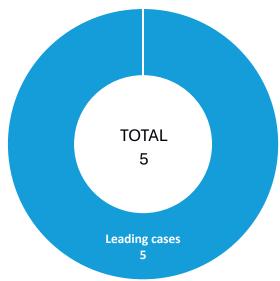
  X and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably a case concerning the lack of effective investigation into an allegation of excessive use of lethal force by State officials and a case concerning the effectiveness of investigation and criminal trial relating to an explosion at a weapon decommissioning facility resulting in deaths and grievous bodily injuries.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Albania can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

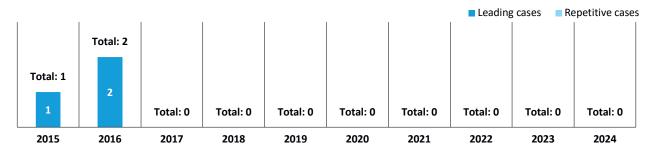




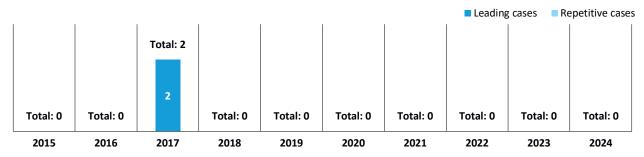
## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024

TOTAL 0

### Cases pending over the last ten years

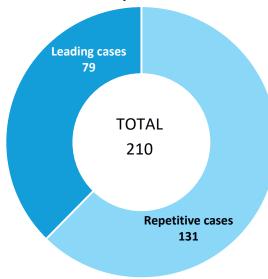


### Cases closed over the last ten years

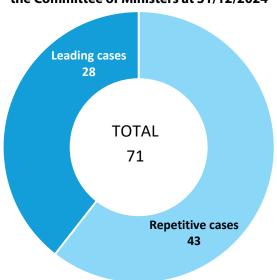


More information about Andorra can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

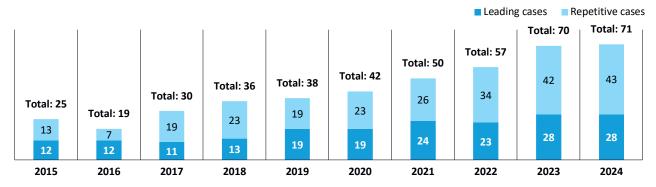
# Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

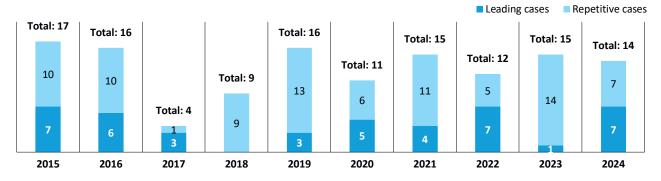


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 15 cases against Armenia for supervision of their execution (compared to 28 in 2023 and 19 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some of them concerned non-combat deaths in the army and lack of effective investigations, and one of them concerned the lack protection of a minor from sexual abuse.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 71 cases pending execution (compared to 70 in 2023 and 57 in 2022), of which seven were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to six in 2023 and 2022), and 21 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, three have been pending for five years or more; similarly, five of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to six in 2023 and five in 2022).<sup>7</sup>

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted eight action plans, 23 action reports and two communications.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 16 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in one case for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

### Closures and main achievements in 2024

The Committee closed 14 cases in 2024, including two leading cases under enhanced supervision and five leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case, concerning unjustified confiscation of property in criminal proceedings, following the adoption of the new Criminal Code and the new Code of Criminal Procedure.

In addition, seven repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include measures taken to improve medical assistance in detention; and to prevent ill-treatment and death in police custody and improve effective investigations.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of four leading cases/ groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- ► Inadequate medical care in detention.

  \*Ashot Harutyunyan group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Impossibility for persons displaced during the active military phase (1992-1994) of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to gain access to their homes and properties in the region; lack of effective remedies.
  Chiragov and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined twice by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Lack of protection against homophobic attacks and hate speech; failure to carry out effective investigation; absence of effective domestic criminal-law mechanism for investigating discrimination complaints.
  Oganezova case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Ill-treatment in police custody and ineffective investigations.
  Virabyan group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined twice by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

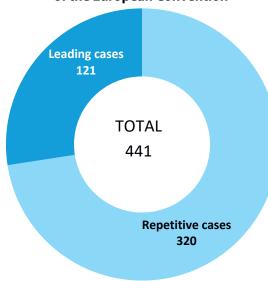
The pending caseload also includes notably one group concerning disproportionate dispersal of protests and one group concerning non-combat deaths in the army and ineffective investigations into these deaths.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Armenia can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

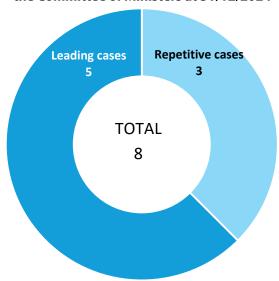
<sup>7.</sup> Of these cases, three leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

### **AUSTRIA**

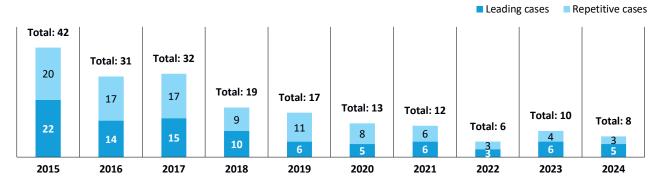


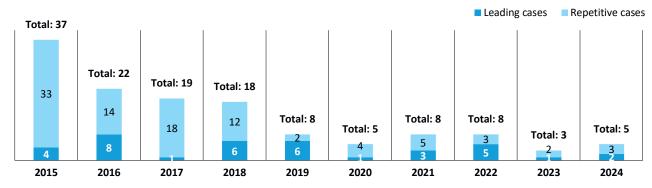


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court three cases against Austria for supervision of their execution (compared to seven in 2023 and two in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned lack of relevant and sufficient reasons for refusal to register an applicant association as a religious community.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were eight cases pending execution (compared to ten in 2023 and six in 2022), of which five were leading cases classified under standard procedure.

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted seven action reports.

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in three cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in one case for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

### Closures in 2024

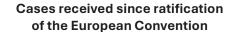
The Committee closed five cases in 2024, including two leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one group of cases, concerning violations of the applicants' right to a fair trial on account of their convictions of drug offences on the basis of evidence obtained as a result of police incitement, following legislative amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure.

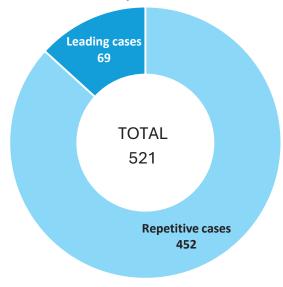
### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably one case concerning the violation of the applicants' right to respect for their private and family life on account of the prohibition to the use the prefix "von" as part of their surnames.

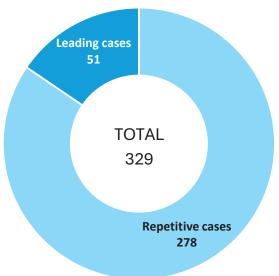
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Austria can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.



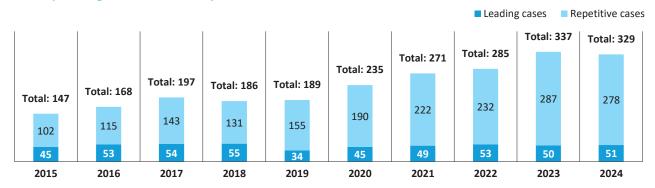


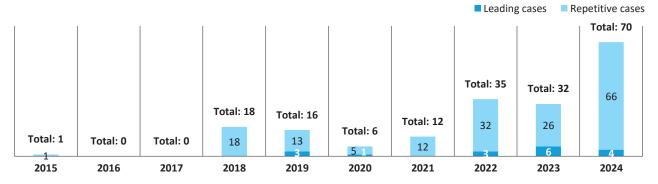


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 62 cases against Azerbaijan for supervision of their execution (compared to 84 in 2023 and 49 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some of them concerned unjustified interference with private life and freedom of expression. One concerned the killing of two Armenian soldiers by an Azerbaijani soldier who crossed the state border, and lack of investigation. Another concerned a violation of the applicants' right to freedom of expression on account of wholesale blocking of websites on grounds that some articles published by them featured allegedly unlawful content.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 329 cases pending execution (compared to 337 in 2023 and 285 in 2022), of which 23 were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to 21 both in 2023 and 2022), and 28 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, 15 have been pending for five years or more; similarly, 13 of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to 15 in 2023 and 17 in 2022).8

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted six action plans, 23 action reports and one communication. An initial action plan/action report was awaited in respect of two cases despite the expiry of the extended deadline in this respect. An updated action plan containing additional information was awaited in respect of two cases/groups, in which either the deadline set by the Committee of Ministers in this respect has expired (one case) or feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024 (one group).

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 45 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in 61 cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

### Closures and main achievements in 2024

The Committee closed 70 cases in 2024, including four leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading cases, concerning violations of the applicants' right to family life, following guidelines issued by the Supreme Court, and one leading case concerning a violation of the right to fair trial, following legislative amendments.

In addition, 25 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.9

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of 14 leading cases or groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- ▶ Dispersals of demonstrations and arrests of demonstrators.

  \*\*Gafgaz Mammadov group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Failure to continue to enforce prison sentence for ethnic hate crime committed abroad, after transfer to Azerbaijan. Makuchyan and Minasyan case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined twice by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Arrest and pre-trial detention to punish the applicants for his activities in the area of electoral monitoring or for their active social and political engagement in breach of Article 18 taken in conjunction with Article 5.
  Mammadli group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined four times by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ➤ Violations of the applicants' right to privacy and freedom of expression in connection with their work.
  Khadija Ismayilova group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Lack of procedural safeguards in disciplinary proceedings, having led to the applicants' disbarment for breach of professional ethics following verbal altercations with a judge.

  Namazov group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Violation of the right to freedom of expression, arbitrary application of the law on defamation.

  \*\*Mahmudov and Agazade\*\* group of cases Last decision taken in 2024

  \*\*This is a possible of the law on defamation.
- This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Impossibility for persons displaced during the active military phase (1992-1994) of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to gain access to their homes and properties in the region; lack of effective remedies.
  Sargsyan case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined twice by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- 8. Of these cases, 10 leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.
- 9. Difficulties in the execution of individual cases prevent the closure of grouped WECL judgments as these judgments often concern many tens of applications.

- ► Various irregularities in the context of the 2005 and 2010 parliamentary elections and lack of safeguards against arbitrariness. Namat Aliyev case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Excessive use of force by the security forces and lack of effective investigations.
  Muradova group of cases / Mammadov (Jalaloglu) group of cases / Mikayil Mammadov case Last decision taken in 2024
  These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

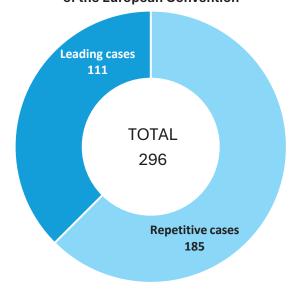
### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload also includes notably one case concerning the applicants' extra-legal transfer from Azerbaijan to Türkiye and denial of effective guarantees of protection against arbitrary refoulement; one case concerning the applicants' prosecution and criminal conviction for their refusal, as conscientious objectors, to perform compulsory military service due to absence of alternative service system; and three groups concerning non-enforcement of domestic judgments including one on non-enforcement of eviction orders for the internally displaced persons unlawfully occupying houses or apartments.

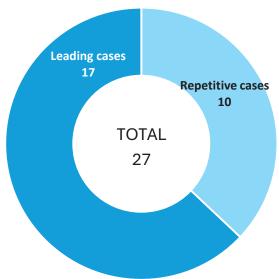
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Azerbaijan can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.



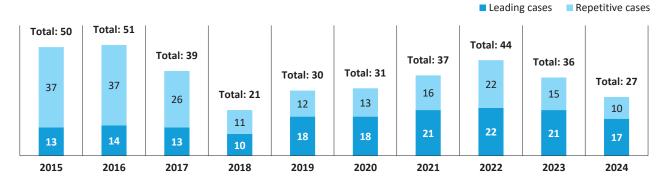
## Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

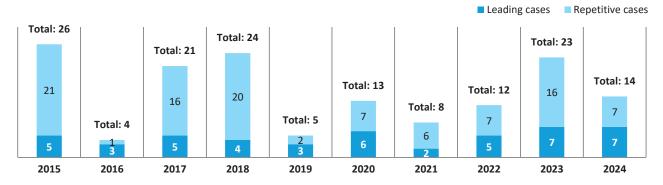


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court five cases against Belgium for supervision of their execution (compared to 15 in 2023 and 19 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned a lack of effective investigation into alleged acts of ill-treatment by the police.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 27 cases pending execution (compared to 36 in 2023 and 22 in 2022), of which seven were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to six both in 2023 and 2022), and nine were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, five have been pending for five years or more.

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted nine action plans, 11 action reports and two communications. An initial action plan/action report was awaited in respect of one case despite the expiry of the extended deadline in this respect. Updated action plans/action report or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of three cases, in which feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in five cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment was awaited in four cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 14 cases in 2024, including seven leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case concerning excessive formalism of the Court of Cassation following a legislative amendment, and one leading case concerning an effective remedy before the High Council of Justice, following case-law developments and a legislative amendment.

In addition, two repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of four leading cases or groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- Excessive length of civil proceedings.
  Bell group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Structural problem of non-enforcement of judicial decisions ordering the authorities to provide asylum-seekers with material assistance and accommodation.
  Camara case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- > Structural problem concerning the inadequate care of internees (persons declared criminally irresponsible for their acts due to a mental disorder) detained in prison.
  - L.B. group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Structural problem concerning prison overcrowding, material conditions of detention and lack of effective remedies.
   Vasilescu case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

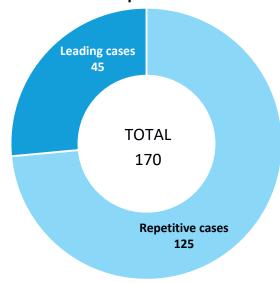
The pending caseload includes notably one case concerning control over euthanasia, one case concerning a *de facto* irreducible life sentence and one case concerning discrimination against Jehovah's Witnesses, due to the lack of a tax advantage, which was reserved only to "recognized religions".

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Belgium can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

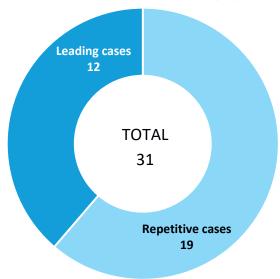


### **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

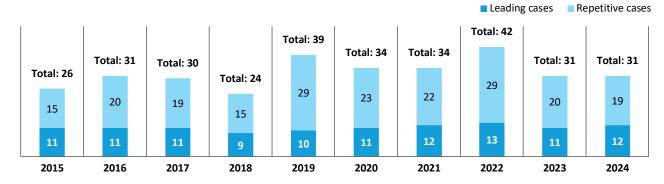
## Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

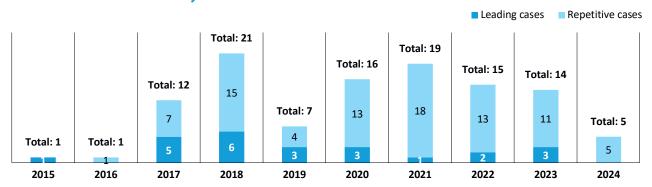


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### **Cases pending over the last ten years**





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court five cases against Bosnia and Herzegovina for supervision of their execution (compared to three in 2023 and 23 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned the right to privacy.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 31 cases pending execution (as was also the case in 2023 and compared to 42 in 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (as was the case in both 2023 and 2022), and 11 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. The leading case under enhanced procedure has been pending for more than 10 years; similarly, six of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to five in 2023 and three in 2022).<sup>10</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted one action plan, one action report and three communications.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in five cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in 12 cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed five cases in 2024 including one repetitive case where no further individual measures were possible.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one group of cases under enhanced procedure:

► Ethnic-based discrimination on account of the ineligibility of persons not affiliated with one of the "constituent peoples" (Bosniaks, Croats or Serbs) to stand for election to the House of Peoples and the Presidency.

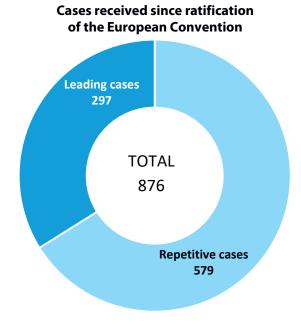
Sejdić and Finci group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

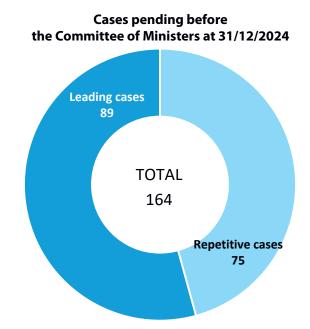
### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably one case concerning the right to liberty and security, one group concerning length of proceedings and lack of an effective remedy and one group concerning non-enforcement of domestic judgments.

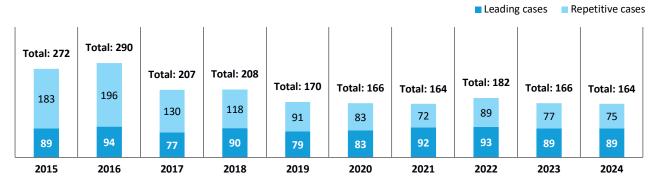
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Bosnia and Herzegovina can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

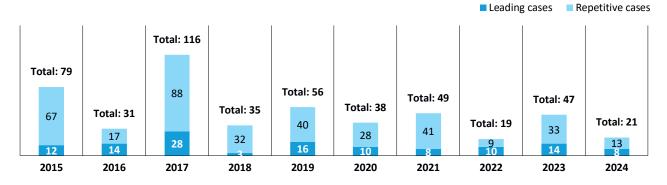
<sup>10.</sup> Of these cases, two leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.





### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 20 cases against Bulgaria for supervision of their execution (compared to 31 in 2023 and 27 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one concerned the refusal by the domestic court to award compensation in respect of the earnings from prostitution to a victim of human trafficking; disproportionate forfeiture under civil confiscation legislation; another the lack of impartiality of a court infringing also the freedom of expression of a journalist; and another the insufficient scope of judicial review of the suspension of a judge from his duties.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 164 cases pending execution (compared to 166 in 2023 and 182 in 2022), of which 27 were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to 32 in 2023 and 30 in 2022), and 62 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, 16 have been pending for five years or more; similarly, 33 of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to 30 in 2023 and 32 in 2022).<sup>11</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 34 action plans, 19 action reports and 11 communications. Updated action plans/action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of 49 groups/cases, in which either the deadline set by the Committee of Ministers in this respect has expired (five cases) or feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024 (44 cases).

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 21 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or other information was awaited in three cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 21 cases in 2024, including two leading cases under enhanced supervision and six leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close, following legislative amendments or other measures, one leading case concerning lack of remedies regarding poor conditions in penitentiary facilities; one leading case concerning failure to respond appropriately to a deadly attack motivated by hostility related to presumed sexual orientation; and one leading case concerning lack of civil redress for damages inflicted by a person who is not civilly liable due to their health condition.

In addition, five repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include the almost complete eradication of overcrowding in penitentiary facilities; a significant improvement in the material conditions of detention in penitentiary and police facilities; and a change in the legal framework as regards the examination of risks of ill-treatment in the destination country during expulsion proceedings.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of nine leading cases or groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- Unjustified refusals to register religious organisations.
  Bulgarian Orthodox Old Calendar Church and Others group of cases Last decision taken in 2024
  This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Unlawfulness of the placement in social care home of the applicant with mental disorders; lack of judicial review and poor living conditions; impossibility for the applicant, partially incapacitated, to request the restoration of his legal capacity.
  Stanev case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Unjustified refusals by the courts to register an association aiming at achieving "the recognition of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria".

UMO Ilinden and Others group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024

This group of cases was examined twice by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

Poor conditions of detention in remand facilities and prisons and lack of an effective remedy. Kehayov group of cases / Neshkov and Others - Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

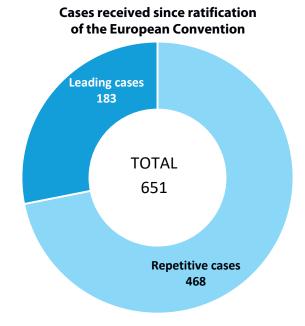
<sup>11.</sup> Of these cases, 15 leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

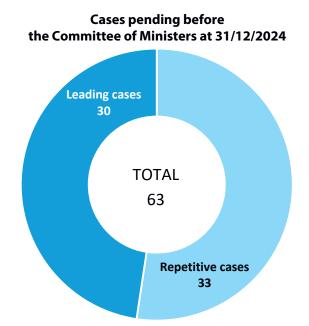
- ▶ Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions against the President of the judges' association in retaliation against her criticism of the Supreme Judicial Council and the executive.
  - Miroslava Todorova case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Systemic problem of ineffective criminal investigations with regard to shortcomings which affect investigations concerning both private individuals and law enforcement agents and lack of guarantees for the independence of criminal investigations against the Chief Prosecutor.
  - S.Z. group of cases / Kolevi case Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Shortcomings in the judicial review mechanism set up in 2003 in the field of expulsion on national security grounds. C.G. and Others case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Eviction of persons of Roma origin on the basis of legislation not requiring adequate examination of the proportionality of
  - Yordanova and Others group of cases Last decision taken in 2024
    This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Roma being driven away from their homes after anti-Roma protests and not being able to return.
  Paketova and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

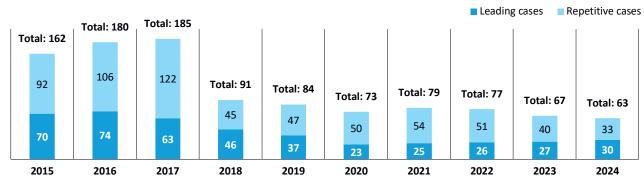
The pending caseload also includes notably one group concerning lack of sufficient safeguards against abuse in the operation of a system of secret surveillance or retention and processing of data; one group concerning the constitutional ban on voting rights of partially incapacitated persons or prisoners; one group concerning delayed land restitution proceedings; a case concerning lack of legal recognition of same-sex couples; a case concerning legal gender recognition and a group concerning police ill-treatment.

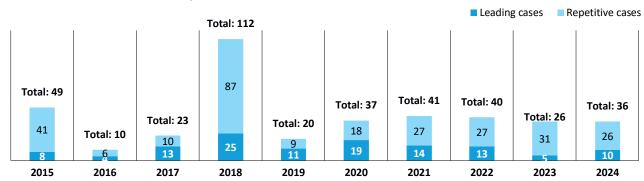
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Bulgaria can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.





### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 32 cases against Croatia for supervision of their execution (compared to 26 in 2023 and 38 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned the lack of impartiality of the Constitutional Court, some of them concerned unlawful interference with property rights and some of them concerned access to court.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 63 cases pending execution (compared to 67 in 2023 and 77 in 2022), of which two were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (as was also the case in both 2023 and 2022), and 25 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, one has been pending for five years or more; similarly, one leading case under standard procedure has been pending for five years or more (compared to five in 2023 and six in 2022).

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 11 action plans, 16 action reports and four communications.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 18 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment was awaited in one case for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 36 cases in 2024, including 10 leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case concerning the principle of equality of arms and lack of adversarial proceedings and one leading case concerning unlawful surveillance, following amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code. Furthermore, it was possible to close one leading case concerning a failure to hold an oral hearing in administrative judicial proceedings, following the reorganisation of the administrative judiciary system.

In addition, seven repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one group of cases under enhanced procedure:

> Statutory limitations on use of property by landlords, including through the rent control scheme for flats subject to protected leases.

Statileo group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

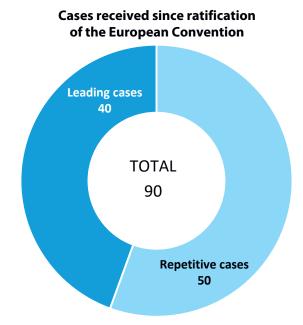
### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

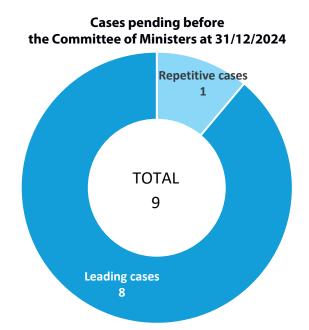
The pending caseload also includes notably one case concerning, *inter alia*, lack of effective investigation into the death of a migrant child at the Croatian border and the collective expulsion of the Afghan family to Serbia; a group of cases concerning poor conditions of detention and lack of effective remedies; a group of cases concerning excessive length of judicial proceedings; and one case concerning unfair administrative proceedings.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Croatia can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

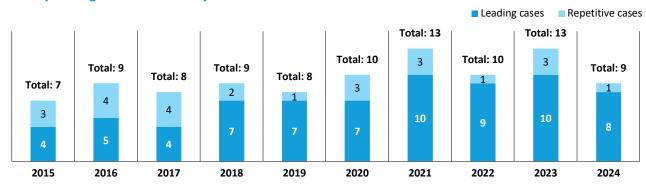


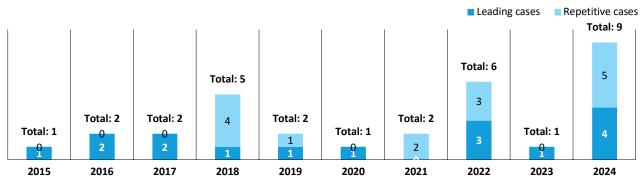
### **CYPRUS**





### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court five cases against Cyprus for supervision of their execution (compared to four in 2023 and three in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some of them concerned the length of proceedings and the lawfulness of detention of asylum-seekers on grounds of national security.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were nine cases pending execution (compared to 13 in 2023 and 10 in 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under the enhanced procedure (as was also the case in both 2023 and 2022), and six were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under standard procedure, two have been pending for five years or more (as was also the case in 2023 and compared to no cases in 2022).

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted two action plans and five action reports. Updated action plans/action reports were awaited in respect of five cases, in which the feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in two cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed nine cases in 2024, including one leading case under enhanced supervision and three leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case, concerning the lack of remedy with automatic suspensive effect in deportation proceedings, following legislative amendments.

In addition, five repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one group of cases under enhanced procedure:

Lack of remedy with automatic suspensive effect in deportation proceedings and absence of speedy review of lawfulness of detention.

M.A. case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

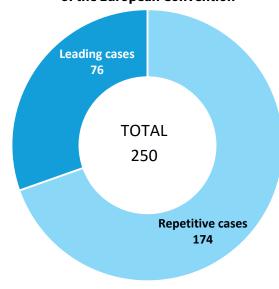
The pending caseload includes notably cases concerning length of proceedings and lack of effective remedies in this respect as well as cases concerning conditions of detention in prisons and pending deportation.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Cyprus can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

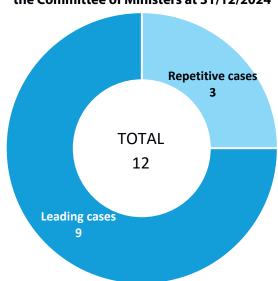


### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

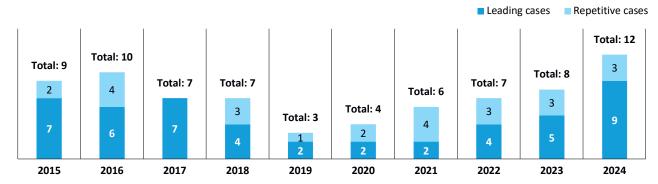
Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

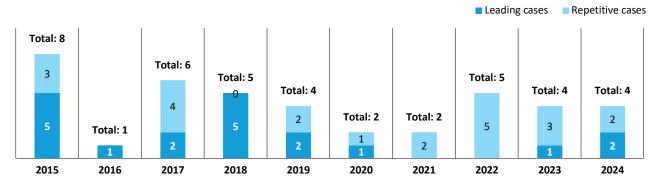


Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court eight cases against Czech Republic for supervision of their execution (compared to five in 2023 and six in 2022). Of the new violations, one was related to the insufficient amount of compensation awarded for medical malpractice.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 12 cases pending execution (compared to eight in 2023 and seven in 2022), of which two were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to one in both 2023 and 2022), and six were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, one has been pending for five years or more as was the case in previous years.

