

OVERVIEW

1959-2015

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Overview 1959-2015

ECHR

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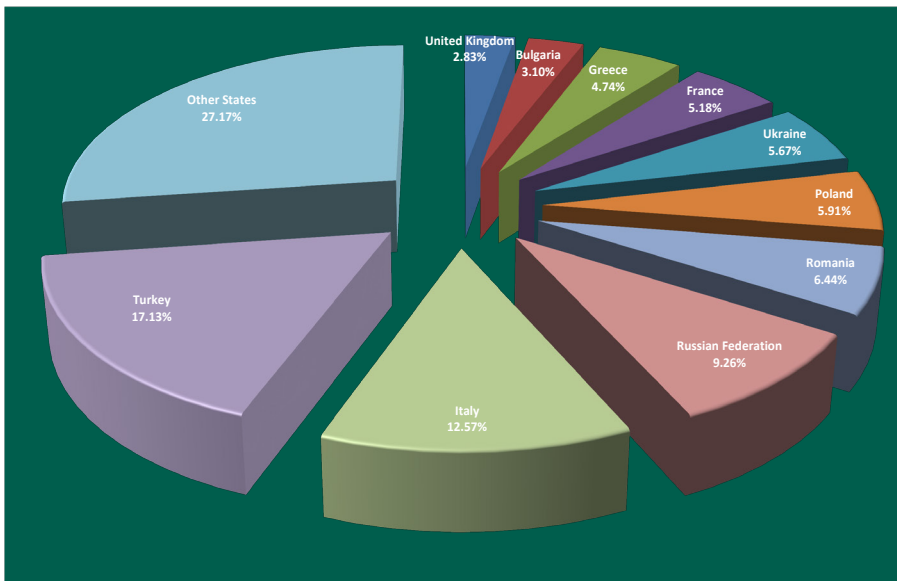
European Court of Human Rights
Public Relations Unit
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg cedex

Statistics 1959 to 2015

Violation judgments by State

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

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

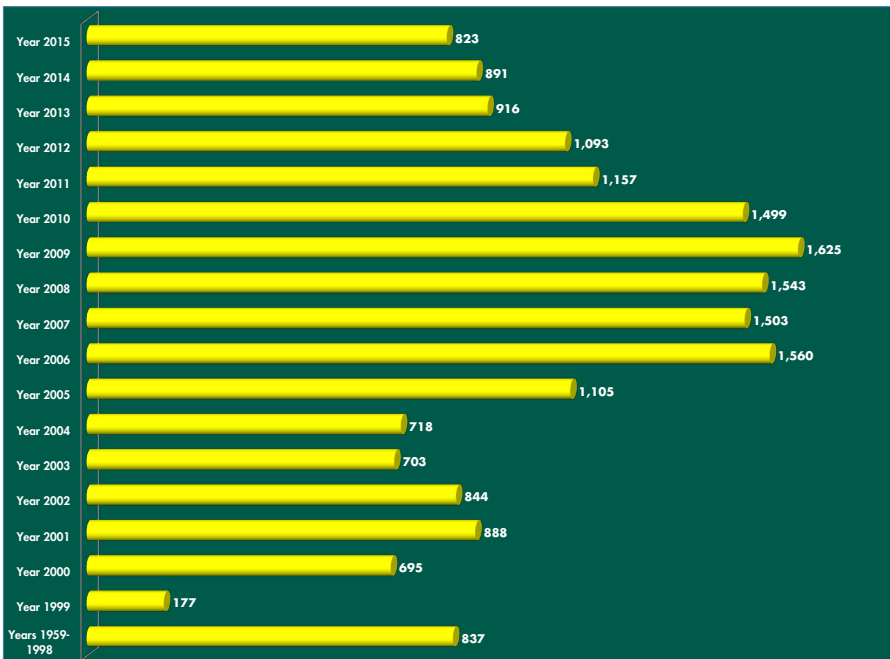


Judgments delivered by the Court

In recent years the Court has concentrated on examining complex cases, and has decided to join certain applications which raise similar legal questions so that it can consider them jointly.