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted two action plans, seven action reports and one communication. A communication containing additional information was awaited in respect of one case, in which the deadline set by the Committee of Ministers in this respect has expired.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in eight cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed four cases in 2024, including two leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case, concerning compensation for expropriation, following legislative amendments and the change of the Constitutional Court's case-law; and one leading case concerning unfairness of civil proceedings before the Constitutional Court, following awareness-raising measures.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one leading case under enhanced procedure:

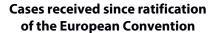
Discrimination in the enjoyment of the applicants' right to education due to their enrolment to special schools between 1996 and 1999, on account of their Roma origin.

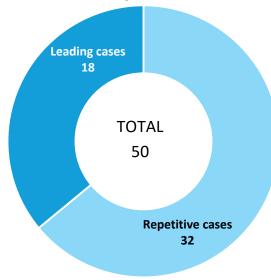
D.H. and Others case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

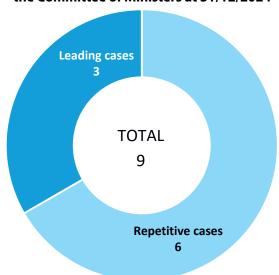
The pending caseload includes notably a case concerning the death of the applicant's brother in a psychiatric hospital, following the use of a taser by the police and the ineffectiveness of the criminal investigation into the circumstances of his death.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Czech Republic can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

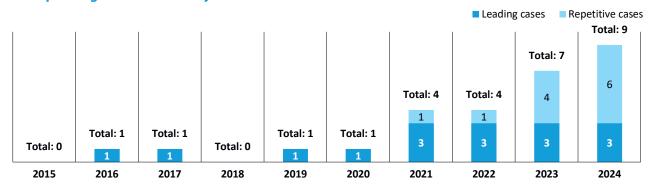


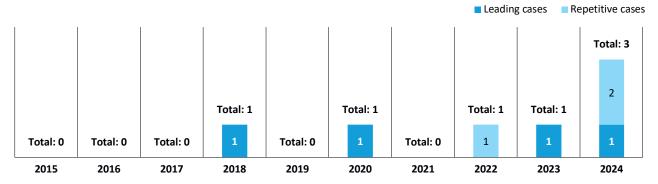


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court five cases against Denmark for supervision of their execution (compared to four in 2023 and one in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned an ineffective investigation into the deployment of pepper spray and the authorities' failure to demonstrate that its use was strictly necessary in the circumstances.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were nine cases pending execution (compared to seven in 2023 and four in 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (as was the case in 2023, but compared to none in 2022), and two were leading cases classified under standard procedure.

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted four action plans, two action reports and two communications.

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in six cases in 2024.

### Closures in 2024

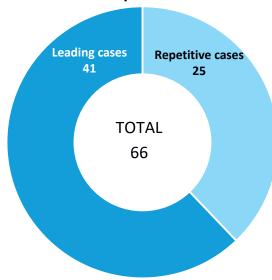
The Committee closed three cases in 2024, including one leading case under standard supervision. It was possible to close that case, concerning a disproportionate expulsion order with a permanent re-entry ban imposed on a settled migrant, following legislative amendments to the Aliens Act and alignment of domestic case law with Convention requirements.

### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

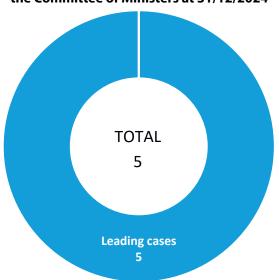
The pending caseload includes notably one case concerning the disproportionate interference in the right to private life of children (born abroad through surrogacy) due to the refusal to allow their adoption by their intended mothers, as well as a case concerning the treatment of a man suffering from paranoid schizophrenia who was strapped to a restraint bed in a psychiatric hospital for nearly 23 hours.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Denmark can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

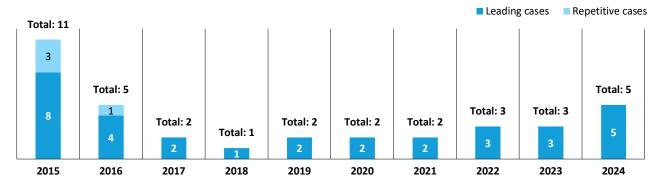
# Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

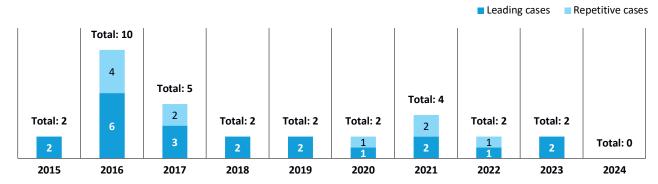


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court two cases against Estonia for supervision of their execution (as was also the case in 2023 and compared to four in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one case concerned the lack of diligence in adoption proceedings, and another case concerned excessively long solitary confinement.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were five cases pending execution (compared to three in both 2023 and 2022), all of which were leading cases classified under standard procedure. The pending caseload includes notably cases concerning insufficient procedural safeguards to protect lawyer-client privileged data and the failure to conduct an effective investigation into allegations of sexual abuse.

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted four action reports and one communication. An updated action plan/action report was awaited in respect of one case in which feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

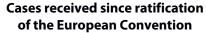
#### **Just satisfaction**

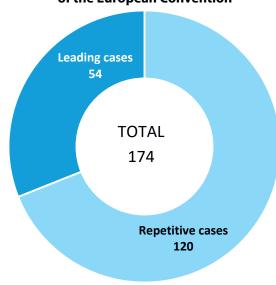
Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in two cases in 2024.

More information about Estonia can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

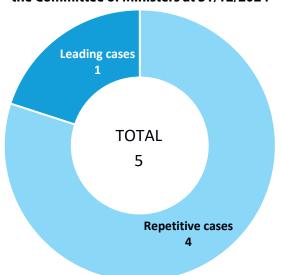


### **FINLAND**

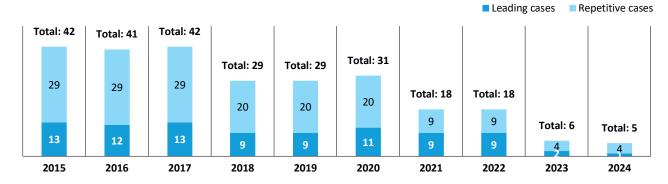


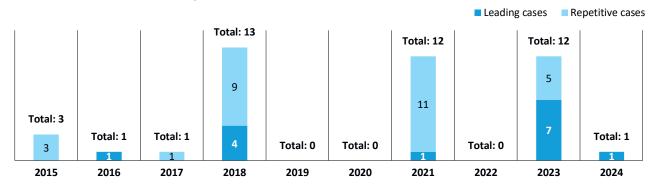


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers did not receive from the European Court any cases against Finland for supervision of execution (as was the case in both 2023 and 2022).

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were five cases pending execution (compared to six in 2023 and 18 in 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under standard procedure, which had been pending for five years or more (as was the case in 2023 and compared to eight in 2022).<sup>12</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted two action reports.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed one case in 2024, which was a leading case under enhanced supervision. It was possible to close that case, concerning the lack of adequate legal safeguards for extension of involuntary confinement in psychiatric hospitals and the forcible administration of medication, following legislative amendments to the Mental Health Act and the Administrative Court Act.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one leading case under enhanced procedure:

Extensions of a confinement in mental hospital and forcible administration of medication without adequate legal safeguards. X. case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending group of cases concerns the right not to be punished twice as the applicants were subject to both criminal and administrative taxation proceedings concerning partly or entirely the same facts.

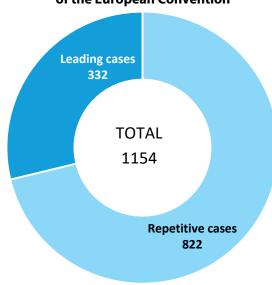
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Finland can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

<sup>12.</sup> The leading case under standard procedure has been pending for more than 10 years.

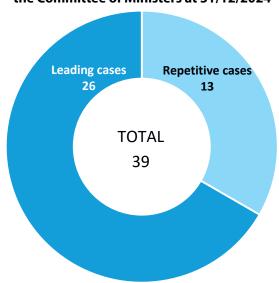


### **FRANCE**

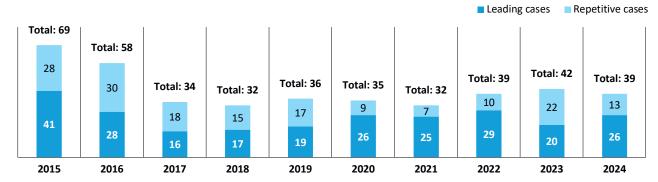
## Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

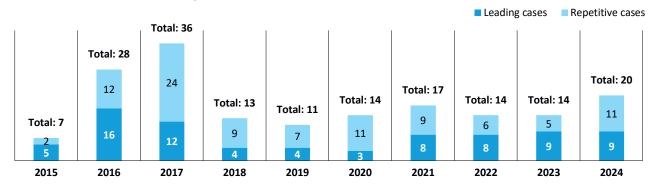


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 17 cases against France for supervision of their execution (compared to 17 in 2023 and 21 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some of them concerned freedom of assembly and restrictions on freedom of movement. Another concerned the poor living conditions in a camp where Harkis had lived in the 1970s, and another concern a lack of criminal protection against anti-Semitic remarks.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 39 cases pending execution (compared to 42 in 2023 and 39 in 2022), of which five were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (as was also the case in both 2023 and 2022), and 19 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, two have been pending for five years or more; similarly, two of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to three in 2023 and four in 2022).<sup>13</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted five action plans, 22 action reports and two communications. Updated action plans/action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of two cases, in which feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 15 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment was awaited in four cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 20 cases in 2024, including nine leading cases under standard supervision. Further to legislative amendments it was possible to close a group concerning child protection issues as well as a group concerning the administrative detention of foreign accompanied minors. It was also possible to close cases concerning access to lawyer, data protection relating to sexual orientation and taxation of lawyers.

In addition, five repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary.

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include the efforts made by the authorities to repatriate around 100 French children from the camps of Northen Syria as well as examples which seem to illustrate the effectiveness of a new preventive remedy concerning poor conditions of detention.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of four leading cases under enhanced procedure:

- ▶ Violation of the right to enter the State of which a person is a national, due to the absence of appropriate safeguards against arbitrariness in the examination of requests to repatriate French children held since 2019 in the camps in north-eastern Syria.

  H.F. and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Expulsion to Algeria in presence of a real and serious risk of ill-treatment (M.A.) and failure to comply with the Court's interim measure (M.A. and A.S. cases).
  - M.A. case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Detention and rapid return of two foreign unaccompanied minors from Mayotte to the Comoros, without an examination of their individual situation.
  Moustahi case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Poor conditions of detention (overcrowding) and lack of an effective preventive remedy.
  J.M.B. and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably a group of cases concerning expulsion of persons of Chechen origin to Russia; a group of cases concerning the non-enforcement of decisions ordering reception conditions be provided to asylumseekers; a group of cases concerning excessive formalism of courts; cases concerning freedom of expression; and cases regarding the right to property.

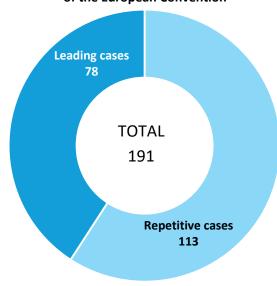
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for France can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

<sup>13.</sup> Of these cases, two leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

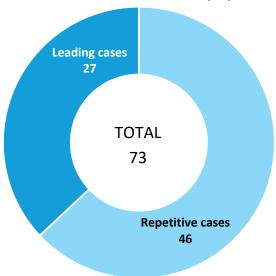


### **GEORGIA**

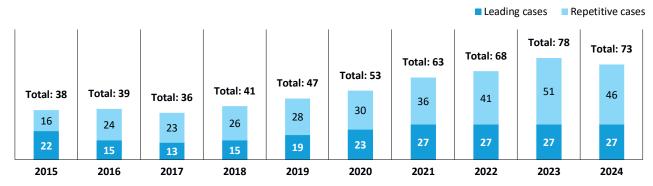
Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

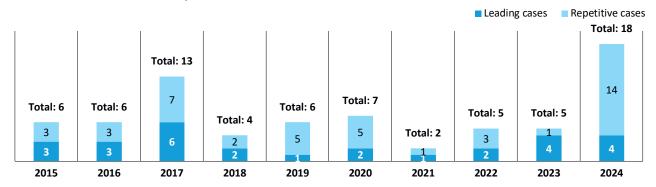


Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 13 cases against Georgia for supervision of their execution (compared to 15 in 2023 and 10 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some of them concerned length of judicial proceedings and one of them concerned an impartial tribunal.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 73 cases pending execution (compared to 78 in 2023 and 68 in 2022), of which eight were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to seven in 2023 and six in 2022), and 19 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, five have been pending for five years or more; similarly, nine of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to eight in 2023 and five in 2022).<sup>14</sup>

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted three action plans, 11 action reports and one communication. Updated action plans/action reports were awaited in respect of three cases, in which feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in nine cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in three cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 18 cases in 2024, including four leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case concerning the violation of the right to life on account of the State's failure to protect an individual from medical negligence, following amendments to the regulatory framework strengthening the oversight of medical facilities and the development of the domestic judicial practice on compensation in similar cases, as well as legislative changes enabling reopening of administrative judicial proceedings.

In addition, 14 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of five leading cases under enhanced procedure:

- Lack of effective investigations into allegations of ill-treatment or violations of the right to life; excessive use of force by the police in the course of arrest and/or while detaining suspects.

  \*Tsintsabadze\* group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Failure by the domestic courts to give relevant and sufficient reasons to justify continuation of detention on remand; continued detention on remand with the predominant purpose of obtaining information from the applicant about third persons.

  \*Merabishvili\* case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Lack of legislation governing procedures for legal gender recognition.
   A.D. and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Lack of protection against homophobic attacks during demonstrations.

  \*\*Identoba and Others\*\* group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Failure to protect from domestic violence and to conduct an effective investigation into police inaction. Tkhelidze case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

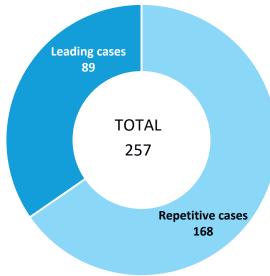
### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably groups concerning the length of judicial proceedings and the absence of an effective remedy in this respect, freedom of assembly and the right to a fair trial.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Georgia can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

<sup>14.</sup> Of these cases, two leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

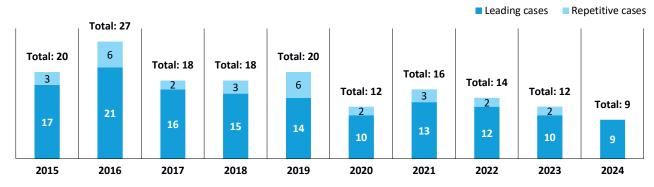
## Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

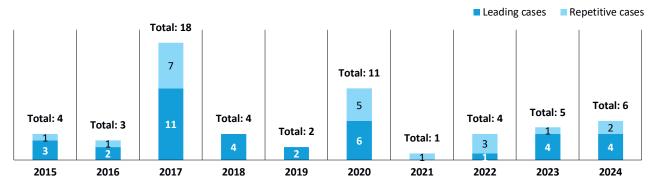


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



### Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court three cases against Germany for supervision of their execution (compared to three in 2023 and two in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned a disproportionate injunction against a news website company ordering it to cease publication of CCTV footage of police arrest.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were nine cases pending execution (compared to 12 in 2023 and 14 in 2022), of which none were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to one in 2023 and none in 2022), as all of them were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Two of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to four in 2023 and six in 2022).

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted four action plans, eight action reports and two communications. Updated action plans/ action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of two cases, in which the feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in three cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed six cases in 2024, including one leading case under enhanced supervision and three leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close the case under enhanced supervision, concerning the State's failure to undertake an effective investigation into the applicant's arguable allegation of racial profiling, following changes in the domestic court's case law. That change made it clear that administrative courts in Germany are now in principle obliged to hear arguable allegations of racial profiling during identity checks by police on the merits.

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one leading case under enhanced procedure:

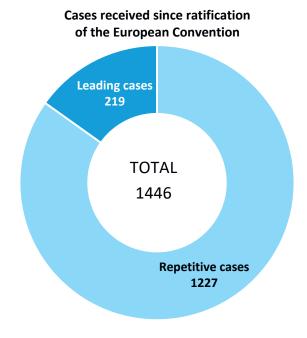
Lack of independent effective investigation into arguable allegations of racial profiling by the police during identity check on a train.

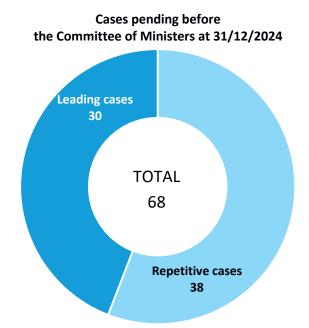
Basu case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

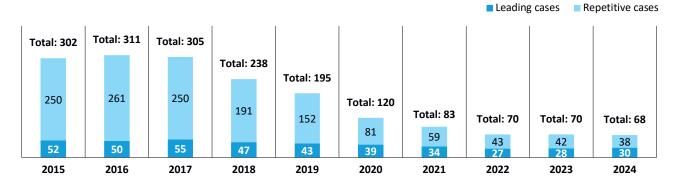
The pending caseload includes notably one case concerning lack of effective investigation into allegations of ill-treatment by the police at the end of a football match.

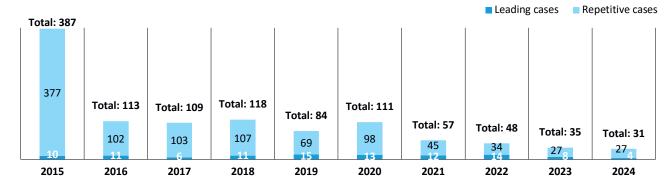
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Germany can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.





# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 29 cases against Greece for supervision of their execution (compared to 35 in 2023 and 25 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some of them concerned the detention and reception conditions of asylum seekers, and one concerned the failure of the investigative and judicial authorities to adequately respond to allegations of rape. Another concerned the authorities' failure to demonstrate that the use of force by coastguards during an operation to intercept a boat illegally transporting people to Greece had been "absolutely necessary" and the lack of an effective investigation thereof.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 68 cases pending execution (compared to 70 in both 2023 and 2022), of which six were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to seven in 2023 and 2022), and 24 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, five have been pending for five years or more; similarly, nine of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to seven in both 2023 and 2022).<sup>15</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 10 action plans, seven action reports and 16 communications. Updated action plans/action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of nine groups/cases, in which feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 25 cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 31 cases in 2024, including four leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case, concerning presumption of innocence, following legislative amendments and their proper application by domestic courts. It was possible to close another leading case concerning failure to ensure that education and teaching is in conformity with the parents' religious and philosophical convictions, following legislative amendments and Convention complaint interpretation of the new system by the Supreme Administrative Court.

In addition, 15 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include the adequate implementation in practice of the legislative measures providing for the automatic lifting of expropriation orders from properties, which led the Committee of Ministers to continue supervising the outstanding measures under the standard procedure.

# Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of three leading cases under enhanced procedure:

- Prison overcrowding and other poor conditions in prison. Lack of effective remedy. Nisiotis group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024
   This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Refusal of domestic courts to register associations or dissolution of the applicants' associations. Bekir-Ousta and Others group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined twice by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Non-compliance with final domestic judgments ordering the lifting of land expropriation orders or charges on land. In some cases, the lack of an effective remedy to ensure the enforcement.
  Kanellopoulos group of cases Last decision taken in 2024
  This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

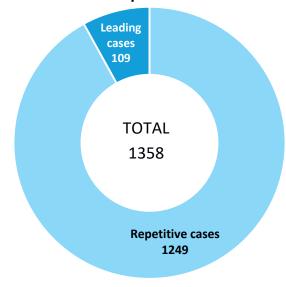
#### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably one group concerning police ill-treatment and ineffective investigations thereof; groups concerning detention conditions of asylum seekers, their living conditions and lack of an effective remedy to complain; two groups concerning freedom of expression; and one group concerning search and rescue operations at sea.

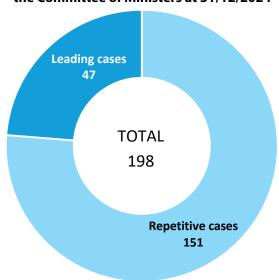
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Greece can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

<sup>15.</sup> Of these cases, three leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

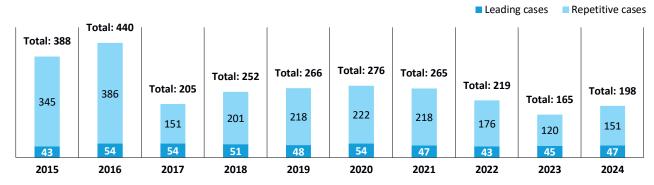


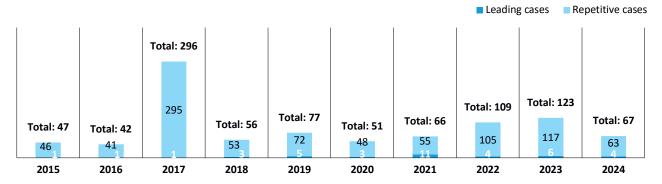


Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 100 cases against Hungary for supervision of their execution (compared to 69 in 2023 and 63 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, most of them concerned the excessive length of judicial proceedings, life sentences without eligibility for release on parole in conditions compliant with the Convention, as well as poor conditions of detention and unlawfulness of asylum-seeking applicants' detention in transit zones.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 198 cases pending execution (compared to 165 in 2023 and 219 in 2022), of which 21 were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to 18 in 2023 and 14 in 2022), and 26 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, 11 have been pending for five years or more; similarly, 12 of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to 13 in 2023 and 18 in 2022).<sup>16</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 14 action plans, 17 action reports and three communications. An initial action plan/action report was awaited in respect of one group despite the expiry of the extended deadline in this respect. Updated action plans/action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of eight groups/cases, in which either the deadline set by the Committee of Ministers in this respect has expired (three cases) or feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024 (five cases).

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 109 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in four cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

## Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 67 cases in 2024, including four leading cases under standard supervision and 34 repetitive cases where no further individual measures were necessary or possible.<sup>17</sup>

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of 16 leading cases or group of cases under enhanced procedure:

- Discriminatory restriction of voting rights of the applicants belonging to recognised national minorities. Bakirdzi and E.C. case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Discriminatory assignment of Roma children to special primary schools for children with mental disabilities (*Horváth and Kiss*). Discrimination of a Roma pupil on account of segregation in a State-run primary school attended almost exclusively by Roma children (*Szolcsán*).
  - Horváth and Kiss case / Szolcsán case Last decision taken in 2024 These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Overcrowding and poor material conditions of detention, lack of effective remedies and other deficiencies in the protection of prisoners' rights.
  - Varga and Others case / István Gábor Kovács group of cases Last decision taken in 2024
  - These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Lack of access to a court as regards the premature termination of the applicant's mandate as President of the Supreme Court which also led to a violation of his right to freedom of expression.

  Baka case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Excessive length of judicial proceedings and lack of an effective remedy in this respect.
   Gazsó group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Absence of sufficient guarantees against abuse in legislation on secret surveillance.
  Szabó and Vissy group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Authorities' failure to assess the risks of ill-treatment before expelling the applicants, asylum-seekers, to a "safe third country" (*Ilias and Ahmed*); applicant's collective expulsion without identifying him and examining his situation (*Shahzad*). *Ilias and Ahmed* group of cases / *Shahzad* group of cases Last decision taken in 2024
  These group of cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

<sup>16.</sup> Of these cases, six leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

<sup>17.</sup> Difficulties in the execution of individual cases prevent the closure of grouped WECL judgments, in particular concerning the excessive length of domestic proceedings, as these judgments often concern many tens of applications.

- Life sentence without parole in combination with the lack of an adequate review mechanism, life sentence with parole after 40 years.
  - László Magyar group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Lack of legislation governing gender reassignment and name-changing procedure.

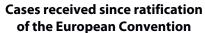
  Rana group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Ill-treatment of migrants by law-enforcement officers and border control agents, failure to protect life, and ineffective investigations in these respects.
  Alhowais case / Shahzad (No. 2) case Last decision taken in 2024 These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Inhuman and degrading treatment by law enforcement officers and/or the lack of adequate investigations in this respect. Gubacsi group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Non-enforcement of a court order granting the applicant unrestricted access to certain documents and lack of an effective remedy in this respect.
  - Kenedi case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Authorities' failure to enforce court decisions ordering the return to the applicants of their children. Tonello (Shaw group of cases) - Last decision taken in 2024 – These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

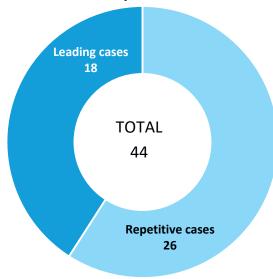
# Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes also notably a group concerning the unlawfulness and the conditions of detention in transit zones, the placement of unaccompanied minors in asylum detention due to the authorities' failure to act expeditiously and in good faith when determining their age, the unjustified publication of taxpayer data by the Tax Authority, ineffective investigations into possible racial motives behind the ill-treatment inflicted on Roma, and irregularities concerning pre-trial detention.

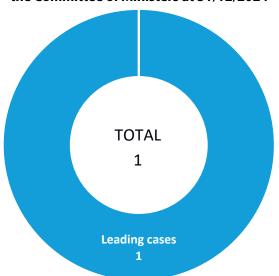
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Hungary can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.



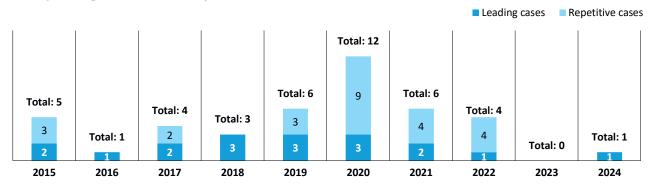


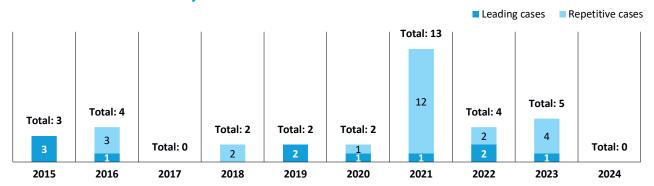


# Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court one case against Iceland for supervision of its execution (compared to none in 2023 and three in 2022). The new violation found by the Court in 2024 concerned the absence of adequate institutional and procedural safeguards in post-electoral disputes.

## **Pending cases**

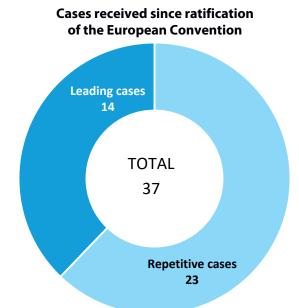
On 31 December 2024, there was one case pending execution (compared to none in 2023 and five in 2022), which was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (compared to none in both 2023 and 2022).

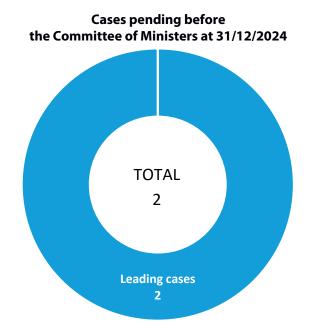
#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in one case in 2024.

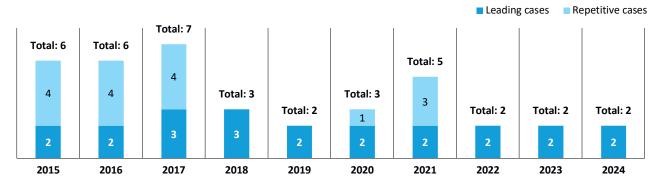
More information about Iceland can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

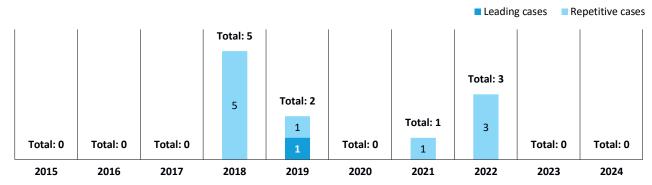






# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court no case against Ireland for supervision of execution (as was the case both in 2023 and 2022).

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, Ireland had two cases pending execution (as was the case in both 2023 and 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (as was the case in both 2023 and 2022), and one was a leading case classified under standard procedure. Both the leading cases have been pending for five years or more (as was the case in 2023 and 2022).<sup>18</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted two action plans and two communications.

#### Main achievements in 2024

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in a case that is still pending, is the enactment of the Court Proceedings (Delays) Act 2024 on 1 May 2024, which establishes a statutory remedy for excessive length of proceedings and provides individuals with a right to seek a declaration and compensation for unreasonable delays in civil and criminal proceedings before an assessment mechanism.

# Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one leading case under enhanced procedure:

Lack of effective remedy for excessive length of judicial proceedings.
 McFarlane case - Last decision taken in 2024 - This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

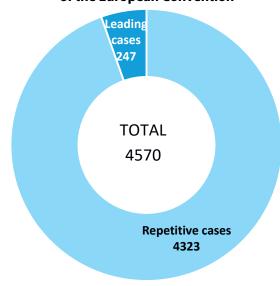
The pending caseload includes notably one case concerning the sexual abuse of the applicant in 1970's in a National School and lack of effective remedies for the applicant to complain about the Irish State's failure to protect her from abuse.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Ireland can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

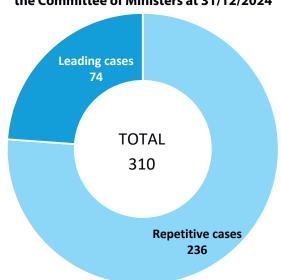
<sup>18.</sup> Of these cases, one leading case under standard procedure was pending for more than 10 years.



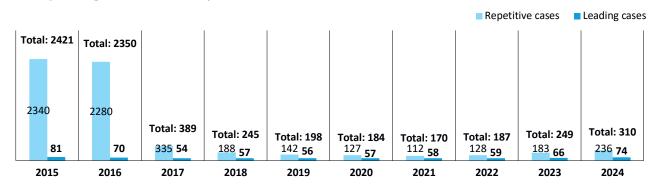
# Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

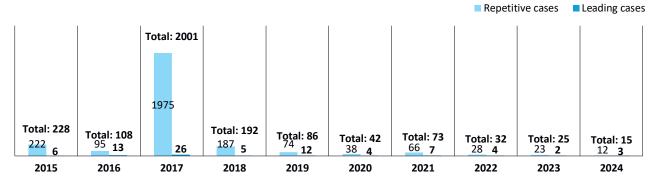


# Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 76 cases against Italy for supervision of their execution (compared to 87 in 2023 and 49 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some of them concerned the authorities' failure to take all necessary measures to ensure effective protection in respect of environmental pollution caused by a landfill site, another concerned the impossibility to seek redress for unlawful detention in a psychiatric institution beyond the duration provided by domestic law and others the non-implementation of final domestic judicial decisions.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 310 cases pending execution (compared to 249 in 2023 and 187 in 2022), of which 30 were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to 27 in 2023 and 23 in 2022), and 44 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, 16 have been pending for five years or more; similarly, 21 of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to 19 in 2023 and 15 in 2022).<sup>19</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted seven action plans, nine action reports and eight communications. Initial action plans/action reports were awaited in respect of 16 groups/cases despite the expiry of the extended deadline in this respect. Updated action plans/action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of 12 groups/cases, in which either the deadline set by the Committee of Ministers in this respect has expired (three cases) or feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024 (nine cases).

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 89 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in 80 cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

## Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 15 cases in 2024, including three leading cases under enhanced supervision. In particular, it was possible to close one leading case concerning the longstanding problem of the excessive length of administrative proceedings upon the adoption of a wide range of measures which generated positive trends with regard to the elimination of the backlog and the reduction of the average length of these proceedings. The Committee considered that these measures and the progress achieved had placed the administrative justice system on a self-sustainable path expected to continue yielding further improvements in the years to come.

In addition, 12 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.<sup>20</sup>

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of eight leading cases or groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- Placement of unaccompanied minors in adult reception centres in inadequate conditions and without being provided with minimum procedural guarantees in age-assessment procedure. Darboe and Camara group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Non-enforcement of final judicial decisions.
   Pennino group of cases / Croce and Others group of cases Last decision taken in 2024
   These groups of cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Unlawful detention of migrants at Lampedusa "hotspot" in poor conditions and collective expulsion from Italy.
  J.A. and Others group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Detention in ordinary prison of persons mentally ill (*Sy*) and failure to protect their right to life (*Citraro and Molino*). *Sy* case / *Citraro and Molino* case - Last decision taken in 2024 – These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Excessive length of proceedings before the administrative courts.
   Abenavoli case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Ill-treatment by the police; inadequate criminal legislation to punish acts of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. Cestaro group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

<sup>19.</sup> Of these cases, five leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

<sup>20.</sup> Difficulties in the execution of individual cases prevent the closure of grouped WECL judgments, in particular concerning non-execution of domestic judicial decisions, as these judgments often concern many applications.

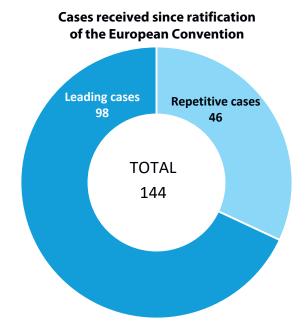
Lack of reaction on the part of the authorities to air pollution by steelworks, to the detriment of the surrounding population's health and lack of an effective remedy to obtain decontamination of the affected areas.

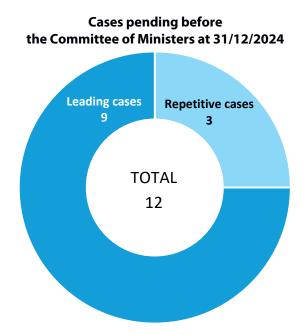
Cordella and Others group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

# Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

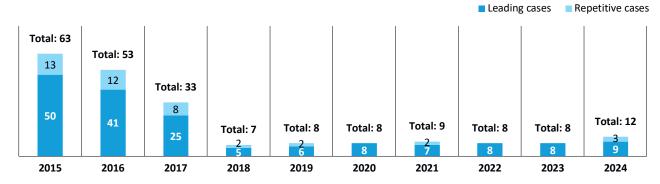
The pending caseload includes notably cases concerning the ineffective handling of complaints of domestic violence, the lack of adequate and sufficient efforts by the authorities to ensure respect of the applicants' visiting rights under the conditions set by judicial decisions; the impossibility to obtain compensation for unlawful detention in a psychiatric facility beyond the time-limits established by national law; and the authorities' failure to take all necessary measures to ensure effective protection of the applicants in respect of environmental pollution caused by a landfill site located in the area they live in

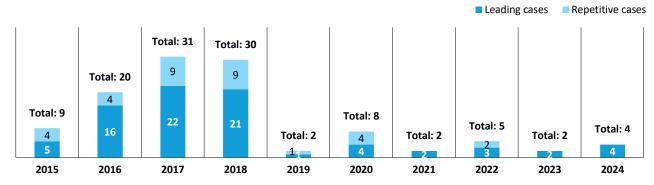
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Italy can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.





# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court eight cases against Latvia for supervision of their execution (compared to two in 2023 and four in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one case concerned informal prison hierarchies and another case concerned the lack of an effective prosecution of a homophobic attack.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 12 cases pending execution (compared to eight in 2023 and four in 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (compared to no cases in 2023 and 2022), and nine were leading cases classified under standard procedure.

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted one action plan, eight action reports and three communications.

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in three cases in 2024.

## Closures in 2024

The Committee closed four cases in 2024, all leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case concerning search and seizure of a lawyer's computer containing privileged information following legislative amendments introducing new procedural safeguards.

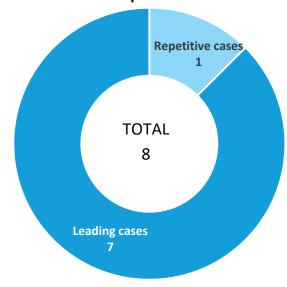
# Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably cases concerning search and seizure in the course of criminal proceedings; inability to adequately challenge pre-trial detention; and the lack of effective investigation into applicant's allegations of ill-treatment in prison.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Latvia can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

# **LIECHTENSTEIN**

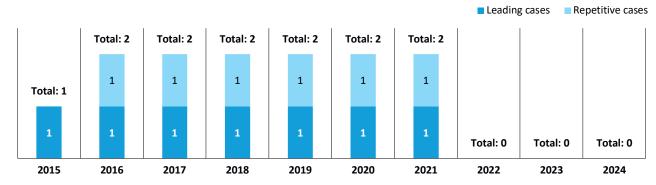
# Cases received since ratification of the European Convention



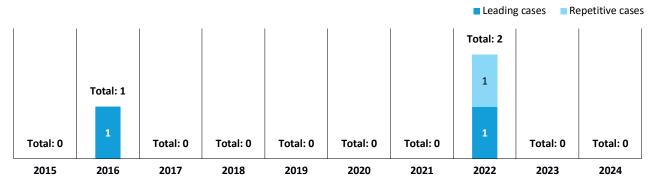
# Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024

TOTAL 0

# Cases pending over the last ten years

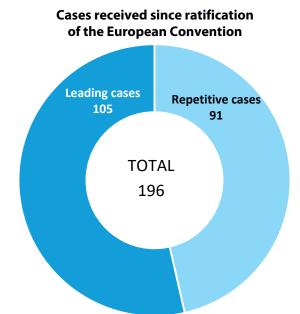


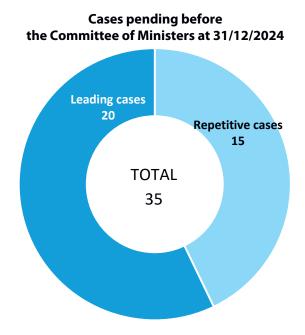
# Cases closed over the last ten years



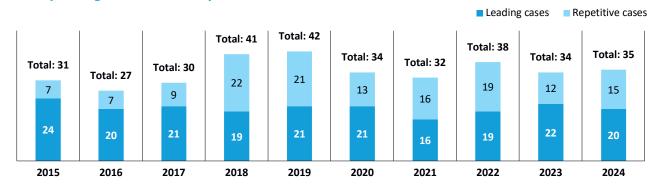
More information about Liechtenstein can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

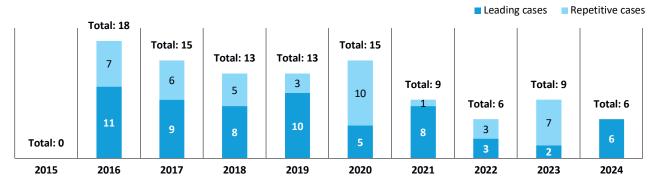
# **LITHUANIA**





# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court seven cases against Lithuania for supervision of their execution (compared to five in 2023 and 12 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one concerned excessively length criminal proceedings regarding an attempted sexual assault against a minor and the lack of adequate reasons to justify the suspension of the perpetrator's sentence.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 35 cases pending execution (compared to 34 in 2023 and 38 in 2022), of which three were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to three in 2023 and two in 2022), 16 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, two have been pending for five years or more; similarly, seven of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to five in 2023 and one in 2022).

# **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted eight action plans, twelve action reports and eight communications.

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in six cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed six cases in 2024, all leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible for example to close one leading case concerning the absence of an *expost facto* judicial review of the manner in which the Competition Council's officials carried out the inspection of the applicant company's office, following a change of practice of the Supreme Administrative Court.

# Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of three leading cases under enhanced procedure:

- ► Lack of legislation governing the conditions and procedures relating to gender reassignment. L. case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- No legitimate aim for temporary suspension of children's fairy tale book depicting same-sex relationships and its subsequent labelling as harmful to children under the age of 14.
  Macaté case Last decision taken in 2024 − This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ➤ Various violations related to the secret detention and "extraordinary rendition" of the applicant. As a result, the applicant is exposed to continued arbitrary detention and ill-treatment at the United States Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay.

  \*\*Abu Zubaydah\*\* group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

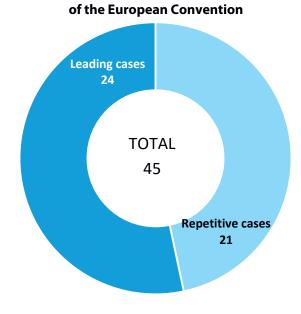
### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably cases concerning the failure of border guards to accept applicants' asylum applications; poor conditions of detention; and the unjustified refusal to exempt a conscientious objector, a Jehovah's witness, from compulsory military service.

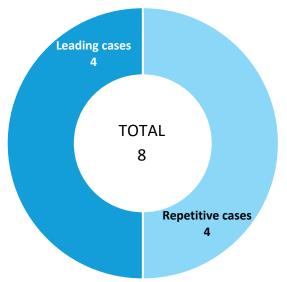
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Lithuania can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.



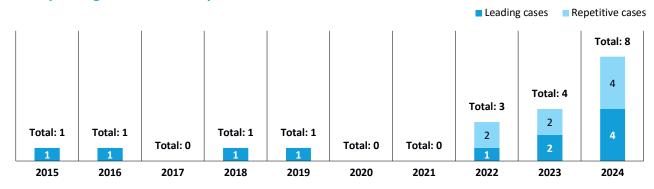


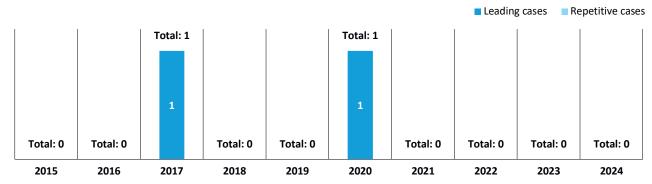


# Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court four cases against Luxembourg for supervision of their execution (compared to one in 2023 and three in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned freedom of expression.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were eight cases pending execution (compared to four in 2023 and three in 2022), of which none were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (as was the case in both 2023 and 2022), and five were leading cases classified under standard procedure. The pending caseload includes notably a group cases concerning excessive formalism by the Court of Cassation and two cases concerning freedom of expression.

#### **Action plans/reports**

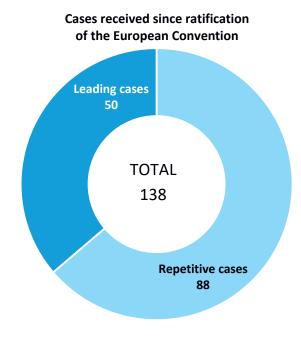
The authorities submitted two action reports.

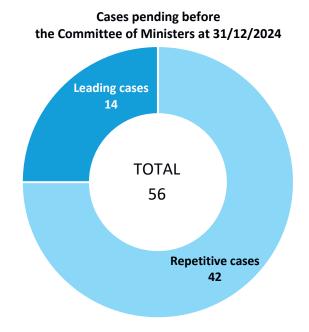
## **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in two cases in 2024.

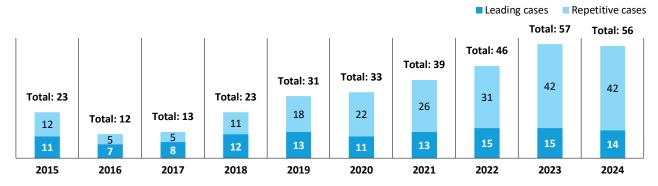
More information about Luxembourg can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

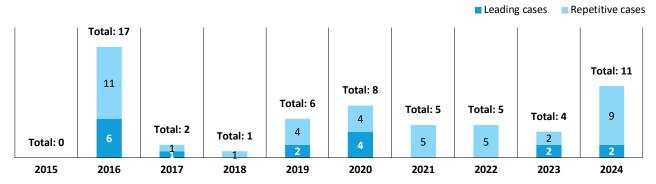






# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court ten cases against Malta for supervision of their execution (compared to 15 in 2023 and 12 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one case concerned multiple violations related to the immigration detention of a vulnerable individual, presumed to be a minor, and the lack of any effective remedy for him to complain about the same.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 56 cases pending execution (compared to 57 in 2023 and 46 in 2022), of which four were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to six in 2023 and five in 2022), and ten were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under standard procedure seven have been pending for five years or more (compared to four in 2023 and two in 2022).

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted nine action plans, two action reports and one communication. Updated action plans/action reports were awaited in respect of five groups/cases, in which feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in ten cases in 2024.

## Closures and main achievements in 2024

The Committee closed 11 cases in 2024, including two leading cases in standard supervision, one of which had been pending for more than five years.

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include an important legislative reform adopted concerning the system of controlled rents, which significantly reduced the extent and the complexity of the problems revealed by the European Court's judgments in the *Apap Bologa*, *Ghiqo* and *Amato Gauci* groups.

# Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

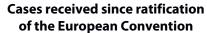
In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of four leading cases/ groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

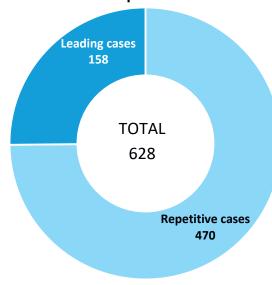
- Refusal of the applicant's asylum requests without an assessment of the risk faced upon return to Bangladesh and lack of access to an effective remedy.
  - S.H. case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Excessive length of criminal proceedings and of constitutional redress proceedings and lack of effective remedies.
  Galea and Pavia group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Unlawfulness of the detention pending deportation, in poor conditions, and interference with correspondence between the applicant and the Court.
  - Feilazoo case / A.D. case Last decision taken in 2024 These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Various deficiencies in the Maltese rent control legislation and lack of effective remedy. Apap Bologna group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 - This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Malta can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

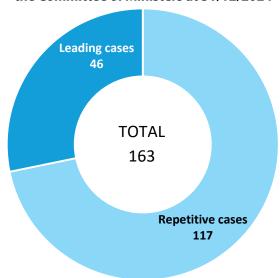


# **REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

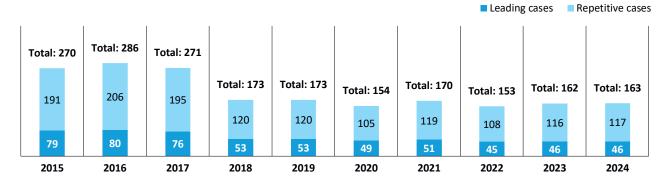




# Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 21 cases against the Republic of Moldova for supervision of their execution (compared to 29 in 2023 and 37 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some of them concerned non-execution of domestic court's judgments and one of them concerned the involuntary placement and unnecessary treatment of a 15-years-old orphan with mild intellectual disability in a psychiatric hospital.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 163 cases pending execution (compared to 162 in 2023 and 153 in 2022), of which 10 were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to nine in 2023 and seven in 2022), and 36 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, seven have been pending for five years or more; similarly, 19 of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to 21 in 2023 and 20 in 2022).<sup>21</sup>

# **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 10 action plans, 12 action reports and four communications.

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 14 cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 20 cases in 2024, including nine leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case, concerning the lack of independence and impartiality of the Superior Council of Magistracy following amendments to the Constitution.

In addition, 11 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

# Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of six leading cases/ groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- Censorship and political control by State authorities at State Television Company, Teleradio-Moldova.
   Manole and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Forced abortions and birth-control measures imposed on persons with intellectual disabilities; failure to carry out an effective investigation.
  - G.M. and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Extra-legal transfer of persons to Türkiye, circumventing domestic and international law.
   Ozdil and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Authorities' failure to provide protection from domestic violence.
  T.M. and C.M. group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Poor conditions of detention in facilities under the authority of the Ministries of the Interior and Justice, including lack of access to adequate medical care; absence of an effective remedy.
  I.D. group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Lack of adequate medical care in prison, lack of domestic remedies, and lack of sufficient reasons for prolongation of pretrial detention.
  - Cosovan group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

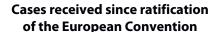
# Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

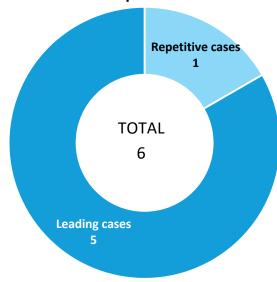
The pending caseload includes notably one group concerning ill-treatment and torture in police custody and lack of effective investigations thereof, and one group concerning violations of the right to liberty and security arising from detention.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for the Republic of Moldova can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

<sup>21.</sup> Of these cases, 15 leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.



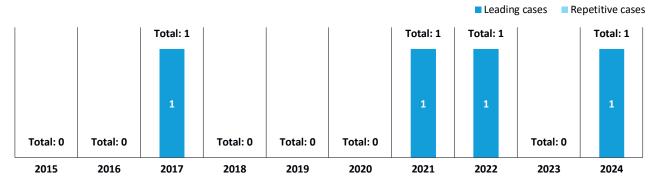


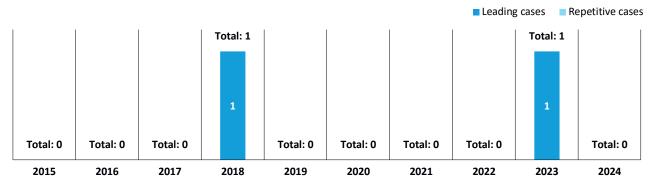


# **Cases pending before** the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court one case against Monaco for supervision of its execution (compared to none in both 2023 and 2022). The new violation found by the Court in 2024 concerned the unjustified interception of a lawyer's telephone data.

## **Pending cases**

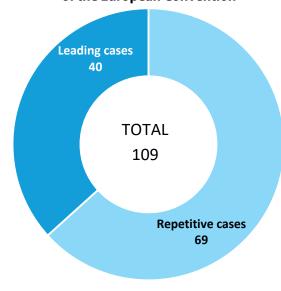
On 31 December 2024, there was one case pending execution (compared to none in 2023 and one in 2022), which was a leading case classified under standard procedure.

More information about Monaco can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

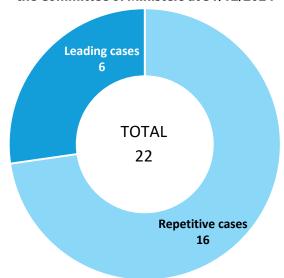


# **MONTENEGRO**

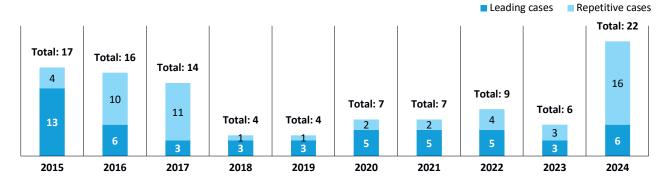
Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

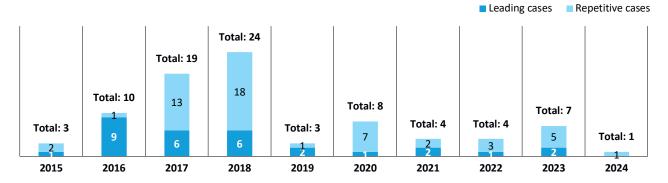


Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 17 cases against Montenegro for supervision of their execution (compared to four in 2023 and six in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, most of them concerned non-enforcement of domestic judgments.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 22 cases pending execution (compared to six in 2023 and nine in 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (compared to none in both 2023 and 2022), and five were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under standard procedure, two have been pending for five years or more (compared to one in both 2023 and 2022).

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 11 action plans and six communications.

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 11 cases in 2024.

# Closures in 2024

The Committee closed one case in 2024.

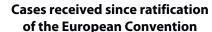
# Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

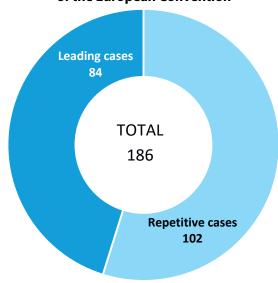
The pending caseload includes notably one group concerning ineffective investigations into police ill-treatment, one case concerning length of proceedings before the Constitutional Court and one case concerning the right to liberty and security.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Montenegro can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

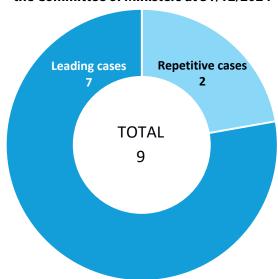




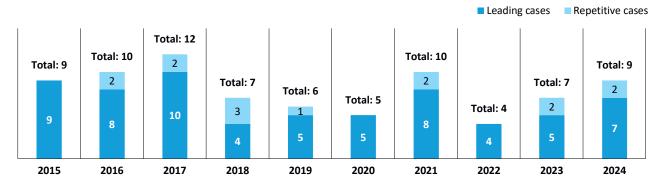


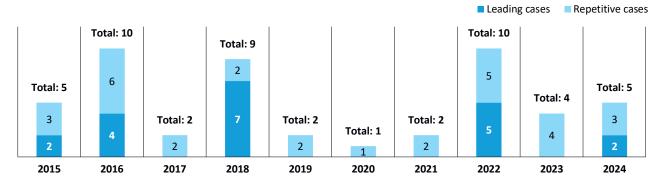


Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court seven cases against the Netherlands for supervision of their execution (compared to seven in 2023 and four in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one concerned the failure to properly assess – in the context of "last minute" asylum proceedings – the alleged risk of ill-treatment prior to removing the applicant to his country-of-origin (Bahrain).

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were nine cases pending execution (compared to seven in 2023 and four in 2022), of which two were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to one in both 2023 and in 2022, respectively), and five were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, two have been pending for five years or more.

## **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted five action plans, four action reports and three communications. An updated action plan containing additional information was awaited in respect of one case, in which the deadline set by the Committee of Ministers in this respect has expired.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in seven cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed five cases in 2024, including two leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one group concerning defendants' rights to cross-examine prosecution witnesses whose statements were used as evidence in criminal proceedings following a 2021 landmark Supreme Court judgment, revising its case-law and aligning domestic practices with the European Convention and the Court's case law.

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one leading case under enhanced procedure:

De facto irreducibility of life sentence imposed on prisoner suffering from mental illness.
 Murray case - Last decision taken in 2024 - This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

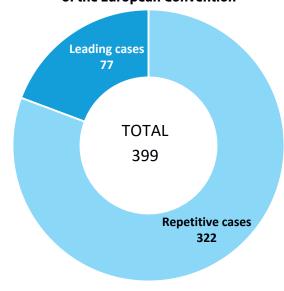
# Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably one case concerning poor conditions of detention in St Maarten pending extradition proceedings; one case concerning unlawful immigration detention and another case concerning the failure to effectively investigate the alleged disproportionate force used by civil servants with investigative powers when arresting the applicant.

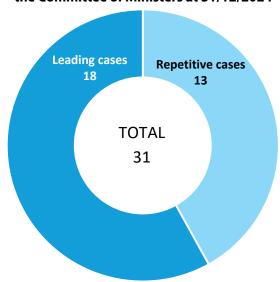
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for the Netherlands can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

# **NORTH MACEDONIA**

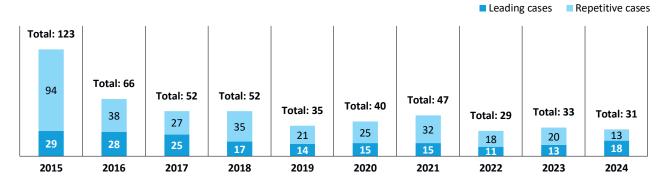
Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

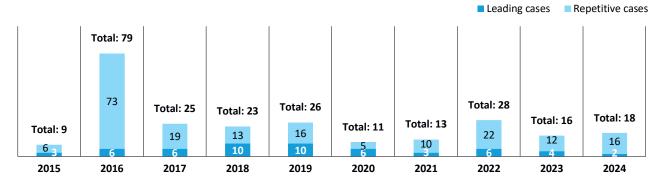


Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 16 cases against North Macedonia for supervision of their execution (compared to 20 in 2023 and 10 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some of them concerned detention on remand.

### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 31 cases pending execution (compared to 33 in 2023 and 29 in 2022), of which three were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to four in 2023 and three in 2022), and 13 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, two have been pending for five years or more; similarly, two of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (as was the case in 2023 and 2022).<sup>22</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 10 action plans, two action reports and one communication.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 25 cases in 2024.

## Closures and main achievements in 2024

The Committee closed 18 cases in 2024, including one leading case under enhanced supervision and one leading case under standard supervision. It was possible to close the former, concerning freedom of association, following the Convention-compliant change in domestic case-law. It was also possible to close one leading case concerning discrimination in relation to freedom of movement, following the adoption in 2020 of a new Law governing prevention of discrimination and a by-law aligning the domestic practice of border police with Convention standards, along with trainings and awareness-raising activities.

In addition, one repetitive case was closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include, in the context of the *Kitanovski* and Others group of cases, the appointment of the third representative of civil society in the Civil Control Mechanism established within the Ombudsman's Office, as a part of the tripartite oversight mechanism established in 2019 to review the conduct of ill-treatment-related investigations, as well as the tabling before Parliament of amendments to the Law on the Ombudsman to increase the mandate of representatives of civil society in the Mechanism to three years, expected to increase its effectiveness.

# Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of three leading cases/ groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- ► Ill-treatment by the police and ineffective investigations.

  \*\*Kitanovski\* group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Lack of legislation governing the conditions and procedures for changing on birth certificates the registered sex of transgender people.
  - X case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Discrimination of Roma pupils on account of their segregation in two State-run primary schools. Elmazova and Others case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

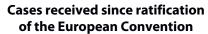
## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

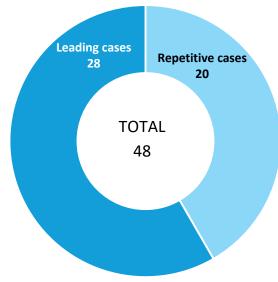
The pending caseload includes notably one group concerning the right to liberty and security, one group concerning family life, and three cases concerning right to privacy.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for North Macedonia can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

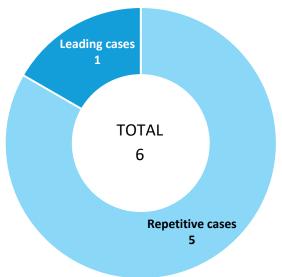
<sup>22.</sup> Of these cases, one leading case under standard procedure was pending for more than 10 years.



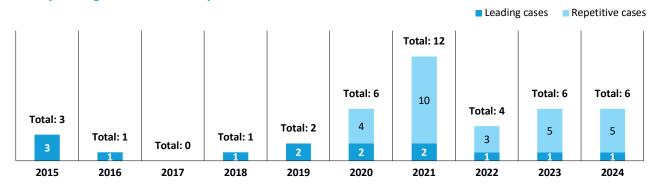


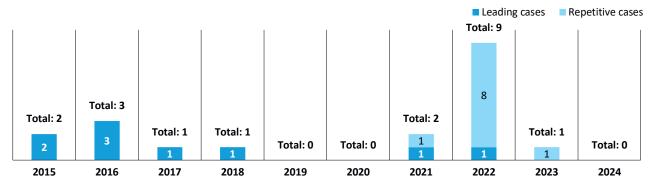


# Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers did not receive from the European Court any cases against Norway for supervision of execution (compared to three in 2023 and one in 2022).

## **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were six cases pending execution (as was the case in 2023 and compared to four in 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (as was the case in both 2023 and 2022), and the others were repetitive cases. The leading case under enhanced procedure has been pending for five years or more (which was not the case in either 2023 or 2022).

The pending group of cases concerns breaches of biological parents' rights to family life due to decisions taken in the public child welfare system related to removal of their parental authority, adoption, foster care and/or contact rights in connection with their children (violations of Article 8).

#### **Action plans/reports**

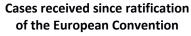
The authorities submitted one action plan.

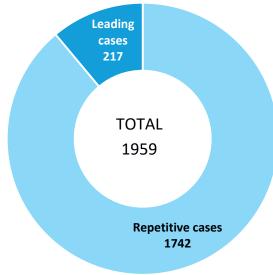
#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in three cases in 2024.

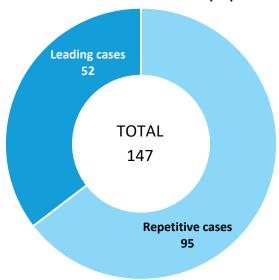
More information about Norway can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.



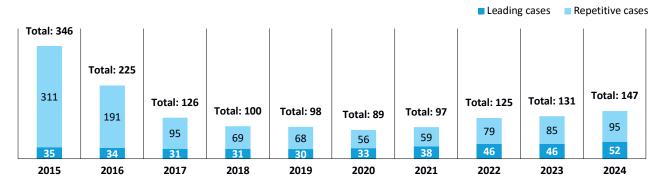


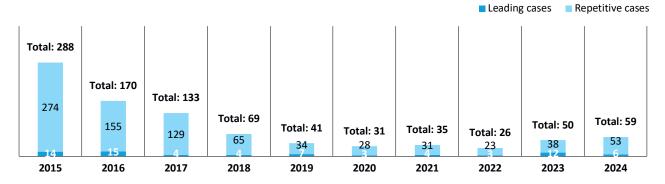


# Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



# Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 75 cases against Poland for supervision of their execution (compared to 58 in 2023 and 54 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one, in which the European Court decided to use the pilot judgment procedure, concerns the operation of the extraordinary review appeal and the Chamber of Extraordinary Review in the Supreme Court, not complying with the principle of legal certainty and a right to independent court established by law. Another case concerns the lack of possibility to perform lawful abortion due to foetal abnormalities due to a Constitutional Court's judgment, which was adopted in a composition which did not comply with the rule of law.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 147 cases pending execution (compared to 131 in 2023 and 125 in 2022), of which 24 were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to 16 in 2023 and 14 in 2022), and 27 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, eight have been pending for five years or more; similarly, twelve of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to eleven in 2023 and eleven in 2022).<sup>23</sup>

### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted eight action plans, 23 action reports and 23 communications. An initial action plan/action report was awaited in respect of one case despite the expiry of the extended deadline in this respect. Updated action plans/action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of 26 groups/cases, in which either the deadline set by the Committee of Ministers in this respect has expired (10 cases) or feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024 (16 cases).

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 59 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in three cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

## Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 59 cases in 2024, including six leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case, concerning lack of plausible justification for body searches of inmates, following legislative amendments.

In addition, 32 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of eight leading cases/ groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- ▶ Refusal of border guards to receive asylum application and summary removal to a third country with a risk of refoulement to and ill-treatment in the country of origin. Collective expulsion of aliens in a wider state policy of refusing entry to foreigners coming from Belarus. Lack of effective remedy with a suspensive effect. Non-compliance with interim measures under Rule 39 of the Rules of the Court.
  - M.K. and Others group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Absence of an adequate legal framework for the exercise of the right to therapeutic abortion in the event of disagreement between the patient and the specialist doctor (*Tysiac*) and lack of access to prenatal test enabling to take an informed decision on whether to seek an abortion (*R.R.*). Failure to provide effective access to reliable information on the conditions and procedures to be followed to access lawful abortion lawful abortion (*P. and S.*).
  - Tysiqc case / R.R. case / P. and S. case Last decision taken in 2024 These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Excessive use of force by the police and ineffective investigations.
  Kuchta and Metel group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Various violations in cases concerning the appointment, mandate and/or disciplinary regime for judges in Poland. Juszczyszyn case / Zurek case / Tuleya case - Last decision taken in 2024 – These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ➤ Tribunal not established by law due to, inter alia, systemic dysfunction in the judicial appointments' procedures. Deficiencies of the system of extraordinary review appeal.

  \*\*Reczkowicz\* group of cases / \*Broda and \*Bojara\* case / \*Grzęda\* case / \*Walęsa\* case Last decision taken in 2024

  These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

<sup>23.</sup> Of these cases, two leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

- ➤ Tribunal not established by law due to grave irregularities in the election of one of the Constitutional Court's judges examining the applicant company's constitutional complaint.

  Xero Flor W Polsce SP. Z O.O. case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ➤ Various violations related to the secret detention and «extraordinary rendition" of the applicant. As a result, the applicant was exposed to a serious risk of further ill-treatment and conditions of detention in breach of Article 3 as well as of further secret detention. He faces a risk of capital punishment in a trial before a United States military commission in which, according to the European Court's judgment, evidence obtained under torture might be used.

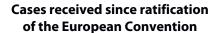
  Al Nashiri group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Excessive length of proceedings before administrative courts.

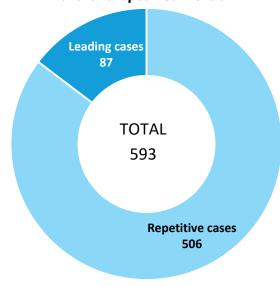
  \*\*Beller group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

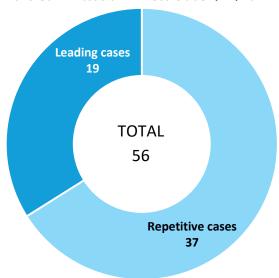
The pending caseload includes notably different groups concerning excessive length of proceedings, a case concerning expulsion on security grounds, a case concerning the discriminatory lowering of the age of retirement of judges, a case concerning lack of legal recognition of same-sex couples, a case concerning retention of data obtained during secret surveillance and a case concerning insufficient guarantees provided by law against arbitrariness and abuse of secret surveillance.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Poland can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

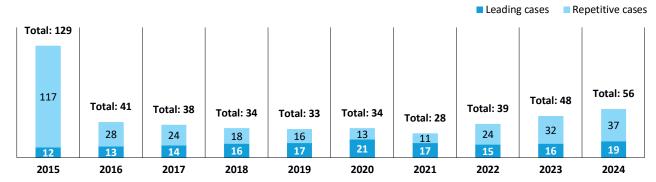


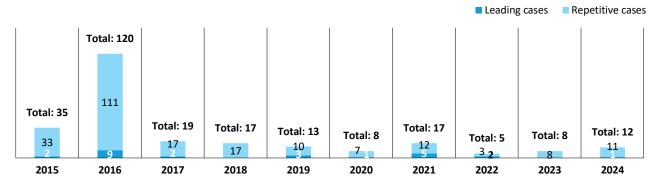


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 20 cases against Portugal for supervision of their execution (compared to 17 in 2023 and 16 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned the preventive detention of the applicant, who was declared not criminally responsible owing to his mental disorder, in inadequate conditions and without appropriate care, despite a judicial decision ordering his transfer to an appropriate psychiatric institution.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 56 cases pending execution (compared to 48 in 2023 and 39 in 2022), of which five were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to four in 2023 and three in 2022), and 13 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, one has been pending for five years or more; similarly, eight of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to eight in 2023 and five in 2022).<sup>24</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 24 action plans, 10 action reports and eight communications.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 25 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in five cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 12 cases in 2024.

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one group of cases under enhanced procedure:

Overcrowding and poor conditions of detention in prisons and lack of effective remedies.
Petrescu group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

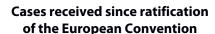
## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

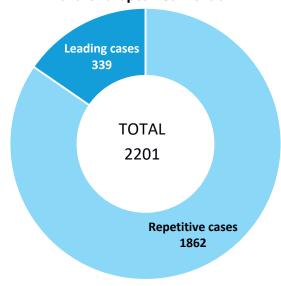
The pending caseload includes notably one group of cases concerning the excessive length of civil and administrative proceedings; cases concerning violations of the right to freedom of expression due to convictions and fines imposed on the applicants in criminal or civil proceedings for defamation; and a case concerning the continued imposition of a high security prison regime.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Portugal can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

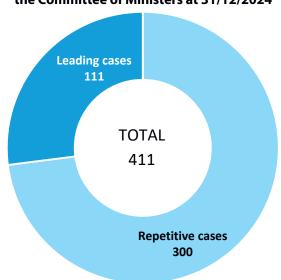
<sup>24.</sup> That leading case under standard procedure has been pending for more than 10 years.



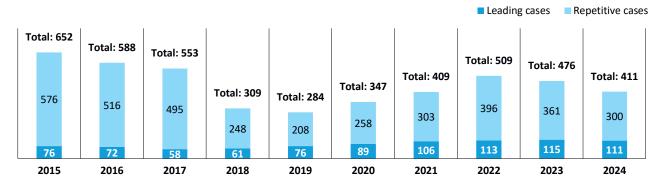


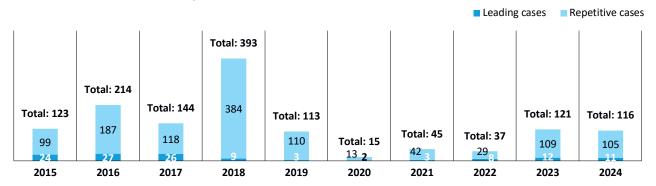


# Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 51 cases against Romania for supervision of their execution (compared to 87 in 2023 and 137 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, most of them concerned overcrowding and poor conditions of detention.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 411 cases pending execution (compared to 476 in 2023 and 509 in 2022), of which 37 were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (as was also the case in 2023 and compared to 35 in 2022), and 74 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, 24 have been pending for five years or more; similarly, 38 of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to 30 in 2023 and 25 in 2022).<sup>25</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted nine action plans, 42 action reports and 51 communications. Initial action plans/action reports were awaited in respect of 30 groups/cases despite the expiry of the extended deadline in this respect. Updated action plans/action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of 51 groups/cases, in which either the deadline set by the Committee of Ministers in this respect has expired (two cases) or feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024 (49 cases).

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 121 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in 96 cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 116 cases in 2024, including 11 leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close several leading cases following legislative amendments, notably one guaranteeing the right of prisoners to be provided with meals in accordance with their religious beliefs; another following amendments to the legal framework to allow review of measures related seizure of assets during criminal investigations against third parties and procedures for the return of seized items; and another following legislative amendments which introduced legal remedies to challenge the leakage of documents from the prosecution's case file.

In addition, 105 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.<sup>26</sup>

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include the adoption by the Romanian Government of a national action plan, prepared under high-level co-ordination of the Prime Minister's Office and with the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders, to address serious deficiencies in the mental health care system and the treatment of persons with mental health conditions and/or intellectual disabilities. Furthermore, there was a reduction in the length of judicial proceedings in Romania, as a result of the wide-ranging general measures adopted by the authorities. Finally, the Committee welcomed the commitment of the Romanian authorities to thoroughly execute the judgments concerning conditions of detention and to address the problems at the origin.

#### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of 13 leading cases/ groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- ▶ Breaches of the State's positive obligation effectively to apply a criminal-law system punishing any non-consensual sexual acts, in particular when the victims are children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

  E.B. case / M.G.C. group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Impossibility for the applicants to recover frozen embryos seized in the context of criminal proceedings against a third party in the absence of clear provisions on the procedure to be followed.
  Nedescu case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Non-implementation of courts or arbitral awards ordering State-controlled companies to pay various sums to the applicants/ applicant companies.
  S.C. POLYINVEST S.R.L. and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

<sup>25.</sup> Of these cases, five leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

<sup>26.</sup> Difficulties in the execution of individual cases prevent the closure of grouped WECL judgments, in particular concerning conditions of detention and restitution of nationalised properties, as these judgments often concern many tens of applications.

- Discrimination related to the right to stand in parliamentary election and lack of judicial review regarding the fulfilment of an eligibility requirement that disadvantages national minority organisations not yet represented in Parliament. Cegolea case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Deficiencies in the legal protection and medical and social care afforded to vulnerable persons. Centre for Legal Resources on behalf of Valentin Câmpeanu case / N. (No. 2) case - Last decision taken in 2024 These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Overcrowding and inadequate living conditions, treatment and care afforded to patients in psychiatric establishments; unlawful or arbitrary involuntary psychiatric placements and insufficient safeguards against such deprivations of liberty; systematic failure to seek consent to psychiatric treatment and absence of minimum legal safeguards attending the forcible administration of psychiatric treatment to involuntary patients.

Parascineti case / Cristian Teodorescu group of cases / N. case / R.D. and I.M.D. case - Last decision taken in 2024 These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

- ▶ Ineffectiveness of the mechanism put in place to allow the restitution of or compensation for nationalised property. Continuing ineffectiveness of this restitution mechanism
  - Strain and Others group of cases / Maria Atanasiu and Others case / Valeanu and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Conviction of a whistle-blower for having disclosed information on the illegal secret surveillance of citizens by the Intelligence Service; lack of safeguards in the statutory framework governing secret surveillance.
  Bucur and Toma case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined twice by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Excessive length of judicial proceedings and lack of an effective remedy.
   Vlad and Others group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Lack of clear and predictable legislation governing gender reassignment.

  X. and Y. group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ➤ Various violations related to the secret detention and "extraordinary rendition" of the applicant. As a result, the applicant was exposed to a serious risk of further ill-treatment and conditions of detention in breach of Article 3 as well as of further secret detention. He faces a risk of capital punishment in a trial before a United States military commission in which, according to the European Court's judgment, evidence obtained under torture might be used.

  Al Nashiri case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Overcrowding and poor conditions of detention in prisons and police detention facilities; lack of an effective remedy in that regard; inadequacy of medical care and several other dysfunctions regarding the protection of prisoners' rights.
  Bragadireanu group of cases / Rezmiveş and Others case Last decision taken in 2024
  These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 20244

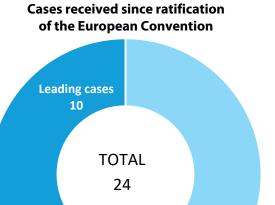
#### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably cases concerning domestic violence or sexual harassment in the workplace; cases concerning unjustified use of firearms or ill-treatment by law enforcement agents and ineffective criminal investigations (including into discriminatory motives); cases concerning the criminal investigations carried out since the early 1990s into violent crackdowns on anti-governmental demonstrations which at the fall of the Communist regime in Romania; and a case concerning the absence of legal recognition and protection for same-sex couples.

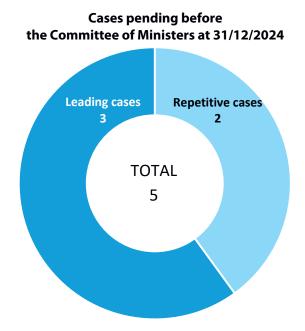
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Romania can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.



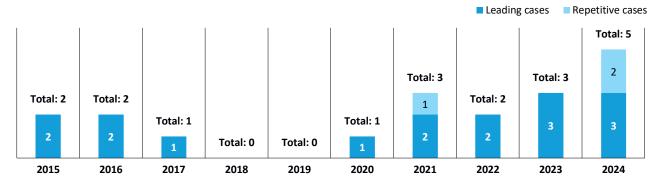
## **SAN MARINO**

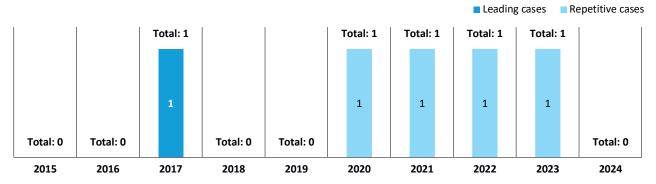


Repetitive cases 14



## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court two cases against San Marino for supervision of their execution (as was the case in in 2023 and compared to none in 2022).

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were five cases pending execution (compared to three in 2023 and two in 2022), of which three were leading cases classified under standard procedure. One of these cases concerns a breach of the right to a fair trial and the right to obtain attendance and examination of witnesses.

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted one action report.

#### **Just satisfaction**

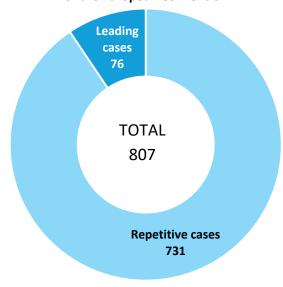
Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in one case in 2024.

More information about San Marino can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

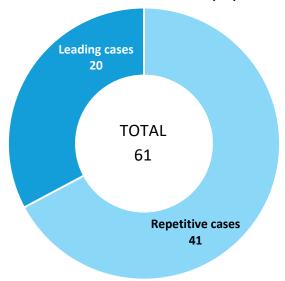


## **SERBIA**

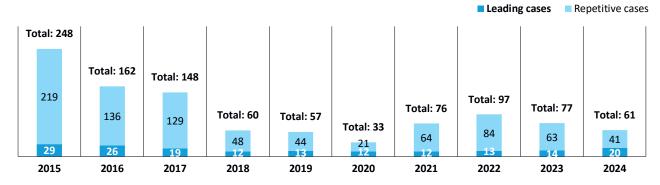
**Cases received since ratification** of the European Convention

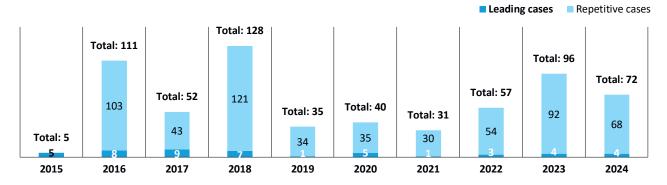


**Cases pending before** the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 56 cases against Serbia for supervision of their execution (compared to 76 in 2023 and 78 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, many of them concerned non-enforcement of domestic decisions whilst some concerned fairness of different types of civil proceedings. One concerned the unfair proceedings before the Constitutional Court on account of its failure to inform the applicants of constitutional complaints.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 61 cases pending execution (compared to 77 in 2023 and 97 in 2022), of which five were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (as was the case in both 2023 and 2022), and 11 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. All leading cases under enhanced procedure have been pending for five years or more; similarly, one of the leading cases under standard procedure has been pending for five years or more (as was the case in 2023 and 2022).<sup>27</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted nine action plans, 25 action reports and one communication.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 84 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment was awaited in one case for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 72 cases in 2024, including four leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case, concerning freedom of movement, following the adoption of a by-law by the Minister of Interior allowing refugees access to travel documents, and one leading case concerning freedom of expression, following the Convention-compliant change of the domestic case-law, along with training and awareness-raising measures.

In addition, five repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include the issuance by the Supreme Public Prosecutor of a General Mandatory Instruction, providing for further specialisation of prosecutors to investigate cases of ill-treatment and torture by police officers.

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one group of cases under enhanced procedure:

▶ Inhuman and degrading treatment by law enforcement officers and/or the lack of effective investigations in this respect. Stanimirović group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload also includes notably one group concerning non-enforcement of domestic judgments, one group concerning length of different types of civil proceedings and cases concerning unfairness of different types of civil proceedings.

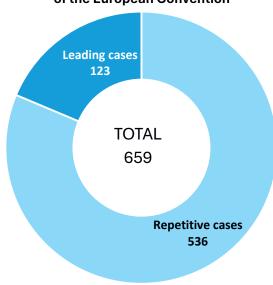
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Serbia can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

<sup>27.</sup> That leading case under standard procedure has been pending for more than 10 years.

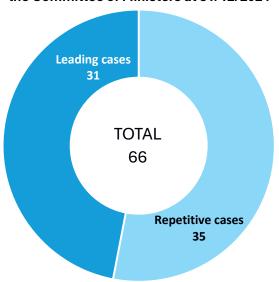


## **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

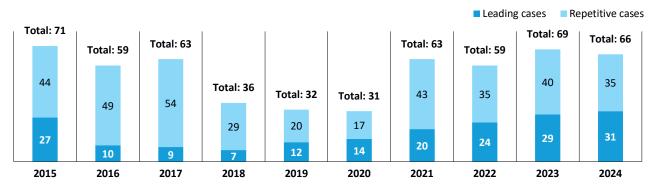
Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

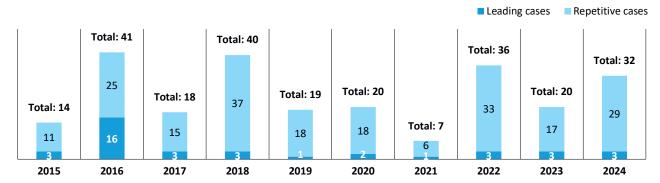


Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 29 cases against the Slovak Republic for supervision of their execution (compared to 30 in 2023 and 32 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, some concerned issues related to the review of the lawfulness of the detention, others the lack of safeguards in respect of secret surveillance in criminal proceedings, the presumption of innocence, and in one case parent-child contact rights.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 66 cases pending execution (compared to 69 in 2023 and 59 in 2022), of which five were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to four in 2023 and three in 2022), and 25 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Seven of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to four in both 2023 and 2022).<sup>28</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 13 action plans, 12 action reports and nine communications. Updated action plans, action reports or communications containing additional information were awaited in respect of seven groups/cases, in which feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 46 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment was awaited in one case for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 32 cases in 2024, including three leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case concerning the lack of access to court, following new Constitutional Court case-law, as well as targeted awareness raising measures.

In addition, 29 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of two groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- ➤ Surveillance operation, without adequate legal safeguards against abuse due to the practically unfettered power exercised by the Slovak Intelligence Service.
  - Zoltán Varga group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Excessive use of force during a police operation carried out on a street that is home to a Roma community (R.R. and R.D.). Ineffective investigations. Failure to protect the physical well-being of an unaccompanied Roma minor in police custody and effective investigation.

R.R. and R.D. group of cases / P.H. case - Last decision taken in 2024

This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

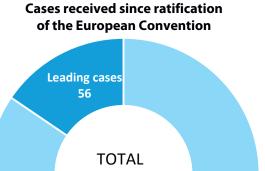
 $The pending \ case load \ includes \ also \ notably \ two \ groups \ concerning \ the \ excessive \ length \ of \ civil \ and \ criminal \ proceedings.$ 

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for the Slovak Republic can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

<sup>28.</sup> Of these cases, three leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.



## SLOVENIA

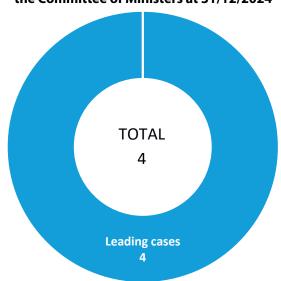


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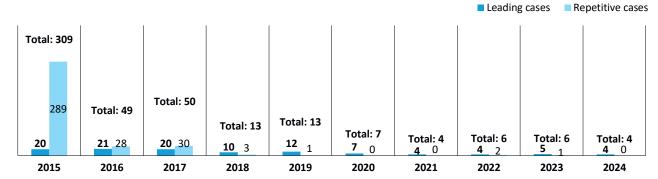
**Repetitive cases** 

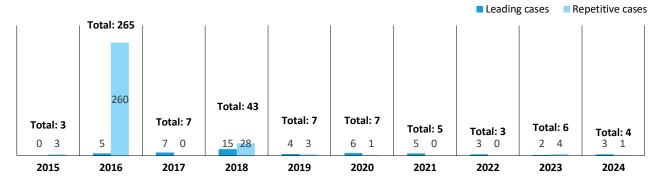
305

Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court two cases against Slovenia for supervision of their execution (compared to six in 2023 and five in 2022).

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were four cases pending execution (compared to six in 2023 and 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (as was the case in 2023 and 2022), and three were leading cases classified under standard procedure.

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted one action plan and four action reports.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in three cases in 2024.

#### Closures and main achievements in 2024

The Committee closed four cases in 2024, including three leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case, concerning the length of civil proceedings, following a number of measures aimed at increasing the number of court experts, as well as measures relating to the management of their workload.

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include the adoption in May 2024 of the Law on the Judicial Protection for Former Holders of Eligible Liabilities of Banks in the context of the execution of the case *Pintar and Others* which provides the former holders of cancelled shares and bonds, as a result of the extraordinary measures taken by the Bank of Slovenia in 2013 and 2014, with access to a legal avenue enabling them to challenge the interference with their right of property.