Although the number of judgments delivered each year by the Court has decreased, more applications have been examined by it.

Since it was set up, the Court has decided on the examination of around 674,000 applications.



Throughput of applications 1959* - 2015

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

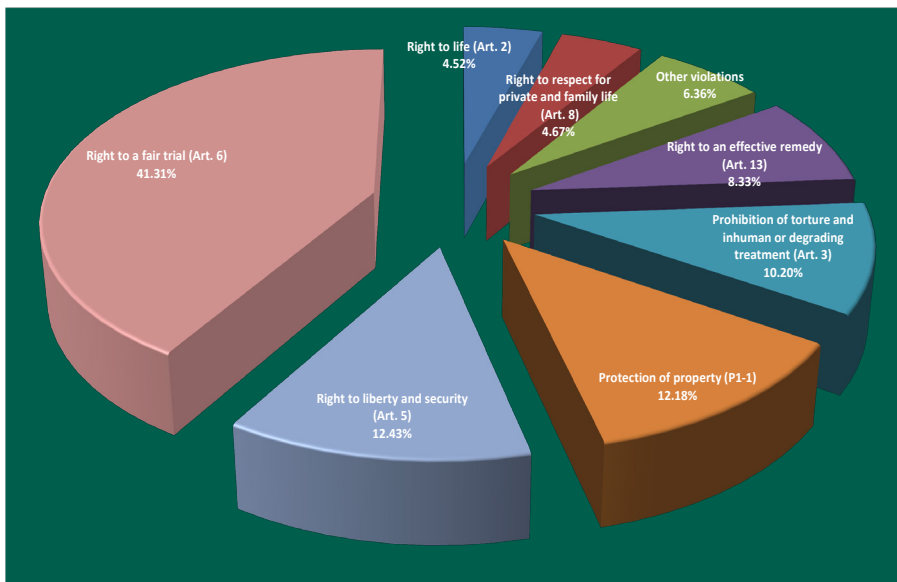
* This table includes cases dealt with by the European Commission of Human Rights prior to 1959.

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

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

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

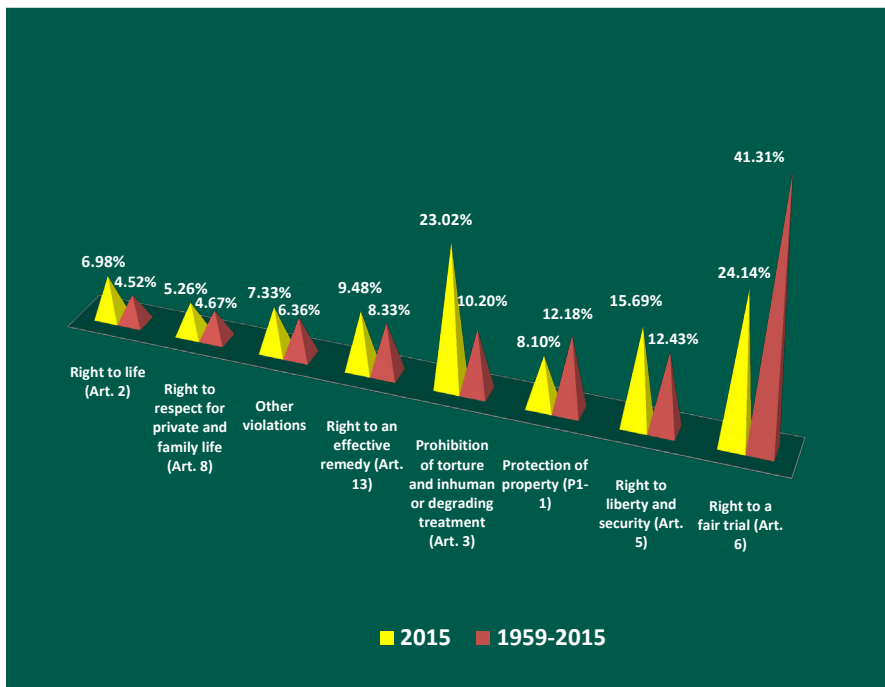
Lastly, in 14.72% of cases, the Court has found a serious violation of the Convention, concerning the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3).