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one leading case under enhanced procedure:

Lack of an effective remedy to challenge or seek compensation for national bank's extraordinary measures, cancelling the applicants' shares and bonds, which were not accompanied by sufficient procedural guarantees against arbitrariness.

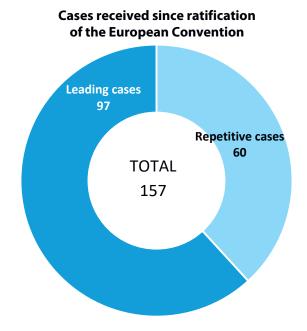
Pintar and Others case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

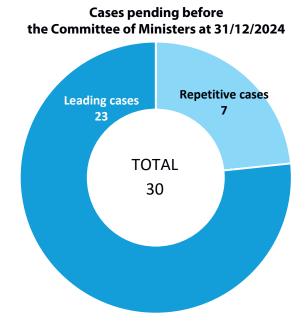
#### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably cases concerning fairness of civil and criminal proceedings, as well as a case concerning a violation of the right to presumption of innocence.

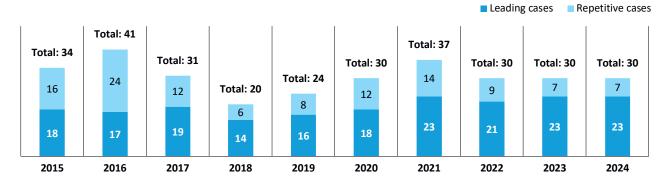
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Slovenia can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

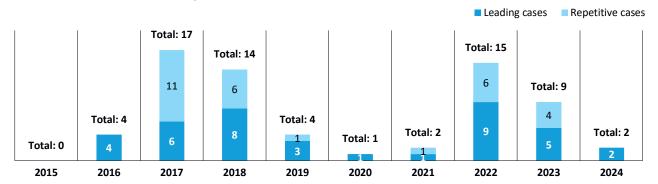






## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court two cases against Spain for supervision of their execution (compared to nine in both 2023 and 2022). One of the new violations found by the Court in 2024 concerned shortcomings in the decision-making process which led to blood transfusions being administered to a Jehovah's Witness against her will.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 30 cases pending execution (as was the case in 2023 and in 2022), of which one was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (the same number as in 2023 and in 2022), and 22 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. The leading case under enhanced procedure has been pending for five years or more; similarly, four of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to three in 2023 and two in 2022).

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted three action plans, 14 action reports and/or one communication.

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in four cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

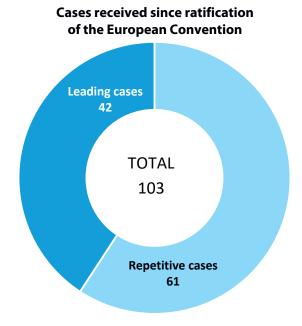
The Committee closed two leading cases under standard supervision in 2024.

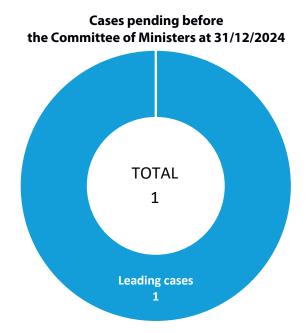
## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes notably cases concerning the lack of an effective remedy with suspensive effect against decisions to remove migrants to their country of origin taken in the framework of an accelerated asylum procedure; the application by domestic courts of criminal provisions on glorification of terrorism and insults to the Crown; and the Constitutional Court's dismissal of an amparo appeal against Parliament's failure to pursue the appointment process of a new General Council of the Judiciary.

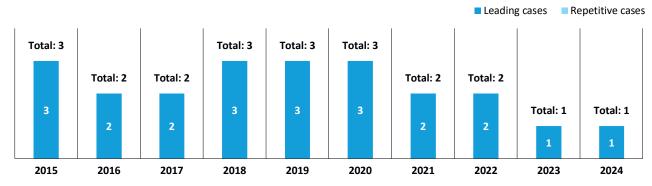
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Spain can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

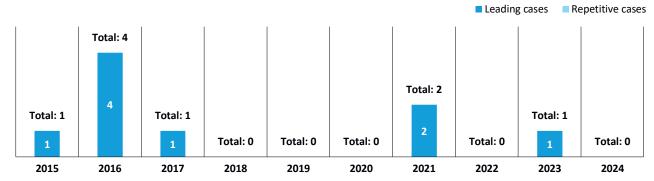






## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### **New cases**

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers did not receive from the European Court any case against Sweden for supervision of execution (as was also the case in both 2023 and in 2022).

#### **Pending cases**

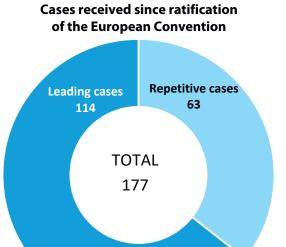
On 31 December 2024, there was one case pending execution (as was the case in 2023 and compared to two in 2022), which was a leading case classified under enhanced procedure (as was the case in 2023 and compared to two in 2022). This case concerns insufficient safeguards and shortcomings in the Swedish bulk data interception regime.

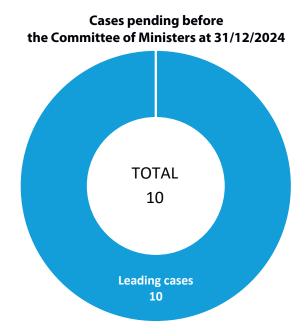
#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted one action plan and one action report.

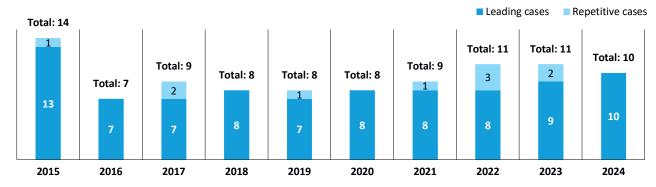
More information about Sweden can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

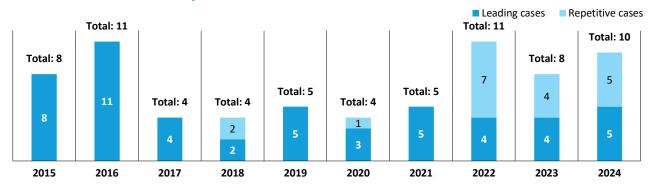






## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court nine cases against Switzerland for supervision of their execution (compared to eight in 2023 and 13 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of them concerned racial profiling during identity checks, another concerned the State's failure to comply with its positive obligation to implement sufficient measures to combat climate change, and another the unlawful detention of a person with mental illness in inappropriate facilities.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were ten cases pending execution (compared to 11 in both 2023 and 2022), of which three were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to none in both 2023 and 2022), and six were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under standard procedure one case has been pending for five years or more (compared to one in 2023 and no cases in 2022).

## **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 15 action reports.

#### **Just satisfaction**

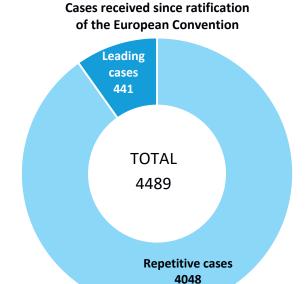
Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 10 cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

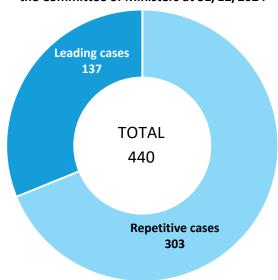
The Committee closed ten cases in 2024, including five leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close one leading case, concerning discriminatory treatment in relation to pension eligibility, following amendments to the pension system, and one leading case concerning the unlawful deprivation of liberty of the applicant "for assistance purposes", following the reversal of case-law by the Federal Tribunal.

In addition, four repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.

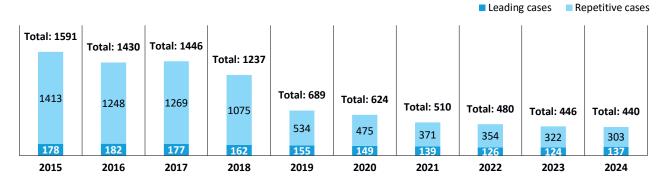
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Switzerland can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

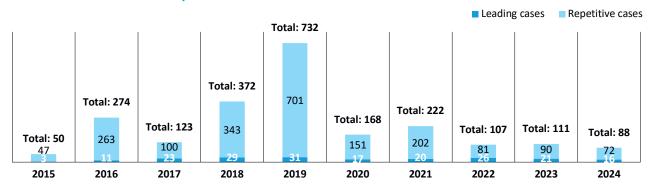


Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 82 cases against Türkiye for supervision of their execution (compared to 78 in 2023 and 77 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, one of these cases concerned the failure of the domestic court to comply with the principle of immediacy; another concerned the unlawful detention and search of a judge serving at the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals despite diplomatic immunity; and some others concerned the inadequate quality of the legal framework for suspension of the pronouncement of judgment under Article 231 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 440 cases pending execution (compared to 446 in 2023 and 480 in 2022), of which 37 were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to 35 in 2023 and 36 in 2022), and 96 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, 27 have been pending for five years or more; similarly, 49 of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to 48 in 2023 and 53 in 2022).<sup>29</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 38 action plans, 72 action reports and 40 communications. Updated action plans/action reports or communications with additional information were awaited in respect of 25 groups/cases in which either the deadline set by the Committee of Ministers in this respect has expired (two cases) or feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024 (23 cases).

#### **Just satisfaction**

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 33 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in 57 cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 88 cases in 2024, including one leading case under enhanced supervision and 15 leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close the former, concerning unjustified denial of state funding and subsidies to Alevi places of worship (cemevis) and religious leaders, following a series of legislative amendments and capacity building measures.

Another leading case, concerning the failure to take measures to prevent suicides in prison, was closed following comprehensive systemic prison reforms. It was also possible to close a leading case following the alignment of the practice of prisons and domestic courts with the case-law of the Court to allow prisoners' computers of access to the internet for higher education studies. Another case, concerning a re-entry ban imposed on an American academic for her statements on Kurdish and Armenian issues, was closed further to legislative amendments and changes in the case law of domestic courts in line with the Convention. In addition, a leading case concerning unfair civil proceedings due to an on-site inspection carried out by the court of first instance without the knowledge and participation of the parties was closed following a clear presentation of the legal framework on the procedure for on-site inspections, supported by domestic caselaw demonstrating compliance with the legal provisions and safeguards in place.

In addition, 64 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.<sup>30</sup>

#### Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of 21 leading cases/ groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- Unjustified and extended detention of the applicant without reasonable suspicion and with the ulterior purpose of reducing him to silence.
  - Kavala case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined four times by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Unjustified detention of the applicants without reasonable suspicion that they had committed an offence, with the ulterior purpose of stifling pluralism and limiting freedom of political debate. Unforeseeable lifting of the parliamentary immunity and subsequent criminal proceedings to penalise the applicants for their political speeches.

  Selahattin Demirtaş (No. 2) group of cases Last decision taken in 2024
  - This group of cases was examined four times by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

<sup>29.</sup> Of these cases, 23 leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

<sup>30.</sup> Difficulties in the execution of individual cases prevent the closure of grouped WECL judgments as these judgments often concern many tens of applications.

- ▶ 14 violations in relation to the situation in the northern part of Cyprus.

  Cyprus v. Turkey case This case was examined twice by the Committee of Ministers in 2024 (property rights of the displaced persons) Last decision taken in 2024 (missing persons) Last decision taken in 2024
- Lack of effective investigation into the fate of nine Greek Cypriots who disappeared during the military operations undertaken by Turkey in Cyprus in 1974.
  - Varnava and Others case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Continuous denial of access to property in the northern part of Cyprus (individual measures and just satisfaction).
  Xenides-Arestis group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Unjustified interferences with freedom of expression, in particular through criminal proceedings, including defamation, and the consequent chilling effect. Unforeseeable conviction of membership of an illegal organisation for the mere fact of attending a public meeting and expressing views there.
  Öner and Türk group / Nedim Şener group / Altuğ Taner Akçam group / Artun and Güvener group / Işıkırık group Last decision taken in 2024
  - Öner and  $\overline{T}$ urk group / Nedim  $\overline{S}$ ener group / Altu $\overline{S}$  Taner Akçam group / Artun and Güvener group / Işıkırık group Last decision taken in 2024 These groups of cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Planning restrictions making it impossible for small religious community to have a place of worship. Association for solidarity with Jehovah Witnesses and Others case - Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Deaths of the applicants' relatives or life-threatening injury of an applicant along the cease-fire line in Cyprus; lack of effective investigation thereof.
  - *Isaak* group of cases / Kakoulli group of cases Last decision taken in 2024
  - These groups of cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Structural and administrative problems leading to various differences in treatment between followers of the Alevi faith and adherents of the majority branch of Islam, including compulsory religious education classes.
  İzzettin Doğan and Others case / Mansur Yalçın and Others case Last decision taken in 2024
  These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Repetitive convictions and prosecutions for refusing to carry out compulsory military service on account of religious beliefs or convictions as pacifists and conscientious objectors.
  Ülke group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Ineffectiveness of investigations against law enforcement officers in allegations of torture and ill-treatment and impunity. Ineffectiveness of investigations on account of the administrative authorisation requirement provided under the Law No. 4483. Batı and Others group of cases / Elvan case- Last decision taken in 2024
  These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Absence of any mechanism to review "aggravated" life imprisonment sentence.

  \*\*Gurban\*\* group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Failure of the authorities to protect the life and freedom of expression of a journalist.
  Dink case Last decision taken in 2024 This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Failure to comply with administrative court decisions in cases concerning the environment.

  Genç and Demirgan group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

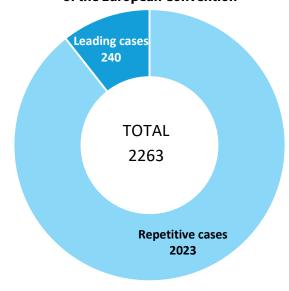
#### Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload also includes groups of cases concerning the right to freedom of assembly, notably excessive use of force while dispersing demonstrations, unjustified detention orders or administrative fines issued against participants; the compulsory nature of the religious culture and ethics classes in primary and secondary schools; the absence of judicial review of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors' decisions concerning the transfer of judicial officers and disciplinary proceedings; overcrowding in prisons; domestic violence; and the systematic monitoring of prisoners' correspondence with their lawyers by prison authorities.

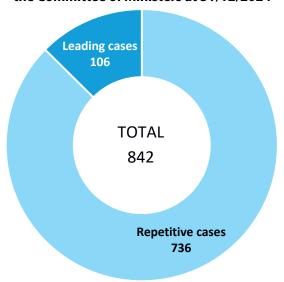
Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Türkiye can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

## **UKRAINE**

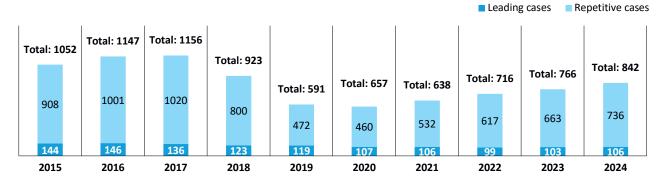
# Cases received since ratification of the European Convention

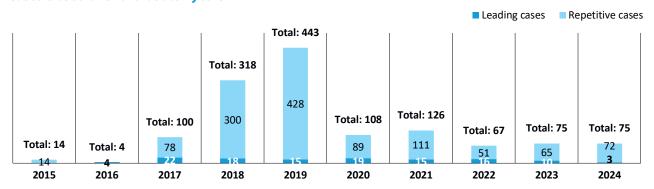


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court 151 cases against Ukraine for supervision of their execution (compared to 125 in 2023 and 145 in 2022). Of the new violations found by the Court in 2024, most of them concerned lengthy judicial proceedings without effective remedies, and restrictions of the right to liberty and poor conditions of detention. One new case concerned the ineffective investigation into alleged verbal and physical attacks on the applicant, motivated by his sexual orientation. Another new case concerned the failure of the domestic courts to admit DNA testing in proceedings for recognition of paternity.

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were 842 cases pending execution (compared to 766 in 2023 and 716 in 2022), of which 48 were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (compared to 50 in 2023 and 51 in 2022), and 58 were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, 41 have been pending for five years or more; similarly, 29 of the leading cases under standard procedure have been pending for five years or more (compared to 27 in 2023 and 24 in 2022).<sup>31</sup>

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted 40 action plans, 25 action reports and 34 communications. Updated action plans/action reports containing additional information were awaited in respect of four groups/cases, in which feedback was sent by the DEJ before 01/01/2024.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in 126 cases in 2024, while confirmation of full payment and/or default interest was awaited in 290 cases for which the deadline indicated in the Court's judgment has passed since more than six months.

## Closures in 2024

The Committee closed 75 cases in 2024, including one leading case under enhanced supervision and two leading cases under standard supervision. It was possible to close the former, concerning detention without a judicial decision, following legislative amendments establishing a procedure to review detention between the end of the investigation and the beginning of trial. It was possible to close another leading case concerning legal certainty, following legislative amendments as well as developments in the domestic court practice; and another concerning unlawful monitoring of correspondence in detention and prisons facilities, following legislative amendments and changes in administrative practice ensuring additional safeguards.

In addition, 72 repetitive cases were closed because no further individual measures were necessary or possible.32

Notable advances, recognised by the Committee, in cases that are still pending include the resumption of the disciplinary function of the High Council of Justice whilst further reforms of the judicial disciplinary system are ongoing; as well as the repeal of the provision on the criminal liability of judges for the delivery of knowingly unfair decisions. The Committee also noted positively the Convention-compliant application of the legislation providing for safeguards in respect of legal representation and admissibility of evidence, as well as the improvement and expansion of the Custody Records System.

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of nine leading cases/groups of cases under enhanced procedure:

- Various violations related to the independence and impartiality of the judiciary; unfair disciplinary proceedings brought
  against a judge.
  - Oleksandr Volkov group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Multiple violations to stop Maidan protests in 2013-2014 and lack of effective and independent investigations. Shmorgunov and Others group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Unfair convictions based on confessions given under duress; abusive use of administrative detention.
  Balitskiy group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

<sup>31.</sup> Of these cases, 18 leading cases under standard procedure were pending for more than 10 years.

<sup>32.</sup> Difficulties in the execution of individual cases prevent the closure of grouped WECL judgments as these judgments often concern many tens of applications.

- Unlawful arrests, unlawful and lengthy detention on remand. Ignatov group of cases / Korneykova case / Chanyev case - Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Poor conditions of detention in pre-trial detention centres, police stations and prisons and lack of domestic remedies. Sukachov group of cases / Nevmerzhitsky group of cases / Yakovenko group of cases / Melnik group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 These groups of cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Failure to enforce court orders under the Hague Convention.

  M.R. and D.R. group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Failure to enforce court judgments granting access rights to the applicants' children.

  Shvets group of cases Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Non-enforcement of domestic court decisions against the State or state-owned enterprises. Yuriy Nikolayevich Ivanov case / Zhovner group of cases / Burmych and Others case - Last decision taken in 2024 These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ▶ Ill-treatment / torture by police and lack of effective investigation.

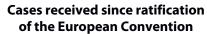
  \*\*Kaverzin group of cases / \*\*Afanasyev group of cases / \*\*Belousov case Last decision taken in 2024

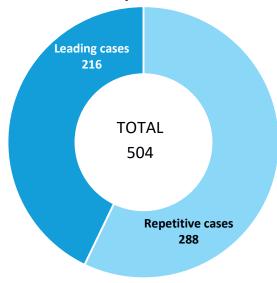
  These cases were examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- Absence of any form of legal recognition and protection for same-sex couples. Maymulakhin and Markiv group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

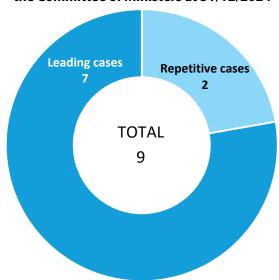
The pending caseload includes different groups related to the functioning of the judicial system (in particular, non-enforcement of domestic courts' decisions, lengthy judicial proceedings without effective remedies and the independence of the public prosecution service); groups concerning the lack of effective investigations into deaths and ill-treatment; and groups concerning asylum procedures, the irreducibility of life sentences, domestic violence as well as freedom of assembly and freedom of expression.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for Ukraine can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

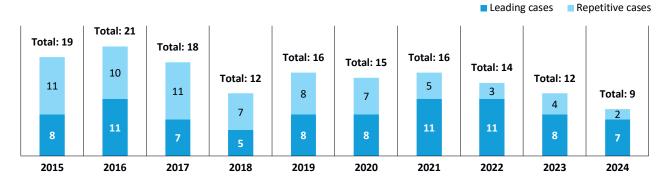


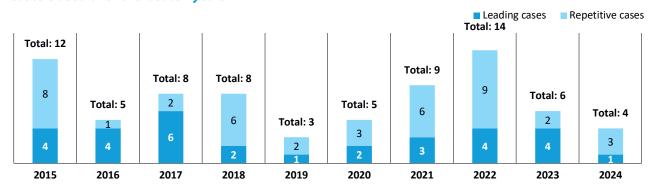


## Cases pending before the Committee of Ministers at 31/12/2024



## Cases pending over the last ten years





#### New cases

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers received from the European Court one case against the United Kingdom for supervision of execution (compared to four in 2023 and 11 in 2022).

#### **Pending cases**

On 31 December 2024, there were nine cases pending execution (compared to 12 in 2023 and 14 in 2022), of which four were leading cases classified under enhanced procedure (as was the case in 2023 and compared to five in 2022), and three were leading cases classified under standard procedure. Of the leading cases under enhanced procedure, two have been pending for five years or more; similarly, one of the leading cases under standard procedure has been pending for five years or more (compared to none in 2023 and 2022).

#### **Action plans/reports**

The authorities submitted five action plans, two action reports and eight communications.

#### Just satisfaction

Full payment of the just satisfaction awarded by the Court was registered in three cases in 2024.

#### Closures in 2024

The Committee closed four cases in 2024, including one leading case under standard supervision. It was possible to close that case, which concerned shortcomings in the secret surveillance regime including bulk interception and obtaining communications data from communication service providers, following both legislative and operational changes.

## Main issues examined by the Committee of Ministers in 2024

In the course of 2024, the Committee of Ministers examined and adopted decisions in respect of one leading case and one group of cases under enhanced procedure:

- ➤ Actions of security forces in Northern Ireland in the 1980s and 1990s; failure to conduct Article 2 compliant investigations. McKerr group of cases - Last decision taken in 2024 – This group of cases was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 2024
- ► Failure to take adequate operational measures to protect two potential victims of child trafficking from prosecution. V.C.L. and A.N. case - Last decision taken in 2024 – This case was examined once by the Committee of Ministers in 202

## Other key issues pending before the Committee of Ministers as of 31 December 2024

The pending caseload includes also notably one group concerning the unjustified retention of personal data (DNA profiles, fingerprints and photographs) following arrests and/or convictions for minor offences, in the absence of any real review; and a case concerning the unjustified retention of peaceful campaigner's date on police database.

Full details of main achievements and outstanding issues for the United Kingdom can be found in the dedicated country factsheet.

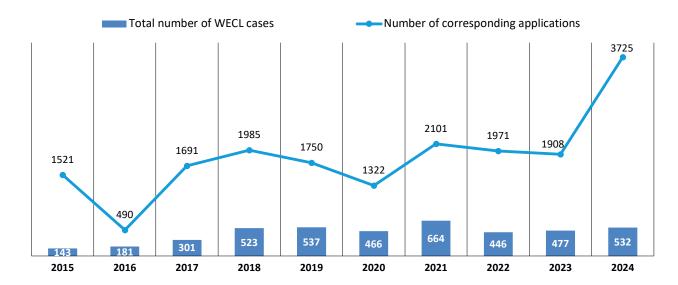
## C. New cases

### C.1. Overview



The 40% increase in the number of new cases from 2020 to 2021 can be explained by the Court's increased efficiency in its working methods including the use of the "WECL" case processing (the rendering of judgments on the merits by a Committee of three judges, instead of a Chamber of seven judges, if the issues raised by the case are already the subject of "well-established case-law of the Court") as well as the introduction of summary-formula judgments and decisions.

Among the new cases received every year, over the last decade, the Court has issued more WECL judgments dealing with multiple joined applications. The table below shows the total number of such WECL judgments together with the number of corresponding applications. In 2024, whilst there were 532 WECL judgments issued they relate to 3,725 applications,<sup>33</sup> which gives a clearer picture of the increased workload for the Committee of Ministers and the DEJ. For more information, including state by state figures, please refer to section G below.



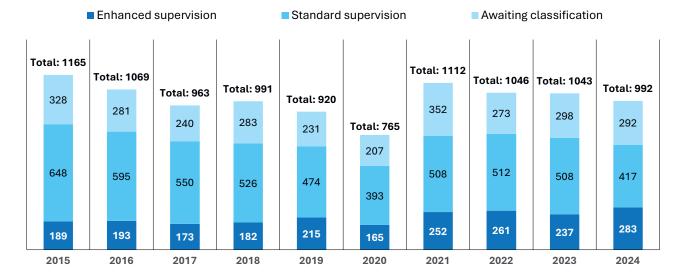
<sup>33.</sup> To put it into further context, including the Russian Federation, in 2024, 814 judgments were delivered by Committees of three judges in respect of 10,241 applications (see p. 10 of the 2024 Annual Report of the European Court of Human Rights). See also Chapter VII below.

## C.2. Enhanced or standard supervision

## New leading cases



## Total number of new cases



	LEADING CASES									REPETITIVE CASES								
STATE	Enhanced supervision		Standard supervision		Awaiting classifica- tion		Total of leading cases		Enhanced supervision		Standard supervision		Awaiting classifica- tion		Total of repetitive cases		TOTAL	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Albania		2	7	2			7	4	3	5	6	7	6	4	15	16	22	20
Andorra							0	0							0	0	0	0
Armenia		1	4	4	2		6	5	8	3	12	4	2	3	22	10	28	15
Austria			4	1			4	1			2		1	2	3	2	7	3
Azerbaijan		2	2	1			2	3	9	9	52	32	21	18	82	59	84	62
Belgium			5	2	1	1	6	3			4	2	5		9	2	15	5
Bosnia and			1			1	1	1			2	4			2	4	3	5
Herzegovina			-	0	1			0	_	1	17	4		7	22	12	21	20
Bulgaria	2		5	8	1	2	8	8	2	1	17	4	4	7	23	12	31	20
Croatia			5	10		3	5	13			19	12	2	7	21	19	26	32
Cyprus		1	2			1	2	2			2	2		1	2	3	4	5
Czech Republic		1	2	4		1	2	6			2	1	1	1	3	2	5	8
Denmark	1			1			1	1			1	4	2		3	4	4	5
Estonia			1	2	1		2	2							0	0	2	2
Finland							0	0							0	0	0	0
France				11		2	0	13			9	1	8	3	17	4	17	17
Georgia	1	1	2	3			3	4	4	4	4	2	4	3	12	9	15	13
Germany	1		1	2			2	2				1	1		1	1	3	3
Greece	1		6	6	1		8	6	3	5	14	9	10	9	27	23	35	29
Hungary	4	2	2	3	1		7	5	12	28	31	38	19	29	62	95	69	100
Iceland		1					0	1							0	0	0	1
Ireland							0	0							0	0	0	0
Italy	2	3	3	4	3		8	7	1	13	42	33	36	23	79	69	87	76
Latvia		1	2	2		2	2	5						3	0	3	2	8
Liechtenstein							0	0							0	0	0	0
Lithuania	1		3	3	1	1	5	4		1		2			0	3	5	7
Luxembourg			1	2			1	2				1		1	0	2	1	4
Malta	1	1	1				2	1	4	2		3	9	4	13	9	15	10
Republic of	1	1	5	5	1		7	6	3	2	14	2	5	11	22	15	29	21
Moldova		•								_		_						
Monaco				1			0	1		_				_	0	0	0	1
Montenegro		1		2			0	3		6	3		1	8	4	14	4	17
Netherlands			1	4			1	4			6	2		1	6	3	7	7
North Macedonia	1		3	5	2	2	6	7			5	7	9	2	14	9	20	16
Norway							0	0	3						3	0	3	0
Poland	1	6	9	4	2	1	12	11	4	19	22	27	20	18	46	64	58	75
Portugal	1	2		1		1	1	4	1	6	8	6	7	4	16	16	17	20
Romania	3		9	7	1		13	7	30	29	31	12	13	3	74	44	87	51
San Marino			1				1	0			1			2	1	2	2	2
Serbia			3	6	2	4	5	10	30	27	7	4	34	15	71	46	76	56
Slovak		1	6	2		1			1		20	10	3	6	24	24	20	
Republic			6	3		1	6	5	1		20	18	5	О	24	24	30	29
Slovenia			3	2			3	2			3				3	0	6	2
Spain			7	2			7	2			2				2	0	9	2
Sweden							0	0							0	0	0	0
Switzerland		3	4	2	1	1	5	6			2	3	1		3	3	8	9

		LEADING CASES									REPETITIVE CASES								
STATE	Enhanced supervision		Standard supervision		Awaiting classifica- tion		Total of leading cases		Enhanced supervision		Standard supervision		Awaiting classifica- tion		Total of repetitive cases		TOTAL		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
Türkiye	2	2	13	15		4	15	21	22	17	20	21	21	23	63	61	78	82	
Ukraine	2	1	5	5			7	6	72	73	15	17	31	55	118	145	125	151	
United Kingdom			1				1	0			1	1	2		3	1	4	1	
TOTAL	25	33	129	135	20	26	174	194	212	250	379	282	278	266	869	798	1043	992	

## C.4. New judgments with indications of relevance for the execution

## Pilot judgments which became final in 2024

STATE	CASE	APPLICATION	NATURE OF VIOLATIONS FOUND BY THE COURT AND MEASURES INDICATED
			Enhanced supervision  Reversal in 2021 by a panel of judges of the Supreme Court's Chamber of Extraordinary Review, not complying with the Convention requirements of an independent and impartial tribunal established by law, of a final civil defamation judgment in the applicant's favour adopted in 2011. The 2021 judgment was also rendered in a procedure incompatible with the principle of legal certainty following the Prosecutor General's extraordinary appeal. Moreover, the private life of the applicant, a renowned figure recognised in Poland and internationally as former leader of Solidarność Trade Union and laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, was adversely affected by the reversal of the final judgment, which was not based on a law guaranteeing proper safeguards against arbitrariness and revealed procedural irregularities on the part of the Prosecutor General.
Poland	Wałęsa	37474/20	The Court applied the pilot-judgment procedure in the present case, as a part of the group concerning the successive judicial reforms launched in Poland 2017 which resulted in the weakening of judicial independence and the exposure of the judiciary to interference by the executive and legislative powers. At the time of the adoption of the pilot judgment, there were 492 pending cases concerning the judicial reform in Poland (mostly concerning the right to an independent and impartial tribunal established by law), out of which 202 were communicated to the authorities. The Court adjourned for one year the examination of similar cases of which notice had not yet been given to the authorities. As regards the Chamber of the Extraordinary Review, the Court indicated that Poland should take legislative measures satisfying the requirements of an independent and impartial tribunal established by law and that, more generally, issues concerning the independence of judges are to be determined by courts which are themselves independent and established by law. Furthermore, the Court indicated that Poland should remove or amend certain legislative provisions governing the extraordinary review appeal.

# Judgments with indications of relevance for the execution (under Article 46) which became final in 2024

**Note:** If the judgment has already been classified, the corresponding supervision procedure is indicated.

STATE	CASE	APPLICATION	NATURE OF VIOLATIONS FOUND BY THE COURT  AND MEASURES INDICATED
Albania	Nika	1049/17	Enhanced supervision  Unjustified use of lethal force by National Guard officers during a political protest, in January 2011, resulting in the death of applicants' relative from a gunshot wound in the head and the ineffectiveness of the subsequent investigation. Three other protesters were also killed, and several protesters and officers of the National Guard and the police were injured.  Noting that the laws regulating the use of firearms have in the meantime been amended and that the use of lethal force by State agents and the related investigations raise complex legal and practical issues which may require a variety of
			measures, the Court abstained from formulating general measures. As regards individual measures, the Court, noting that the criminal investigation was still open, considered that the authorities should continue (in so far as this proves feasible) their efforts aimed at elucidating the circumstances surrounding A.N.'s death, and at identifying and punishing those responsible, where appropriate.
Latvia	D.	76680/17	Enhanced supervision  Failure of the domestic authorities to take adequate steps to protect the applicant from the degrading treatment associated with his belonging to the group of "kreisie" prisoners, i.e. the lowest level of an informal prisoner hierarchy in the prisons where he was incarcerated between 2008 and 2017. The domestic authorities did not put in place effective mechanisms to improve the applicant's individual situation or deal with the issue in a comprehensive manner.  The Court considered that to avoid similar violations in the future, the domestic
			authorities must address the issue of informal prison hierarchies in a manner that goes beyond the circumstances of the case. The competent authorities must draw the necessary conclusions from the judgment and take appropriate general measures to address the problem that has led to the finding of a violation. More specifically, the domestic courts are required to take due account of the Convention standards as applied in this judgment.  Enhanced supervision
			Unlawful and undisclosed detention of the applicant, a High Value Detainee, in a CIA secret detention facility in Lithuania from February 2005 until March 2006. The respondent State's complicity in the CIA's High-Value Detainee programme, which enabled the US authorities to subject the applicant to inhuman treatment on its territory and to transfer him to and from its territory, thereby exposing him to a foreseeable risk of further ill-treatment and conditions of detention in violation of Article 3. Lithuania's co-operation in the applicant's transfer ("extraordinary rendition") from its territory despite a substantial and foreseeable risk of a flagrantly unfair trial before the US military commission in Guantánamo and the death penalty being imposed on him. Lack of effective and thorough investigation into the applicant's allegations of serious violations of the Convention.
Lithuania	Al-Hawsawi	6383/17	As regards individual measures, in order to comply with its obligations under Article 2 and 3 of the Convention taken together with Article 1 of Protocol No. 6 of the Convention, Lithuania must endeavour to remove, as soon as possible, the risk that the applicant would be subjected to the death penalty by seeking assurances from the US authorities that it would not be imposed.
			The Court noted that the treaty obligation of Lithuania under Article 46 of the Convention to take the necessary individual measures to redress as far as possible the violation found by the Court, requires that the Lithuanian authorities attempt to make further representations to the US authorities with a view to removing or, at the very least seeking to limit, as far as possible, the effects of the above Convention violations suffered by the applicant.
			Having regard to the nature of the procedural violation of Article 3, Lithuania is required to take all necessary steps to reactivate and advance the still pending criminal investigation without delay and to bring it to a close as soon as possible, and to enable the identification, accountability and, where appropriate, punishment of those responsible.

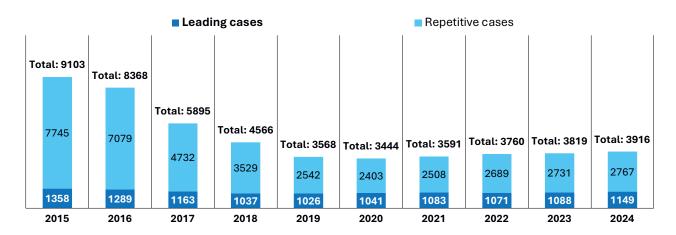
STATE	CASE	APPLICATION	NATURE OF VIOLATIONS FOUND BY THE COURT AND MEASURES INDICATED
Malta		12427/22	Enhanced supervision  Lack of legal basis for the detention and inadequate detention conditions in various immigration centres of a vulnerable individual in 2021-2022, presumably a minor with a health condition, amounting to inhuman and degrading treatment.  Lack of an effective remedy for complaints of ongoing conditions of detention.
	A.D.		As regards general measures, the Court called on the Maltese authorities to ensure a legal basis in domestic law for any detention for health considerations, in conformity with the general principle of legal certainty and to ensure that relevant domestic law is effectively applied in practice, so that vulnerable individuals are not detained, necessary detention periods are limited so that they remain connected to detention ground applicable in an immigration context and undertaken in appropriate places and conditions in view of that context.
			Enhanced supervision Involuntary placement in a psychiatric hospital and unnecessary psychiat-
Republic of Moldova	V.I.	38963/18	ric treatment of a 15-year-old orphan with mild mental disability in 2014, his subsequent transfer to an adult ward and use of chemical restraints without proven medical necessity, as well as ineffective investigation into these facts and into allegations of sexual abuse by other patients. Lack of safeguards and mechanisms capable of preventing and detecting ill-treatment of children in a psychiatric context and a discriminatory practice in respect of children with an actual or a perceived intellectual disability. Lack of an appropriate mechanism capable of affording redress to people with intellectual disabilities, particularly children.
			The Court noted that this case disclosed a systemic problem and that the nature of the violations found suggests that a number of general measures aimed at reforming the system of involuntary placement in a psychiatric hospital and involuntary psychiatric treatment of persons with intellectual disabilities, in particular children, were required from the respondent State. The Court further noted that these measures should include the legal safeguards and mechanisms described in its judgment and should address the discrimination of persons with intellectual disabilities, and in particular children.
			Standard supervision
Montenegro			Unjustified non-enforcement of final domestic judgment and two administrative decisions of 2010 in respect of the removal of unlawful constructions on the applicant's plots of land. Regarding the pending expropriation proceedings in the alleged public interest against the applicant, the Court was not convinced by the authorities' argument on the impossibility to enforce the earlier administrative decisions, after the municipality had become the new co-owner of the property, as the expropriation proceedings were not preliminary to the issue.
	Vlahović	62444/10	As regards individual measures, having regard to the specific circumstances of the present case, the fact that the expropriation proceedings were initiated in 2010 and the alleged public interest in having an access road and sewage collection system on the relevant plots of land, the Court found under Article 46 that appropriate arrangements be made in order to ensure that the expropriation proceedings are conducted and concluded without any further unnecessary delays, at the latest within one year from the date when this judgment becomes final. Should the expropriation proceedings not be completed within that time-limit or should the land not be expropriated, the judgment and the decisions delivered in favour of the applicant should be enforced within three months after that date, at the latest.

STATE	CASE	APPLICATION	NATURE OF VIOLATIONS FOUND BY THE COURT AND MEASURES INDICATED							
Portugal			Enhanced supervision  Preventive detention of a mentally ill person in 2021, exempted from crimin responsibility, in the psychiatric unit of a prison hospital, in inadequate concitions and without appropriate assistance and care, despite the domestic coudecision ordering his confinement in an appropriate psychiatric establishmen where he could receive appropriate treatment as required by his state of ment health.							
	Miranda Magro	30138/21	As regards general measures, the Court noted that the positive steps recently taken in national legislation to favour the placement of persons with mental disorders in mental health facilities in the wider health system offered a good starting-point, but considered that the enactment of legislation alone will not solve the problems described in this judgment. In view of the structural nature, in particular, of the issues arising in connection with the enforcement of preventive detention measures in prisons, the Court considered that the necessary steps should be taken as a matter of urgency to ensure adequate living conditions and the provision of suitable and individualised forms of therapy for mentally ill persons who, because of their state of health, require special care, such as the applicant, in order to support their possible return and integration into the community.							
Switzerland	Verein Klima Seniorinnen Schweiz and Others	53600/20	Enhanced supervision  Failure of the authorities to mitigate climate change and, in particular, the effects of global warming. The Court found that there had been some critical lacunae in the process by which the Swiss authorities established the relevant national regulatory framework, including the failure to quantify, national greenhouse gas emissions limits through a carbon budget or otherwise, and to meet past emission reduction targets. The Court concluded that the authorities had failed to act in a timely, appropriate and consistent manner regarding in the design, development and implementation of the relevant legislative and administrative framework to fulfil their positive obligations under the Convention in relation to climate change. The case also concerns the lack of access to a court by the applicant association with a complaint concerning the effective implementation of mitigation measures under existing domestic law in 2016-2020.  Having regard to the complexity and the nature of the issues involved, the Court							

## **D. Pending cases**

Pending cases are those in which the execution process is ongoing. As a consequence, pending cases are at various stages of execution and must not be understood as unexecuted cases. In the overwhelming majority of these cases, cases remain pending mainly awaiting implementation of general measures, some of which are very complex, requiring considerable time. The significant decrease in the number of pending cases from 2016 to 2017 can be explained by a change in the Committee of Ministers' practice that year to allow the closure of repetitive cases, in which all individual measures had been taken (even if there were outstanding general measures still being followed in the leading case).

## **D.1. Overview**



## D.2. Enhanced or standard supervision

### Leading cases pending



## Total number of pending cases



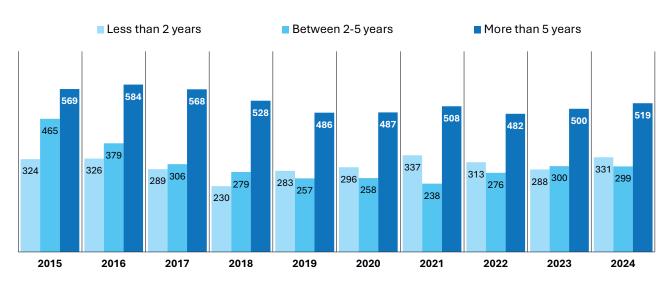
# D.3. Pending cases - state by state

	LEADING CASES							REPETITIVE CASES										
STATE	super	nced	super	dard vision	Awa class tio	ifica- on	lead ca:	al of ding ses	-	vision	super	dard vision	class tio	iting ifica- on	repe ca	ses		TAL
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Albania	4	6	20	19			24	25	6	4	18	25	6	4	30	33	54	58
Andorra							0	0							0	0	0	0
Armenia	6	7	20	21	2		28	28	17	13	23	27	2	3	42	43	70	71
Austria			6	5			6	5			3	1	1	2	4	3	10	8
Azerbaijan	21	23	29	28			50	51	129	130	137	130	21	18	287	278	337	329
Belgium	7	7	13	9	1	1	21	17	5	5	5	5	5		15	10	36	27
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1	10	10		1	11	12	4	3	16	16			20	19	31	31
Bulgaria	32	27	56	62	1		89	89	32	28	41	40	4	7	77	75	166	164
Croatia	2	2	25	25		3	27	30	6	6	32	20	2	7	40	33	67	63
Cyprus	1	1	9	6		1	10	8			3			1	3	1	13	9
Czech Republic	1	2	4	6		1	5	9			2	2	1	1	3	3	8	12
Denmark	1	1	2	2			3	3			2	6	2		4	6	7	9
Estonia			2	5	1		3	5							0	0	3	5
Finland	1		1	1			2	1			4	4			4	4	6	5
France	5	5	15	19		2	20	26	1	1	13	9	8	3	22	13	42	39
Georgia	7	8	20	19			27	27	30	31	17	12	4	3	51	46	78	73
Germany	1		9	9			10	9			1		1		2	0	12	9
Greece	7	6	20	24	1		28	30	16	10	16	19	10	9	42	38	70	68
Hungary	18	21	26	26	1		45	47	50	66	51	56	19	29	120	151	165	198
Iceland		1					0	1							0	0	0	1
Ireland	1	1	1	1			2	2							0	0	2	2
Italy	27	30	36	44	3		66	74	28	72	119	141	36	23	183	236	249	310
Latvia		1	8	6		2	8	9						3	0	3	8	12
Liechtenstein					_		0	0							0	0	0	0
Lithuania	3	3	18	16	1	1	22	20		1	12	14		1	12	15	34	35
Luxembourg Malta	6	4	2 9	10			2 15	4 14	26	3	7	35	9	4	2 42	42	4 57	8 56
Republic of	9	10	36	36	1		46	46	16	16	95	90	5	11	116	117	162	163
Moldova		- 10										,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,						
Monaco				1			0	1							0	0	0	1
Montenegro		1	3	5			3	6		6	2	2	1	8	3	16	6	22
Netherlands	1	2	4	5			5	7			2	1		1	2	2	7	9
North Macedonia	4	3	7	13	2	2	13	18	4	2	7	9	9	2	20	13	33	31
Norway	1	1					1	1	5	5					5	5	6	6
Poland	16	24	28	27	2	1	46	52	27	45	38	32	20	18	85	95	131	147
Portugal	4	5	12	13		1	16	19	7	9	18	24	7	4	32	37	48	56
Romania	37	37	77	74	1		115	111	214	217	134	80	13	3	361	300	476	411
San Marino			3	3			3	3						2	0	2	3	5
Serbia	5	5	7	11	2	4	14	20	25	21	4	5	34	15	63	41	77	61
Slovak Republic	4	5	25	25		1	29	31	3	3	34	26	3	6	40	35	69	66
Slovenia	1	1	4	3			5	4			1				1	0	6	4
Spain	1	1	22	22			23	23			7	7			7	7	30	30
Sweden	1	1					1	1							0	0	1	1
Switzerland		3	8	6	1	1	9	10			1		1		2	0	11	10

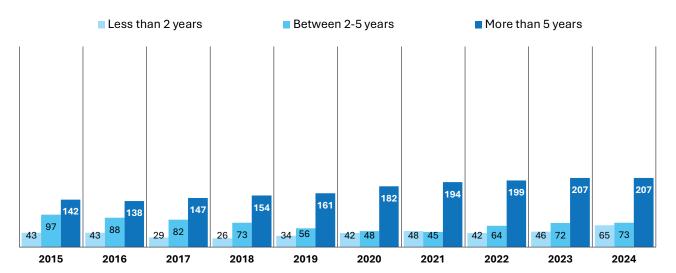
					LEADING CASES						REPETITIVE CASES							
STATE		nced vision		dard vision	class	iting ifica- on	lead	al of ding ses		nced vision		dard vision	class	iting ifica- on	repe	al of titive ses	TO	TAL
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Türkiye	35	37	89	96		4	124	137	150	138	151	142	21	23	322	303	446	440
Ukraine	50	48	53	58			103	106	558	586	74	95	31	55	663	736	766	842
United Kingdom	4	4	4	3			8	7	2	2			2		4	2	12	9
TOTAL	325	345	743	778	20	26	1088	1149	1361	1423	1092	1078	278	266	2731	2767	3819	3916

# D.4. Length of the execution of leading cases pending

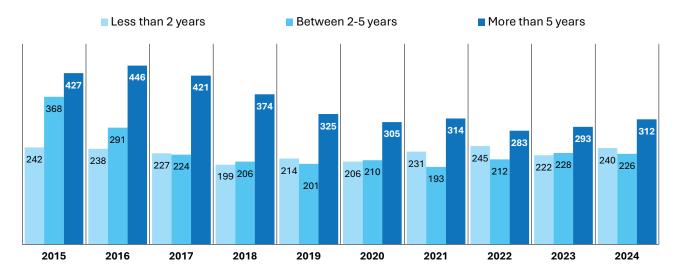
# **Overview**



# Leading cases under enhanced supervision



# Leading cases under standard supervision

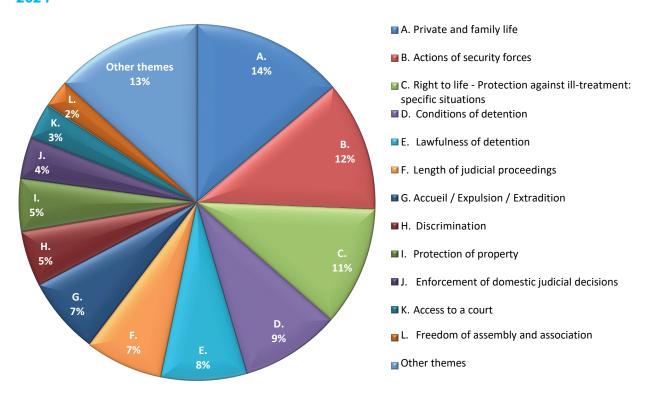


Leading cases pending – state by state

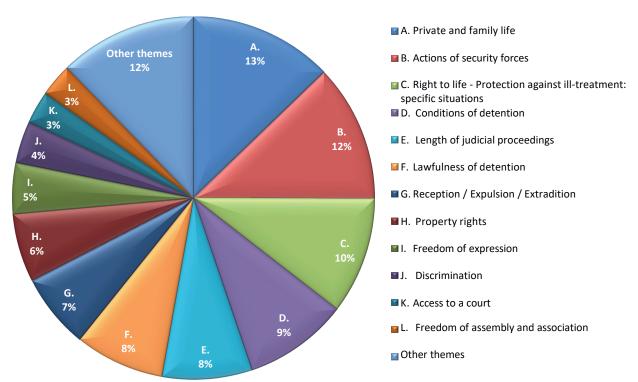
		ENH	ANCED S	SUPERVIS	SION			STA	NDARD S	UPERVIS	ION	
STATE	< 2 y	ears	2-5 y	/ears	>5 y	ears	< 2 y	ears	2-5 y	ears	>5 y	ears
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Albania	1	2	1	2	2	2	8	9	5	2	7	8
Andorra												
Armenia	1	2		2	5	3	8	7	6	9	6	5
Austria							4	3	2	2		
Azerbaijan	1	2	6	6	14	15	8	5	6	10	15	13
Belgium		1	3	1	4	5	6	3	7	6		
Bosnia and Herzegovina					1	1	2	1	3	3	5	6
Bulgaria	8	3	3	8	21	16	9	11	17	18	30	33
Croatia	1			1	1	1	14	12	6	12	5	1
Cyprus		1			1		4		3	4	2	2
Czech Republic		1			1	1	4	5		1		
Denmark	1	1						1	2	1		
Estonia							1	3	1	2		
Finland					1						1	1
France	1		3	3	1	2	6	11	6	6	3	2
Georgia	1	2	1	1	5	5	2	5	10	5	8	9
Germany	1						1	3	4	4	4	2
Greece	1	1			6	5	7	10	6	5	7	9
Hungary	4	6	5	4	9	11	3	6	10	8	13	12
Iceland		1										
Ireland					1	1					1	1
Italy	5	6	8	8	14	16	5	13	12	10	19	21
Latvia		1					5	3	3	3		
Liechtenstein												
Lithuania	1	1			2	2	8	4	5	5	5	7
Luxembourg							2	3		1		

		ENH	ANCED S	UPERVIS	SION		STANDARD SUPERVISION						
STATE	< 2 y	ears	2-5 y	/ears	>5 y	ears	< 2 y	ears	2-5 y	rears	>5 y	ears	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
Malta	1	2	2	2	3		2		3	3	4	7	
Republic of Moldova	2	2	1	1	6	7	7	11	8	6	21	19	
Monaco								1					
Montenegro		1						2	2	1	1	2	
Netherlands					1	2	1	4	2	1	1		
North Macedonia	1	1	1		2	2	4	9	1	2	2	2	
Norway			1			1							
Poland	3	9	5	7	8	8	12	11	5	4	11	12	
Portugal	1	3	2	1	1	1		1	4	4	8	8	
Romania	5	4	9	9	23	24	16	13	31	23	30	38	
San Marino							1	1	2	2			
Serbia					5	5	4	6	2	4	1	1	
Slovak Republic	2	1	2	4			10	9	11	9	4	7	
Slovenia			1	1			4	3					
Spain					1	1	12	9	7	9	3	4	
Sweden			1	1									
Switzerland		3					4	3	3	2	1	1	
Türkiye	2	5	9	5	24	27	21	28	20	19	48	49	
Ukraine	2	3	6	4	42	41	16	10	10	19	27	29	
United Kingdom			2	2	2	2	1	1	3	1		1	
TOTAL	46	65	72	73	207	207	222	240	228	226	293	312	

# 2024

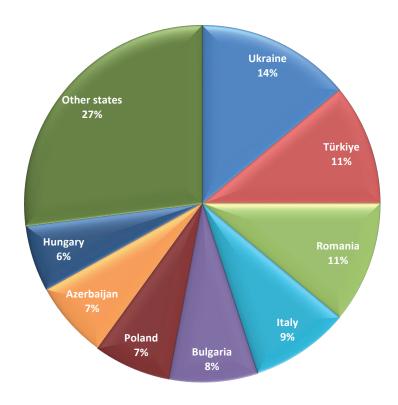


# 2023

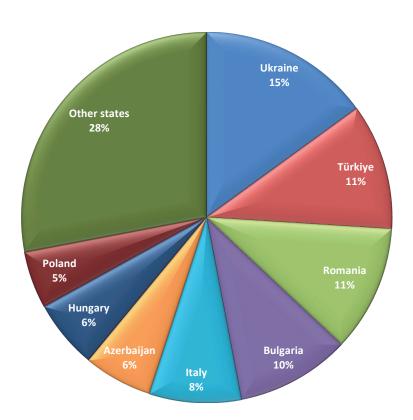


<sup>34.</sup> Leading cases pending as of 31 December 2024.

2024



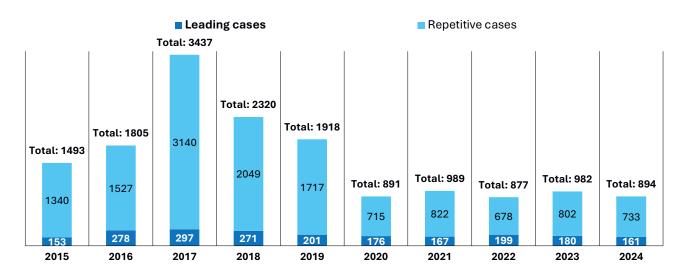
**2023** 



# **E. Closed cases**

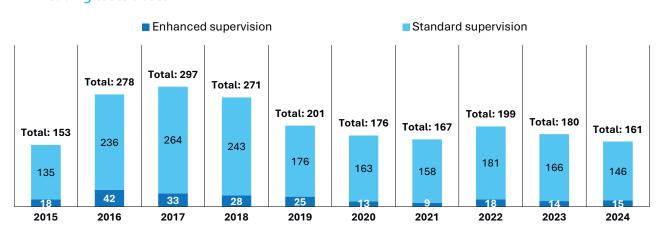
The significant increase in the number of closed cases in 2017 can be explained by a change in the Committee of Ministers' practice that year to allow the closure of repetitive cases, in which all individual measures had been taken (even if there were outstanding general measures still being followed in the leading case). The numbers of closed cases stabilised in 2020 when the backlog of all such cases had been cleared through dialogue with the authorities.

### **E.1. Overview**

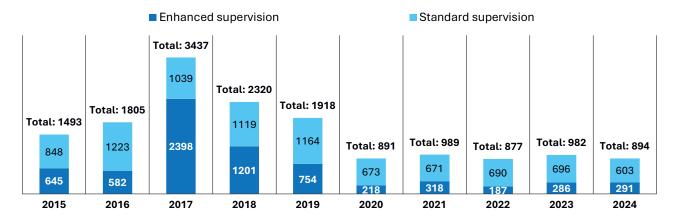


# E.2. Enhanced or standard supervision

# Leading cases closed



# Total number of cases closed



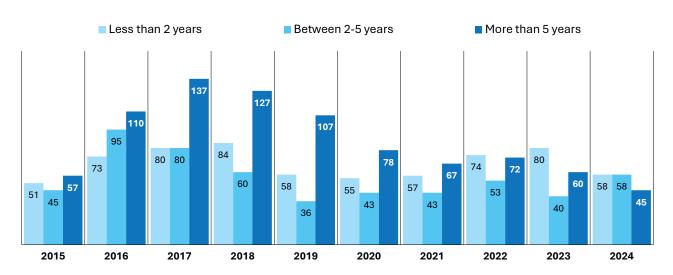
# E.3. Closed cases – state by state

		L	EADIN.	G CASE	S			RI	PETITI	VE CASI	ES			
STATE	Enha super	nced vision		dard vision		al of g cases		nced vision		dard vision	repe	al of titive ses	то	TAL
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Albania				7	0	7		7	4	2	4	9	4	16
Andorra					0	0					0	0	0	0
Armenia		2	1	5	1	7	8	5	6	2	14	7	15	14
Austria			1	2	1	2			2	3	2	3	3	5
Azerbaijan			6	4	6	4	4	10	22	56	26	66	32	70
Belgium		1	7	6	7	7		1	16	6	16	7	23	14
Bosnia and			3		3	0		1	11	4	11	5	14	5
Herzegovina								·						
Bulgaria	2	2	12	6	14	8	7	4	26	9	33	13	47	21
Croatia			5	10	5	10			31	26	31	26	36	36
Cyprus		1	1	3	1	4				5	0	5	1	9
Czech Republic			1	2	1	2			3	2	3	2	4	4
Denmark			1	1	1	1				2	0	2	1	3
Estonia			2		2	0					0	0	2	0
Finland		1	7		7	1			5		5	0	12	1
France			9	9	9	9		1	5	10	5	- 11	14	20
Georgia			4	4	4	4	1	4		10	1	14	5	18
Germany		1	4	3	4	4			1	2	1	2	5	6
Greece	2		6	4	8	4	6	9	21	18	27	27	35	31
Hungary	1		5	4	6	4	24	18	93	45	117	63	123	67
Iceland			1		1	0			4		4	0	5	0
Ireland					0	0					0	0	0	0
Italy		3	2		2	3	2	4	21	8	23	12	25	15
Latvia			2	4	2	4					0	0	2	4
Liechtenstein					0	0					0	0	0	0
Lithuania			2	6	2	6			7		7	0	9	6
Luxembourg					0	0					0	0	0	0
Malta			2	2	2	2		9	2		2	9	4	11
Republic of Moldova			6	9	6	9	6	2	8	9	14	-11	20	20
Monaco			1		1	0					0	0	1	0
Montenegro			2		2	0			5	1	5	1	7	1
Netherlands				2	0	2			4	3	4	3	4	5
North		1	4	1	4	2	4	2	8	14	12	16	16	18
Macedonia		'		'						1-7	12		10	.0
Norway					0	0	1				1	0	1	0
Poland			12	6	12	6	13	6	25	47	38	53	50	59
Portugal		1			0	1	1	6	7	5	8	11	8	12
Romania	2		10	11	12	11	38	31	71	74	109	105	121	116
San Marino					0	0			1		1	0	1	0
Serbia			4	4	4	4	84	59	8	9	92	68	96	72
Slovak Republic			3	3	3	3			17	29	17	29	20	32
Slovenia			2	3	2	3			4	1	4	1	6	4
Spain			5	2	5	2			4		4	0	9	2
Sweden	1				1	0					0	0	1	0
Switzerland			4	5	4	5			4	5	4	5	8	10

		L	EADIN	G CASE	S		REPETITIVE CASES							
STATE		nced vision	Standard supervision		Total of leading cases		Enhanced supervision		Standard supervision		Total of repetitive cases		TOTAL	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Türkiye	3	1	18	15	21	16	28	35	62	37	90	72	111	88
Ukraine	2	1	8	2	10	3	44	62	21	10	65	72	75	75
United Kingdom	1		3	1	4	1	1		1	3	2	3	6	4
TOTAL	14	15	166	146	180	161	272	276	530	457	802	733	982	894

# E.4. Length of the execution of leading cases closed

# Overview



# *Leading cases closed – state by state*

		ENH	ANCED S	SUPERVIS	ION			STA	NDARD S	UPERVIS	ION	
STATE	< 2 y	ears	2-5 y	years	>5 y	ears	< 2 y	ears	2-5 y	ears	>5 y	ears
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Albania								4		2		1
Andorra												
Armenia						2	1	3		1		1
Austria							1	1		1		
Azerbaijan							1	1	2	1	3	2
Belgium				1			4	2	2	3	1	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina							2		1			
Bulgaria		1			2	1	2	2	3	2	7	2
Croatia							4	3		3	1	4
Cyprus						1		3			1	
Czech Republic								1	1	1		
Denmark							1			1		
Estonia							2					

		ENH	ANCED S	SUPERVIS	ION			STA	NDARD S	UPERVIS	ION	
STATE	< 2 y	ears /	2-5 y	years	>5 y	ears	< 2 y	ears	2-5 y	ears	>5 y	ears
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Finland						1					7	
France							4	3	3	5	2	1
Georgia							3		1	2		2
Germany		1						1	1		3	2
Greece					2		5	1	1	2		1
Hungary					1			1		2	5	1
Iceland							1					
Ireland												
Italy				1		2			2			
Latvia							1	1	1	3		
Liechtenstein												
Lithuania							1	4	1	2		
Luxembourg												
Malta							1	1	1			1
Republic of Moldova							5	2	1	4		3
Monaco							1					
Montenegro							1		1			
Netherlands								1		1		
North Macedonia						1		1	4			
Norway												
Poland							6	2	2	3	4	1
Portugal						1						
Romania	1		1				7	3	2	5	1	3
San Marino												
Serbia							2	4	2			
Slovak Republic							2		1	3		
Slovenia							1	2	1	1		
Spain							3		1	1	1	1
Sweden					1							
Switzerland							4	4		1		
Türkiye					3	1	4	5	2	4	12	6
Ukraine					2	1	6		2	1		1
United Kingdom					1		3			1		
TOTAL	1	2	1	2	12	11	79	56	39	56	48	34

# F. Just satisfaction

# F.1. Just satisfaction awarded

# Global amount

YEAR	TOTAL AWARDED
2024	43 645 371 €
2023	52 533 119 €
2022	30 646 632 €
2021	24 463 389 €
2020	64 994 093 €
2019	48 697 318 €
2018	55 624 403 €
2017	45 841 226 €
2016	74 908 733 €
2015	48 394 302 €

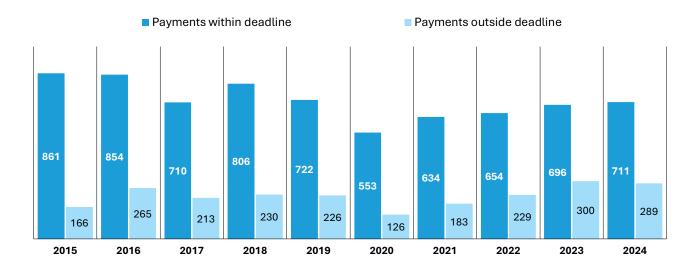
# State by state

CTATE	TOTAL AV	VARDED
STATE	2023	2024
Albania	114 990 €	336 800 €
Andorra	0€	0€
Armenia	481 494 €	206 810 €
Austria	29 160 €	45 100 €
Azerbaijan	883 635 €	568 800 €
Belgium	188 874 €	138 700 €
Bosnia and Herzegovina	54 000 €	46 470 €
Bulgaria	2 227 370 €	238 064 €
Croatia	209 577 €	397 955 €
Cyprus	44 600 €	42 050 €
Czech Republic	30 339 €	82 900 €
Denmark	45 400 €	81 800 €
Estonia	15 070 €	41 544€
Finland	0€	0€
France	321 185€	2 488 633 €
Georgia	144 700 €	85 512 €
Germany	12 000 €	30 000 €
Greece	2 811 110 €	478 710 €
Hungary	4 812 873 €	5 567 362€
Iceland	0€	26 000 €
Ireland	0€	0€
Italy	22 631 295 €	13 745 988 €
Latvia	24 376 €	21 828€
Liechtenstein	0€	0€
Lithuania	84 996 €	183 874 €

STATE	TOTAL AV	VARDED
SIAIE	2023	2024
Luxembourg	55 000 €	52 500 €
Malta	632 937 €	172 000 €
Republic of Moldova	294 251 €	270 361 €
Monaco	0€	0€
Montenegro	13 000 €	100 155 €
Netherlands	15 774 €	79 582 €
North Macedonia	828 673 €	2 191 889 €
Norway	150 000 €	0€
Poland	977 076 €	1 463 344 €
Portugal	281 475 €	581 512 €
Romania	1 930 743 €	1 434 355 €
San Marino	10 000 €	9 000 €
Serbia	690 455 €	460 260 €
Slovak Republic	5 342 468 €	468 826 €
Slovenia	26 365 €	419 100 €
Spain	125 916 €	42 840 €
Sweden	0€	0€
Switzerland	148 085 €	305 725 €
Türkiye	3 003 567 €	8 028 888 €
Ukraine	2 166 105 €	2 673 680 €
United Kingdom	674 186 €	36 454 €
TOTAL	52 533 119€	43 645 371 €

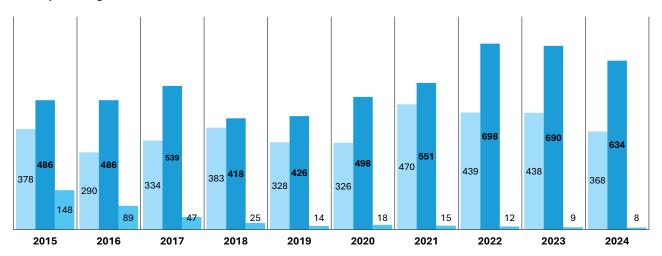
# F.2. Respect of payment deadlines

# Overview of payments made



# **Awaiting Information on payment**

- Awaiting confirmation of payment
- Awaiting confirmation of payment for more than 6 months (after the payment deadline)
- Only awaiting default interest



# State by state

				RESPEC	T OF PAY	MENT DEA	DLINES			
STATE		ts within dline	Payments outside deadline		Cases only awaiting default interest		confirm payme	waiting ation of ents on ember	including cases awaiting this information for more than six months (outside payment deadline)	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Albania	3	7	8	15			22	17	6	6
Andorra										
Armenia	24	13		3			4	1	1	1
Austria	1	3	2				3	2	1	1
Azerbaijan	34	25	29	20	3	3	89	97	45	61
Belgium	6	2	8	3			5	4	5	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	4	2	1			14	13	13	12
Bulgaria	54	11	9	10			13	9	4	3
Croatia	29	18	1				2	12	1	1
Cyprus	3	2	1					2		
Czech Republic	4	8					2	1		
Denmark	1	6	1							
Estonia	2	2								
Finland										
France	16	12	8	3			8	9	2	4
Georgia	12	9					5	5	3	3
Germany		2		1			1			
Greece	35	25					7	7		
Hungary	81	100	22	9			47	32	14	4
Iceland		1								

	RESPECT OF PAYMENT DEADLINES									
STATE	Payments within deadline		Payments outside deadline		Cases only awaiting default interest		Cases awaiting confirmation of payments on 31 December		including cases awaiting this information for more than six months (outside payment deadline)	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Ireland										
Italy	12	47	3	42	5	4	136	122	73	80
Latvia	4	3						2		
Liechtenstein										
Lithuania	6	6								
Luxembourg	1		2	2				1		
Malta	10	10					6	1	1	1
Republic of Moldova	31	14					4	9		
Monaco										
Montenegro	5	11					1	4		
Netherlands	6	7								
North Macedonia	9	22	2	3			9	2		
Norway	1	3					3			
Poland	53	59	7				18	26		3
Portugal	8	20	3	5			16	8	5	5
Romania	80	76	52	45			176	99	152	96
San Marino	2	1					1	2	1	
Serbia	42	42	39	42			52	16	9	1
Slovak Republic	17	45		1			24	4	3	1
Slovenia	8	3								
Spain	6	4	2				3	1		
Sweden										
Switzerland	10	10					2			
Türkiye	47	21	21	12			70	104	58	57
Ukraine	26	54	77	72	1	1	384	390	293	290
United Kingdom	1	3	1				1			
Total	696	711	300	289	9	8	1128	1002	690	634

# **G.** Additional statistics

# G.1. Overview of friendly settlements and WECL cases

"WECL" cases are judgments on the merits rendered by a Committee of three judges, if the issues raised by the case are already the subject of "Well-Established Case-Law" of the Court. As can be seen in the second table below, they often deal with multiple joined applications. This leads to an increased workload for the Committee of Ministers and DEJ since the Committee, in its supervisory role, is required to ensure that the individual measures (payment of just satisfaction, release from detention, reopening of domestic proceedings etc) have been taken for every applicant in a single judgment. Even if the individual measures have been taken for nine out of ten applicants, the supervision of the case must continue and the case cannot be closed by the adoption of a final resolution until redress has been provided to every applicant concerned.

Year	"WECL" cases Article 28§1b	New friendly settlements without undertaking	New friendly settlements with undertaking	TOTAL of new friendly settlements
2024	532	237	52	289
2023	477	289	62	351
2022	446	293	77	370
2021	501	309	43	352
2020	337	179	16	195
2019	390	296	12	308
2018	359	322	21	343
2017	301	322	23	345
2016	181	433	6	439
2015	143	517	59	576

# G.2. WECL cases and friendly settlements - state by state

STATE	"WECL" cases Article 28 § 1b (number of corresponding applications)			Friendly settlements Article 39 § 4 (number of corresponding applications)			TOTAL (number of applications related to both WECL and friendly settlements)					
	20	23	20	24	20	23	20	24	20	23	20	24
Albania	14	(22)	13	(15)	1	(1)	2	(4)	15	(23)	15	(19)
Andorra									0			
Armenia	17	(23)	9	(9)	3	(5)			20	(28)	9	(9)
Austria	4	(4)	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(2)	5	(5)	2	(3)
Azerbaijan	25	(56)	30	(55)	44	(152)	25	(64)	69	(208)	55	(119)
Belgium	1	(1)	1	(1)	6	(8)	3	(9)	7	(9)	4	(10)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	(1)	2	(2)	1	(1)	3	(14)	2	(2)	5	(16)
Bulgaria	16	(23)	9	(11)	6	(7)	3	(3)	22	(30)	12	(14)
Croatia	19	(19)	17	(18)	4	(5)	10	(18)	23	(24)	27	(36)
Cyprus	1	(1)	3	(3)			1	(1)	1	(1)	4	(4)
Czech Republic			4	(10)	2	(2)	2	(2)	2	(2)	6	(12)
Denmark					1	(1)	2	(2)	1	(1)	2	(2)
Estonia	2	(2)							2	(2)	0	
Finland									0		0	
France	4	(5)	4	(5)	5	(5)	3	(3)	9	(10)	7	(8)
Georgia	4	(4)	9	(9)					4	(4)	9	(9)
Germany	1	(1)					1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Greece	12	(13)	15	(31)	16	(367)	8	(20)	28	(380)	23	(51)

STATE	"WECL" cases Article 28 § 1b (number of corresponding applications)			Friendly settlements Article 39 § 4 (number of corresponding applications)			TOTAL (number of applications related to both WECL and friendly settlements)					
	20	)23	20	24	20	)23	20	24	20	23	20	24
Hungary	30	(64)	41	(219)	33	(234)	52	(394)	63	(298)	93	(613)
Iceland									0		0	
Ireland									0		0	
Italy	37	(98)	45	(374)	40	(164)	25	(66)	77	(262)	70	(440)
Latvia			5	(7)					0		5	(7)
Liechtenstein									0		0	
Lithuania			2	(2)					0		2	(2)
Luxembourg			3	(3)			1	(1)	0		4	(4)
Malta	13	(13)	5	(5)			3	(4)	13	(13)	8	(9)
Republic of Moldova	13	(29)	7	(15)	7	(10)	5	(5)	20	(39)	12	(20)
Monaco									0		0	
Montenegro			9	(9)	4	(6)	8	(16)	4	(6)	17	(25)
Netherlands	2	(2)	1	(1)	4	(4)	3	(3)	6	(6)	4	(4)
North Macedonia	5	(14)	6	(8)	12	(86)	5	(12)	17	(100)	11	(20)
Norway	3	(9)							3	(9)	0	
Poland	18	(46)	27	(58)	28	(135)	35	(125)	46	(181)	62	(183)
Portugal	6	(6)	12	(19)	11	(18)	7	(26)	17	(24)	19	(45)
Romania	52	(343)	44	(223)	27	(57)	2	(2)	79	(400)	46	(225)
San Marino					1	(1)	2	(2)	1	(1)	2	(2)
Serbia	5	(11)	7	(8)	67	(489)	46	(326)	72	(500)	53	(334)
Slovak Republic	12	(12)	7	(12)	13	(19)	19	(23)	25	(31)	26	(35)
Slovenia	1	(1)			3	(3)			4	(4)	0	
Spain	1	(4)							1	(4)	0	
Sweden									0		0	
Switzerland	2	(4)	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)	4	(6)	3	(3)
Türkiye	40	(704)	48	(2052)	7	(9)	9	(13)	47	(713)	57	(2065)
Ukraine	116	(373)	145	(539)					116	(373)	145	(539)
United Kingdom					2	(2)	1	(1)	2	(2)	1	(1)
TOTAL	477	(1908)35	532	(3725)	351	(1794)	289	(1164)	828	(3702)	821	(4889)

<sup>35.</sup> For comparison, in 2011 there were 259 WECL cases corresponding to 371 applications.



# Chapter VI

# **Statistics on the supervision process**

As the Committee of Ministers continues to supervise the execution of judgments and decisions against the Russian Federation, unlike Chapter V, the following statistics related to general case processing continue to include data concerning the Russian Federation.

# A. Action plans/reports

Since the introduction of new working methods in 2011, states must submit an action plan or action report to the Committee of Ministers, as soon as possible and in any case at the latest within six months of a judgment becoming final. Action plans set out the measures taken and/or envisaged by the respondent state to fully implement a judgment, together with an indicative timetable. Action reports set out the measures taken which in the respondent state's view fully implement the judgment and/or an explanation of why no measures, or no further measures, are necessary.

Year	Action plans received	Action reports received	Reminder letters <sup>36</sup> (states concerned)
2024	336	497	82 (19)
2023	294	541	80 (17)
2022	254	509	92 (17)
2021	245	427	84 (16)
2020	212	398	48 (19)
2019	172	438	54 (18)
2018	187	462	53 (16)
2017	249	570	75 (36)
2016	252	504	69 (27)
2015	236	350	56 (20)

# **B.** Interventions of the Committee of Ministers<sup>37</sup>

Year	Number of interventions of the CM during the year	Total cases / groups of cases examined	States concerned	States with cases under enhanced supervision
2024	165	148	32	32
2023	160	128	30	30
2022	145	112	32	32
2021	161	120	29	28
2020	136	106	28	32
2019	131	98	24	32
2018	123	96	30	31
2017	157	116	26	31
2016	148	107	30	31
2015	108	64	25	31

<sup>36.</sup> According to the CM working methods, when the six-month deadline for states to submit an action plan / report has expired and no such document has been transmitted to the Committee of Ministers, the Department for the Execution of Judgments sends a reminder letter to the delegation concerned. If a member state has not submitted an action plan/report within three months after the reminder, and no explanation of this situation is given to the Committee of Ministers, the Secretariat is responsible for proposing the case for detailed consideration by the Committee of Ministers under the enhanced procedure (see CM/Inf/DH(2010)45final, item IV).

<sup>37.</sup> Examinations during ordinary meetings of the CM without any decision adopted are not included in these tables.

The Committee of Ministers' interventions are divided as follows:

Year	Examined four times or more	Examined three times	Examined twice	Examined once
2024	3	0	8	137
2023	4	5	10	109
2022	5	3	12	92
2021	7	2	16	95
2020	1	3	16	86
2019	3	4	14	77
2018	3	1	11	81
2017	6	2	17	89
2016	5	6	11	85
2015	4	10	9	41

# C. Transfers of leading cases/groups of cases

# Transfers to enhanced supervision

Year	Leading cases/groups of cases transferred to enhanced supervision	States concerned
2024	4	Hungary – Italy – Netherlands
2023	2 (935)	Bulgaria – (Russian Federation <sup>38</sup> )
2022	11	Albania – Belgium – Bulgaria – Italy – Serbia – Türkiye – United Kingdom
2021	2	North Macedonia – Russian Federation
2020	6	Cyprus – Sweden – Serbia – Türkiye – Hungary
2019	5	Poland – Romania – Türkiye
2018	4	Cyprus – Malta – Hungary
2017	2	Ireland – Russian Federation
2016	6	Bulgaria – Georgia – Romania – Türkiye
2015	2	Hungary – Türkiye

<sup>38.</sup> In September 2023, the Committee of Ministers decided to transfer all pending cases and classify all new cases against the Russian Federation to the enhanced supervision procedure (CM/Del/Dec(2023)1475/A2a).

# Transfers to standard supervision

Year	Leading cases/groups of cases transferred to standard supervision	States concerned
2024	11	Bulgaria – Greece – Malta – Romania – Ukraine
2023	3	Türkiye – Ukraine
2022	0	_
2021	3	Bosnia and Herzegovina – Lithuania
2020	4	Croatia – Russian Federation – Serbia – Ukraine
2019	32	North Macedonia – Greece
2018	0	-
2017	5	Bulgaria – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Russian Federation
2016	4	Greece – Ireland – Türkiye
2015	2	Norway – United Kingdom

# D. Contributions from Civil Society Organisations and National Human Rights Institutions

The distinction between communications from CSOs and communications from NHRIs was clearly made as from 2021. The statistics prior to that date combine all communications.

Year	cso	NHRI	States concerned	
2024	209	20	30	
2023	225	14	33	
2022	200	17	29	
2021	195	11	27	
2020	1:	76	28	
2019	1:	33	24	
2018	6	64		
2017	7	19		
2016	9	22		
2015	8	1	21	



# Chapter VII

# Supervision of the execution of cases against the Russian Federation

The Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe as from 16 March 2022 and a Party to the European Convention on Human Rights as from 16 September 2022. However, the Russian Federation remains bound by obligations under the Convention, including to implement all judgments of the European Court, and the Committee of Ministers continues to supervise the execution of these judgments.

# A. Overview of the situation

The Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe as from 16 March 2022 and a Party to the European Convention on Human Rights as from 16 September 2022. However, the European Court of Human Rights continues to examine applications regarding alleged human rights violations by Russia that occurred before that date and the Committee of Ministers continues to supervise the execution of the judgments and friendly settlements concerned. This was confirmed in the Committee of Ministers' Resolution CM/Res(2022)3 (23 March 2022) on legal and financial consequences of the cessation of membership of the Russian Federation in the Council of Europe (paragraph 7), which also set out that "the Russian Federation is to continue to participate in the meetings of the Committee of Ministers when the latter supervises the execution of judgments with a view to providing and receiving information concerning the judgments where it is the respondent or applicant State, without the right to participate in the adoption of decisions by the Committee nor to vote". The Reykjavík Declaration, adopted in 2023 at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, also underlined that the Russian Federation remains under the "binding and unconditional obligation under international law to implement all final judgments and decisions of the Court in relation to its acts or omissions capable of constituting a violation of the Convention that occurred before 16 September 2022".

# A.1. Continued supervision of cases following exclusion from the Council of Europe

# **Strategy adopted by the Committee of Ministers**

Based on information notes prepared by the DEJ,<sup>39</sup> the Committee continues to keep under review its strategy for the examination of the Russian cases. In its latest decision,<sup>40</sup> adopted at its Human Rights meeting in December 2024, the Committee underlined the importance of continuing its practice adopted so far in examination of cases at regular intervals, considering the strategic importance of implementation of judgments in inter-State cases, cases relating to interstate disputes and armed conflicts for the member states of the Council of Europe and the Convention system, including to ensure accountability in the context of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine. It also took note of the information document prepared by the DEJ (CM/Notes/1514/H46-A3) and requested the Secretariat to implement the proposed strategy for case processing, including by preparing and updating for each Human Rights meeting, as of March 2025, a CM/Inf document offering an overview of the execution measures required in all leading Russian cases pending execution.

# Communication with the authorities

Since March 2022, the Russian authorities ceased all communication with the Council of Europe in respect of implementation of the judgments of the Court, and they have chosen not to participate in the Committee of Ministers Human Rights meetings, which the Committee of Ministers deeply deplored.<sup>41</sup> They also enacted legislation aimed at obstructing the execution of the Court's judgments.<sup>42</sup> Notwithstanding this, in line with the Rules of the Committee of Ministers for the supervision of the execution of judgments and of the terms of friendly settlements, the DEJ consistently continues to inform the Russian authorities in writing about communications received under Rule 9. Moreover, the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers continues to inform them of the cases against the Russian Federation proposed for examination at the Human Rights meetings and to invite them to participate in those meetings, in accordance with the abovementioned Resolution CM/Res(2022)3.

In 2024, the Committee repeatedly deplored that the Russian Federation has chosen not to participate in the Human Rights meetings and ceased all communication in respect of the implementation of the Court's judgments.<sup>43</sup>

# **Incoming cases and statistical information**

Under these exceptional circumstances, in 2023 the Committee decided to transfer all pending cases and to classify all new cases against the Russian Federation to the enhanced procedure.<sup>44</sup> There are therefore currently 2,866 cases<sup>45</sup> pending against the Russian Federation under the enhanced supervision of the Committee of Ministers. This represents more than 40% of all cases pending before the Committee of Ministers.

- 39. CM/Inf/DH(2022)18, CM/Inf/DH(2022)25; CM/Inf/DH(2023)22 and most recently CM/Notes/1514/H46-A3.
- 40. CM/Del/Dec(2024)1514/H46-A3.
- 41. Notably, CM/Del/Dec(2022)1451/A2a (paragraph 3).
- 42. On 11 June 2022 a law entered into force stating that because of the "procedurally incorrect exclusion" of the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers cannot insist upon the obligations on Russia flowing from the Council of Europe's legal instruments, with the consequence that judgments of the European Court which became final after 15 March 2022 shall not be enforced, nor shall they serve as a ground for the reopening of proceedings. Just satisfaction awarded may be paid until 1 January 2023 for judgments which became final before 15 March 2022. However, payment will be made in roubles and only to bank accounts in Russia.
- 43. See, CM/Del/Dec(2024)1492/H46-40; CM/Del/Dec(2024)1507/H46-29; CM/Del/Dec(2024)1514/H46-A3.
- 44. See CM/Del/Dec(2023)1475/A2a.
- 45. 1,994 of these cases became final before 16 March 2022.

During his exchange of views with the Committee of Ministers on 23 October 2024, the President of the European Court of Human Rights indicated that (on the day of his intervention), 7,350 applications against the Russian Federation were still pending before the Court, of which more than half are related to armed conflict, 46 including five inter-state cases. Before the Court, the processing of Russian cases follows two "tracks": First, "message" cases with marked importance for Russia's international law responsibility under the Convention, for example cases related to civil society activists and democratic governance. These cases have been selected for processing by Chambers of seven judges (for example concerning the "foreign agents" laws and their repercussions on NGOs and activists). Second, applications falling under well-established case-law. These are processed in a simpler manner, using case-processing tools which the Court has developed to deal with repetitive cases, mostly by groups. These should in principle correspond to cases/groups already pending before the Committee of Ministers. The President indicated that it is expected that the bulk of work on the remaining cases against Russia will be finished by the Court by the beginning of 2025.

In 2024, the Court continued delivering judgments against the Russian Federation: 301 judgments were transmitted to the Committee for supervision of their execution. Among these cases, two of them were interstate cases. In *Georgia v. Russia (IV)*, the Court found various violations of the Convention stemming from the "borderisation" process, a consequence of the armed conflict between Georgia and Russia in 2008. Moreover, in its judgment on the merits of *Ukraine v. Russia (re Crimea)*, the Court found a pattern ("administrative practices") of violations of the Convention by the Russian Federation in Crimea from February 2014.

Overall, seven cases which became final in 2024 were classified as leading cases.<sup>47</sup> The violations established by the Court relate to a wide range of subjects such as designation of NGOs as "undesirable" and the conviction of the applicants involved in their activities on the basis of legal provisions that had not met the "quality of law" requirement;<sup>48</sup> the retention of all internet communications and the security services' direct access to data stored without adequate safeguards against abuse and the requirement to decrypt encrypted communications<sup>49</sup> and refusal to access archival information regarding Soviet political repression.<sup>50</sup>

# **Continued case processing**

In the course of 2024, through adopting decisions and interim resolutions, the Committee continued underlining the obligation on the Russian Federation to execute the Court's judgments. It examined and adopted decisions in respect of 12 leading cases or groups of cases under enhanced procedure.

At one Human Rights meeting, the Committee examined two inter-state cases, namely *Georgia v. Russia (I)*, concerning the arrest, detention and expulsion from the Russian Federation of large numbers of Georgian nationals between the end of September 2006 and the end of January 2007; and *Georgia v. Russia (II)*, concerning various violations of the Convention in the context of the armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Georgia in August 2008.

The Committee also adopted decisions in the *Catan and Others* and *Mozer* groups, concerning various violations of the Convention in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova.

Moreover, in the context of the *Navalnyy and Ofitserov* group, the Committee adopted an Interim Resolution. It deeply deplored the blatant disregard of the Russian authorities to the Committee's previous calls for Mr Navalnyy's release and warnings about his deteriorating health conditions; strongly condemned the Russian authorities for Mr Aleksey Navalnyy's death in detention, which appears to be the alarming consequence of the pattern of victimisation and his political persecution revealed by the many violations found by the Court in this group of cases, in retaliation for his antigovernment protests and investigation activities. It exhorted the authorities to conduct an effective investigation which should be independent, impartial, prompt, expeditious and thorough, involve family members, and be transparent, and in this connection, strongly urged the authorities to carry out this investigation by an *ad hoc* mechanism, such as an international independent and impartial commission of inquiry, to better ensure the independence bearing in mind the lack of trust in existing institutions.

The Committee also examined the *Kogan* group, which concerns restrictions placed on the rights of the applicant human rights activists which the Court found to have been imposed for an ulterior purpose in abuse of power, against the background of the ongoing crackdown on civil society in Russia. The Committee deeply deplored, given the prominent role of human rights defenders in a democratic society, the overall hostile context and the political and social climate

<sup>46.</sup> There were approximately 3,700 individual applications pertaining to armed conflict in which Russia is the sole or one of the respondent States. These cases stem from the conflicts in Crimea and eastern Ukraine since 2014, as well as from the Russian military operations in Ukraine that started on 24 February 2022. The subject matters of the vast majority of these individual applications overlap with the subject matters of the above-mentioned two inter-State cases pending before the Grand Chamber. The President noted that the examination of these cases is a priority for the Court and substantial resources have been allocated to ensure their examination.

<sup>47.</sup> A.K.; Andrey Rylkov Froundation and Others; Georgia v. Russia (IV); Podchasov; Savinovskikh; Suprun and Others; Ukraine v. Russia (re Crimea).

<sup>48.</sup> Andrey Rylkov Froundation and Others v. Russia.

<sup>49</sup> Podchasov v. Russia.

<sup>50.</sup> Suprun and Others v. Russia.

in which many NGOs, human rights defenders and other civil society actors have been operating in the past years in Russia, as highlighted by the Court in these judgments.

Another group examined by the Committee concerned military operations of the Russian authorities in the Chechen Republic and neighbouring regions mostly in 1999-2006, including killings notably as a result of indiscriminate bombings and failures to properly organise safe passages for civilians, ill-treatment, disappearances, ineffective investigations and the resulting mental suffering of the victims' relatives (*Khashiyev and Akayeva* group). The Committee reiterated its indication to the authorities to create an *ad hoc* humanitarian high-level mechanism in charge of search for the disappearances in the region, taking into account the principles developed by international bodies and summarised in H/EXEC(2024)18.

Other topics examined by the Committee in 2024 concerned irregularities of various elections of different levels throughout the Russian Federation; the violation of the right to freedom of association of several NGOs and their directors due to the disproportionate restrictions and penalties imposed by the "foreign agents" legislation which is construed in vague terms and violates the principles of a democratic society; violations of the right to freedom of expression; violations of prisoners' rights caused by deficient laws; and violations of the right to a fair trial due to legal shortcomings in several key areas.

## **Just satisfaction**

In accordance with the Interim Resolution CM/ResDH(2022)254, adopted at the December 2022 Human Rights meeting and in line with the Strategy paper regarding the supervision of the execution of cases pending against the Russian Federation (CM/Inf/DH(2022)25), the DEJ created and published a public register of just satisfaction owing in all interstate cases against the Russian Federation.<sup>51</sup> This register is regularly updated as regards the default interest accrued so that both the issue and the sums due can remain under close public scrutiny and be available to the Committee in the light of any future developments.

In general, as of 31 December 2024 overall information on just satisfaction was missing in 1,603 cases against the Russian Federation. The total outstanding amount stood at over three billion euros. This includes the sums awarded by the Court in the two inter-state cases pending execution.

# **Visibility**

Further avenues have been explored to enhance the visibility of the Committee's supervision of the Russian cases.

Upon the invitation of the Committee, in 2024 the Secretary General continued to send a letter after each Human Rights meeting to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation informing him of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Committee in cases where the Russian Federation is the respondent State and urging the authorities to comply with their obligations under international law and the Convention to fully abide by the Court's judgments. These letters are publicly available on the Department's website. <sup>52</sup> In its latest decision adopted in December 2024, <sup>53</sup> the Committee invited the Secretary General to send the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation such a letter once a year, after every December Human Rights meeting, informing him of the decisions and resolutions adopted during the year by the Committee of Ministers concerning cases where the Russian Federation is the respondent State.

Moreover, the website of the DEJ now features a dedicated page concerning Russian cases,<sup>54</sup> in which relevant news items as well as information documents prepared by the DEJ can be found. Separate statistical information is also published in respect of Russian cases.

In addition, the DEJ has prepared a detailed memorandum on "Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights against the Russian Federation: measures required in the pending cases". It tables all leading cases by Convention Article and also by specific subject where necessary. This stocktaking document is publicly available online on the Department's website and the HUDOC-Exec database.<sup>55</sup>

At its December 2024 Human Rights meeting, taking note of the steps undertaken by the Secretariat, the Committee gave instructions to the Secretariat to further enhance its work on visibility and communication as regards the Committee's supervision over execution of judgments concerning the Russian Federation.

<sup>51.</sup> In the case of *Georgia v. Russia (I)* the Court awarded EUR 10,000,000, which by 31 December 2024 had accrued default interest of 2,697,013.70 EUR, and in the case of *Georgia v. Russia (II)*, in its just satisfaction judgment of 28 April 2023, the Court awarded just satisfaction in the amount of EUR 129,827,500, to be paid within three months, which by 31 December 2024 had accrued default interest of 13,862,553.62 EUR.

<sup>52.</sup> Russian Federation - Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

<sup>53.</sup> CM/Del/Dec(2024)1514/H46-A3.

<sup>54.</sup> Russian Federation - Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

<sup>55.</sup> H/Exec(2024)17.

# A.2. Co-operation with the United Nations and other international organisations

The Russian Federation remains a member of the United Nations (UN) and a party to a number of UN human rights instruments with their own monitoring mechanisms. The general and individual measures required from the Russian Federation to implement the Court's judgments in many instances coincide with issues followed by the UN monitoring bodies, notably by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). It is therefore important that the Council of Europe and the relevant UN bodies complement one another to ensure effective compliance with human rights obligations. Thus, the Heads of State and Government, in the Reykjavík Declaration, recommitting to the Convention system as the cornerstone of the Council of Europe's protection of human rights, affirmed the need to make every effort to ensure the execution of the Court's judgments by the Russian Federation, including through the development of synergies with other international organisations such as the UN. All 46 member states of the Council of Europe are also members states of the United Nations and are in a position to remind Russia about its obligation under international law to comply with and execute the judgments of the Court.

Contacts and exchange of information continued in 2024 on a regular basis between the DEJ and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation. The DEJ further informed the relevant UN bodies about the Committee's decisions concerning Russian cases. Moreover, upon the specific instructions of the Committee, the DEJ brought several of its recent decisions to the attention of relevant other international bodies and organisations, notably the OSCE and EU.<sup>56</sup>

In its decision adopted at its December 2024 Human Rights meeting,<sup>57</sup> the Committee once again asked the Secretariat to continue to bring the Committee's decisions concerning the execution of judgments of the Court against the Russian Federation to the attention of other relevant international organisations and bodies as appropriate, and further to explore how better synergies can be developed with them to ensure that the Russian Federation complies with its obligation to fully abide by the judgments of the Court.

# A.3. Contacts with civil society

In the absence of communication from the authorities, the information provided by the civil society organisations remains a vital resource to enable the Committee to keep up to date with the situation in the Russian Federation. In accordance with the general procedure, the DEJ has continued to forward all communications received from civil society under Rule 9 to the Russian authorities.

The importance of keeping the contacts with civil society was also underlined in the Committee's decision (CM/Del/Dec(2024)1507/H46-29), in which the Committee welcomed the Rule 9 submissions by applicants and NGOs, which constitute a vital source of information, and encouraged them to continue to do so. In the same decision, the Committee deeply deplored, given the prominent role of human rights defenders in a democratic society, the overall hostile context and the political and social climate in which many NGOs, human rights defenders and other civil society actors have been operating in the past years in Russia, as highlighted by the Court in the judgments.

In pursuit of enhancing its contact with the Russian civil society, in March 2024, the Committee held a thematic, informal exchange of views with NGOs in respect of execution of several judgments.<sup>58</sup>

Further, in November 2024, representatives of the DEJ held an online meeting with representatives of ten NGOs, in which the UN Special Rapporteur on Russia also participated, to discuss the work done in 2022-2024 and explore possible developments. This meeting confirmed how important it is for civil society that the Committee of Ministers continues closely following the execution of judgments against Russia. Through their communications to the Committee of Ministers, they can still be effectively heard, and they need the Committee to continue putting pressure on the Russian authorities with a view to ensuring compliance with judgments of the Court.

In its decision adopted at the December 2024 Human Rights meeting,<sup>59</sup> the Committee instructed the Secretariat to seek further avenues to reinforce co-operation with the civil society, including through further informal exchanges of views between the Committee of Ministers and representatives of Russian NGOs relating to cases pending against the Russian Federation.

<sup>56.</sup> Such instructions were in particular given in the decisions adopted in the groups of cases *Ecodefence and Others* in March 2024, with regard to the problem of the "foreign agents"; *Yabloko Russian United Democratic Party and Others* in March 2024, with regard to elections; *Dmitriyevskiy* in September 2023, with regard unjustified persecution under the anti-extremism legislation; *Taganrog LRO* in September 2023, with regard to freedom of religion of the Jehovah's Witnesses; *Magnitsky* and *Mazepa* in December 2023, with regard to high-profile deaths of critics of the authorities.

<sup>57.</sup> CM/Del/Dec(2024)1514/H46-A3.

<sup>58.</sup> See the news item about this exchange.

<sup>59.</sup> CM/Del/Dec(2024)1514/H46-A3.

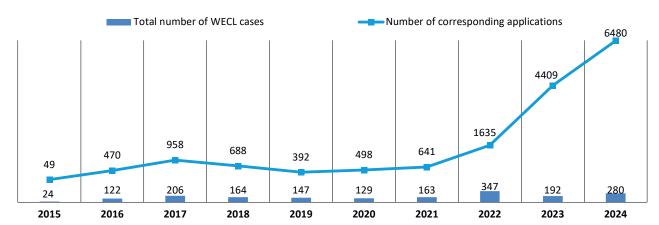
# **B. Statistics**

# **B.1. New cases**

Under the Resolution on the consequences of the cessation of membership of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe in light of Article 58 of the Convention, adopted by the Court on 22 March 2022, "the Court remains competent to deal with applications directed against the Russian Federation in relation to acts or omissions capable of constituting a violation of the Convention provided that they occurred until 16 September 2022". As a consequence, the Committee of Ministers continues to receive judgments and decisions against the Russian Federation for supervision of their execution.



# **WECL cases received regarding the Russian Federation**

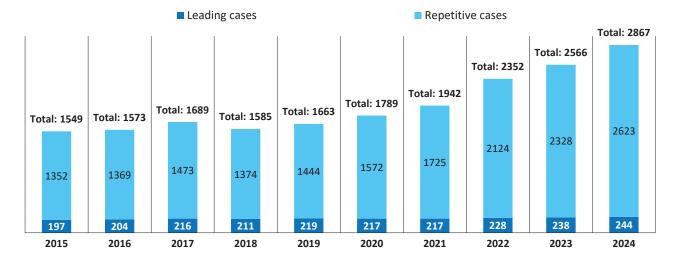


# B.2. New judgments with indications of relevance for the execution

CASE	APPLICATION	NATURE OF VIOLATIONS FOUND BY THE COURT AND MEASURES INDICATED
Ukraine v. Russia (Re Crimea)	20958/14 and 38334/18	Enhanced supervision  Multiple violations of the Convention regarding the events in Crimea between 27 February 2014 and 16 September 2022 at the latest, but also beyond, for situations of detention which started before that date on account of the "continuous" effect of the detention order. Administrative practice put in place by the Russian Federation while exercising extraterritorial jurisdiction over Crimea in the form of "effective control" leading inter alia to enforced disappearances, ill-treatment, unacknowledged and incommunicado detention of Ukrainian soldiers, ethnic Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, journalists, unlawful deprivation of liberty, prosecution, and/or conviction of "Ukrainian political prisoners" based on the application of the Russian law in Crimea, degrading conditions of detention in the Simferopol SIZO, a systemic problem resulting from overall shortcomings in the organisation and functioning of the Crimean prison system, etc.  The Court indicated that the respondent State must take every measure to secure, as soon as possible, the safe return of the relevant prisoners transferred from Crimea to penal facilities located on the territory of the Russian Federation.
Andrey Rylkov Foundation and Others	37949/18 and 84 others	Designation of four NGOs as "undesirable", which was arbitrary, unforeseeable and also failed to satisfy the "prescribed by law" criterion, in violation their right to freedom of association; conviction on purely formal grounds of 80 applicants on account of their involvement in the activities of those NGOs between 2017 and 2021, in breach of their right to freedom of expression and association.  The Court reiterated that cessation of a Contracting Party's membership of the Council of Europe does not release it from its duty to cooperate with the Convention bodies. Article 46 of the Convention requires that the Committee of Ministers sets forth an effective mechanism for the implementation of the Court's judgments also in cases against a State which has ceased to be party to the Convention. The Committee of Ministers continues to supervise the execution of the Court's judgments against the Russian Federation, and the Russian Federation is required, pursuant to Article 46 § 1 of the Convention, to implement them, despite the cessation of its membership of the Council of Europe.

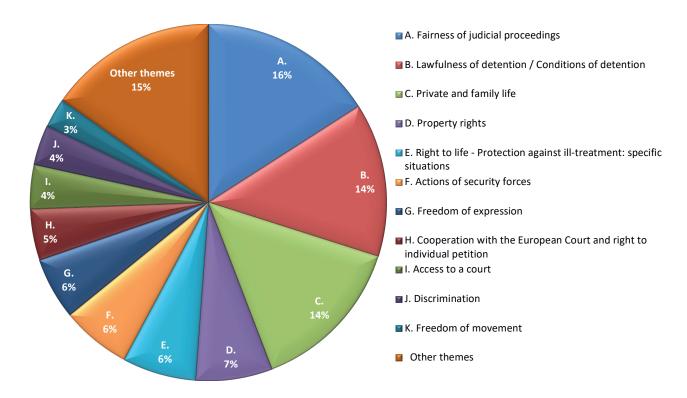
# **B.3. Pending cases**

In accordance with a decision adopted in September 2023, all pending cases against the Russian Federation have been transferred to, and all new cases will be classified, in the enhanced procedure.<sup>60</sup>

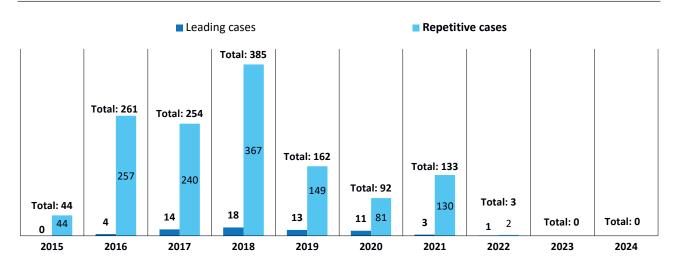


<sup>60.</sup> CM/Del/Dec(2023)1475/A2a.

# B.4. Main themes of leading cases pending



# **B.5. Closed cases**



# **B.6. Just satisfaction**

YEAR	AMOUNT
2024	32 561 015 €
2023	157 505 928 €
2022	80 155 549 €
2021	11 917 616 €
2020	11 458 094 €
2019	28 547 005 €
2018	13 115 481 €
2017	14 557 886 €
2016	7 380 062 €
2015	4 916 117 €

# **Chapter VIII**

# Where to find further information on the execution of judgments



### **HUDOC-EXEC** database

The HUDOC-EXEC database is a search engine to improve the visibility and transparency of the process of the execution of judgments of the European Court.

HUDOC-EXEC provides easy access through a single interface to documents relating to the execution process (for example description of pending cases and problems revealed, the status of execution, memoranda, action plans, action reports, other communications, Committee of Ministers' decisions, final resolutions). It allows searches by a number of criteria (State, supervision track, violations, themes etc.).

The number of visits to the HUDOC-EXEC database significantly increased from 128 050 in 2023 to 186 121 in 2024 (+45%).



COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS COMITÉ DES MINISTRES

# **Website of the Committee of Ministers**

The Committee of Ministers' website provides a search engine for documents and decisions linked to the supervision of the execution of the Court's judgments.

# Website of the Department for the Execution of Judgments

The website provides the public with various information on the work of the Committee of Ministers and DEJ, notably through the regular publication of the latest news on the supervision of cases and on the Department's activities. Amongst other things, it includes country and thematic factsheets, interim and final resolutions, and annual reports. It also includes information about the Department's missions, articles on seminars, round tables, workshops, meetings, and other cooperation activities. A specific webpage enables issues related to the payment of just satisfaction to be followed. Another page sets out statistical information on the proportion of cases (leading and total) closed so far by state.

Detailed information is available for NHRIs and CSOs on a dedicated webpage with a view to increase transparency and encourage Rule 9 communications.





# Website on the impact of the European Convention on Human Rights

The website provides 200 examples of judgments from the European Court of Human Rights and how their implementation has improved people's lives across Europe.

Examples of cases and their impact are shown by country and by theme, illustrated using a mixture of videos, animations, photographs, and quotes from those involved.

This resource is aimed at citizens, teachers, students, journalists, human rights defenders, and government officials - all those who are interested in the European Convention on Human Rights and its positive impact.

## Thematic factsheets

The thematic factsheets are created and published by the DEJ and aim to present an overview of selected legislative, case-law and other reforms in member states, following the European Court's judgments whose execution has been supervised and ended by the Committee of Ministers. As the execution process in pending cases may evidence important progress, some factsheets also include relevant pending cases.

In 2024, two new thematic factsheets were published on: Limitation on the use of restrictions of rights (Article 18) and Rights of persons with disabilities.





# **Country factsheets**

The country factsheets present an overview of the main issues raised by the European Court's judgments whose execution is still pending before the Committee of Ministers, with links to information on the cases' status of execution (Main issues pending).

They also provide concise information on legislative and other reforms made by member states in the context of the execution of the European Court's judgments (*Main achievements*). Country-based statistics are also available on the webpage including an interactive tool.

# Social media

In 2024, the DEJ continued to manage the X account @CoEHumanRights (DGI) providing targeted information for national authorities, legal professionals, CSOs and NHRIs, the media, and the public in general. The followers of the X account continued to increase in 2024 and reached 7 547 (compared to 6 720 in 2023).

The DEJ publishes the Committee of Ministers' decisions on cases examined at the end of each Human Rights meeting as well as information on the activities related to the execution of the European Court's judgments.



# **Glossary**

#### **Action plan**

Document setting out the measures taken and/or envisaged by the respondent State to implement a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights, together with an indicative timetable.

## **Action report**

Report transmitted to the Committee of Ministers by the respondent State setting out all the measures taken to implement a judgment of the European Court and/or the reasons for which no additional measure is required.

### Judgment with indications of relevance for the execution "Article 46"

Judgment by which the Court seeks to provide assistance to the respondent State in identifying the sources of the violations established and the type of individual and/or general measures that might be adopted in response. Indications related to individual measures can also be given under Article 41.

#### Case

Generic term referring to a judgment (or a decision) of the European Court.

## **Case awaiting classification**

Case for which the classification - under standard or enhanced supervision – is still to be decided by the Committee of Ministers.

#### Classification of a case

Committee of Ministers' decision determining the supervision procedure – standard or enhanced.

#### Closed case

Case in which the Committee of Ministers adopted a final resolution stating that it has exercised its functions under Article 46 § 2 and 39 § 4 of the Convention, and thus closing its examination.

## Deadline for the payment of the just satisfaction

When the Court awards just satisfaction to the applicant, it indicates in general a deadline within which the respondent State must pay the amounts awarded; normally, the time-limit is three months from the date on which the judgment becomes final.

#### **Enhanced supervision**

Supervision procedure for cases requiring urgent individual measures, pilot judgments, judgments disclosing major structural and/or complex problems as identified by the Court and/or by the Committee of Ministers, and interstate cases. This procedure is intended to allow the Committee of Ministers to closely follow progress of the execution of a case, and to facilitate exchanges with the national authorities supporting execution.

# **Final judgment**

Judgment which cannot be the subject of a request of referral to any higher instance. Final judgments have to be executed by the respondent State under the supervision of the Committee of Ministers. A Chamber judgment (panel of seven judges) becomes final: immediately if the parties declare that they will not request the referral of the case to the Grand Chamber of the Court, or three months after its delivery to ensure that the applicant or the respondent State have the possibility to request the referral, or when the Grand Chamber rejects the referral's request. When a judgment is delivered by a committee of three judges or by the Grand Chamber, it is immediately final.

# **Final resolution**

Form of decision whereby the Committee of Ministers decides to close the supervision of the execution of a judgment, considering that the respondent State has adopted all measures required in response to the violations found by the Court.

#### **Friendly settlement**

Agreement between the applicant and the respondent State aiming at putting an end to the application before the Court. The Court approves the settlement if it finds that respect of human rights does not justify maintaining the application. The ensuing decision is transmitted to the Committee of Ministers which will supervise the execution of the friendly settlement's terms as set out in the decision.

### Friendly settlement with undertaking

Agreement between the applicant and the respondent State aiming at putting an end to the application before the Court. The respondent State undertakes and commits to adopting specific individual and/or general measures in order to provide adequate redress to the applicant and/or prevent future similar violations. The Court approves the settlement if it finds that respect of human rights does not justify maintaining the application. The Committee of Ministers will supervise and ensure that the respondent State has complied with the undertaking given.

#### **General measures**

Measures needed to address more or less important structural problems revealed by the Court's judgments to prevent similar violations to those found or put an end to continuing violations. The adoption of general measures can notably imply a change of legislation, of judicial practice or practical measures such as the refurbishing of a prison or staff reinforcement. The obligation to ensure effective domestic remedies is an integral part of general measures (see notably Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2004)6). Cases revealing structural problems of major importance will be classified under the enhanced supervision procedure.

## **Group of cases**

When several cases under the Committee of Ministers' supervision concern the same violation or are linked to the same structural or systemic problem in the respondent State, the Committee may decide to group the cases and deal with them jointly. The group usually bears the name of the first leading case transmitted to the Committee for supervision of its execution. If deemed appropriate, the grouping of cases may be modified by the Committee, notably to allow the closure of certain cases of the group dealing with a specific structural problem which has been resolved (partial closure).

# **Human Rights meeting**

Meetings of the Committee of Ministers specifically devoted to the supervision of the execution of judgments and decisions of the European Court. If necessary, the Committee may also proceed to a detailed examination of the status of execution of a case during a regular meeting.

# Indicative work programme of the Committee of Ministers

Document approved by the Committee of Ministers at its December Human Rights meetings, containing cases planned for detailed examination during Human Rights meeting of the following year. This document aims at increasing the efficiency and transparency of the supervision of the execution of the European Court's judgments and decisions. The programme is indicative, which means that cases can be added and removed throughout the year.

#### **Individual measures**

Measures that the respondent States' authorities must take to erase, as far as possible, the consequences of the violations for the applicants - *restitutio* in *integrum*. Individual measures include for example the reopening of unfair criminal proceedings or the destruction of information gathered in breach of the right to private life.

## **Interim resolution**

Form of decision adopted by the Committee of Ministers aimed at overcoming more complex situations requiring special attention.

# Isolated case

Case where the violations found appear closely linked to specific circumstances and does not require any general measures (for example, inadequate implementation of the domestic law by a tribunal thus violating the Convention). See also under *leading case*.

#### **Just satisfaction**

When the Court considers, under Article 41 of the Convention, that the domestic law of the respondent State does not allow complete reparation of the consequences of this violation of the Convention for the applicant, it can award just satisfaction. Just satisfaction frequently takes the form of a sum of money covering material and/or moral damages, as well as costs and expenses incurred.

## **Leading case**

Case which has been identified as disclosing a problem, in law and/or practice, at national level, often requiring the adoption by the respondent State of new or additional general measures to prevent recurrence of similar violations. If this new problem proves to be of an isolated nature, the adoption of general measures, in addition to the publication and dissemination of the judgment, is not in principle required. A leading case may also reveal structural/systemic problems, identified by the Court in its judgment or by the Committee of Ministers in the course of its supervision of execution, requiring the adoption by the respondent State of new general measures to prevent recurrence of similar violations.

#### **New cases**

Expression referring to a judgment of the Court that became final during the calendar year and was transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for supervision of its execution.

#### **Partial closure**

Closure of certain cases in a group revealing structural problems to improve the visibility of the progress made, whether as a result of the adoption of adequate individual measures or the solution of one of the structural problems included in the group.

#### **Pending case**

Case currently under the Committee of Ministers' supervision of its execution.

#### **Pilot judgment**

When the Court identifies a violation which originates in a structural and/or systemic problem which has given rise or may give rise to similar applications against the respondent State, the Court may decide to use the pilot judgment procedure. In a pilot judgment, the Court will identify the nature of the structural or systemic problem established and provide guidance as to the remedial measures which the respondent State should take. In contrast to a judgment with mere indications of relevance for the execution under Article 46, the operative provisions of a pilot judgment can fix a deadline for the adoption of the remedial measures needed and indicate specific measures to be taken (frequently the setting up of effective domestic remedies). Under the principle of subsidiarity, the respondent State remains free to determine the appropriate means and measures to put an end to the violation found and prevent similar violations.

#### Reminder letter

Letter sent by the Department for the Execution of Judgments to the authorities of the respondent State when no action plan/report has been submitted in the initial six-month deadline foreseen after the judgment of the Court became final.

#### Repetitive case

Case relating to a structural and/or general problem already raised before the Committee in the context of one or several leading cases; repetitive cases are usually grouped together with the leading case.

## **Standard supervision procedure**

Supervision procedure applied to all cases except if, because of its specific nature, a case warrants consideration under the enhanced procedure. The standard procedure relies on the fundamental principle that it is for respondent States to ensure the effective execution of the Court's judgments and decisions. Thus, in the context of this procedure, the Committee of Ministers limits its intervention to ensuring that adequate action plans/reports have been presented and verifies the adequacy of the measures announced and/or taken at the appropriate time. Developments in the execution of cases under standard procedure are closely followed by the Department for the Execution of Judgments, which presents information received to the Committee of Ministers and submits proposals for action if developments in the execution process require specific intervention by the Committee of Ministers.

### Transfer from one supervision procedure to another

A case can be transferred by the Committee of Ministers from the standard supervision procedure to the enhanced supervision procedure (and *vice versa*).

## **Unilateral declaration**

Declaration submitted by the respondent State to the Court acknowledging the violation of the Convention and undertaking to provide adequate redress, including to the applicant. The Committee of Ministers does not supervise the respect of undertakings formulated in a unilateral declaration. In case of a problem, the applicant may request that its application be restored to the Court's list.

#### "WECL" case

Judgment on the merits rendered by a Committee of three judges, if the issues raised by the case are already the subject of "well-established case-law of the Court" (Article 28 § 1b).

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. The Committee of Ministers is the Council of Europe's decision-making body, composed by the foreign ministers of all 46 member states. It is a forum where national approaches to European problems and challenges are discussed, in order to find collective responses. The Committee of Ministers participates in the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights through the supervision of the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.