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

The violation most frequently found by the Court concerns Article 6 (right to a fair hearing), particularly with regard to the excessive length of the proceedings. In 2015 a quarter of all violations found by the Court related to this provision.

For a number of years, however, other violations of the Convention have been found increasingly frequently. One example is the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3): in 2015 this provision also accounted for almost one quarter of all the violations found.



Violations by Article and by State*

1959-2015	Other Articles of the Convention																									
	Total	1	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	PI-1	PI-2	PI-3	P7-4		
Luxembourg	44	33	8	3						14	17			4	3	1		3	1	1						
Malta	66	46	10						19	9	9	1		4	3				3	14						
Republic of Moldova	316	288	4	3	21	2	9	9	70	39				22	4	17	14	46	4	104				2	9	
Monaco	2	2								2																
Montenegro	22	20	1						1	3	5	4		1	2	2		2	2	4						
Netherlands	146	85	33	16	12	4	1	8		28	25	8		17	7			2	3	1						
Norway	40	28	12							1	12	2		7	5					1						
Poland	1,099	925	116	42	16	6	2	34	9	299	106	434	4	107	1	25	1	2	25	4	52				7	
Portugal	309	232	13	56	8	1				3	28	131	4	10	20			35	1	47						
Romania	1,197	1,076	39	25	57	9	33	2	178	63	107	410	121	45	3	75	1	24	5	22	30	464	5	1	15	
Russian Federation	1,720	1,612	80	13	15	259	285	50	548	152	1	663	674	178	72	1	137	8	27	15	390	10	516	2	3	103
San Marino	14	10	1							1	7	2														
Serbia	132	117	9		6	2				7	25	24	41	12	6			17	2	51						
Slovak Republic	336	300	10	21	5	2	1	4	2	52	37	198	2	19	9			34	2	9					1	
Slovenia	337	317	16	3	1	2				6	15	262	3	10	1			265	1	2						
Spain	135	86	43	3	3					5	42	13		4	10	4		1	4	2					1	
Sweden	144	56	56	28	4	1				2	27	12	1	9	2	1		2	1	6					1	
Switzerland	162	97	57	5	3	1				1	16	31	7		22	1	16	1	1	2	4					
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ¹	121	110	6	3	2	2	1	3	5	10	14	33	61	3				10		7						
Turkey	3,182	2,812	67	204	99	125	186	31	305	198	665	821	582	61	4	94	9	258	70	265	11	647	5	9	32	
Ukraine	1,053	1,036	11	2	4	9	40	13	136	66	235	494	303	29	1	51	3	10	5	192	2	336	2	28		
United Kingdom	526	305	132	67	22	2	20	2	17		1	65	91	28	1	68	1	11	4	4	33	44	3	2	2	
Sub-total	15,570	1,357	1,080	613	458	653	1,670	662	39	6,053	4,329	5,435	381	41	1,146	61	619	179	8	2,045	242	2,992	13	79	20	293
Total	18,577**																									

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

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

2. Figures may include conditional violations.

3. Figures are available only from 2013.

** Some judgments concern several States.

History of the Court's reforms

Since the Court was set up in 1959, the member States of the Council of Europe have adopted a number of protocols to the European Convention on Human Rights with the aim of improving and strengthening its supervisory mechanism. In 1998 Protocol No. 11 thus replaced the original two-tier structure, comprising the Commission and the Court on Human Rights, sitting a few days per month, by a single full-time Court. This change put an end to the Commission's filtering function, enabling applicants to bring their cases directly before the Court.

A second major reform to address the considerable increase in the number of applications and the Court's backlog was brought about by the entry into force of Protocol No. 14 in 2010. This Protocol introduced new judicial formations for the simplest cases and established a new admissibility criterion (existence of a "significant disadvantage" for the applicant); it also extended the judges' term of office to 9 years (not renewable).

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

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

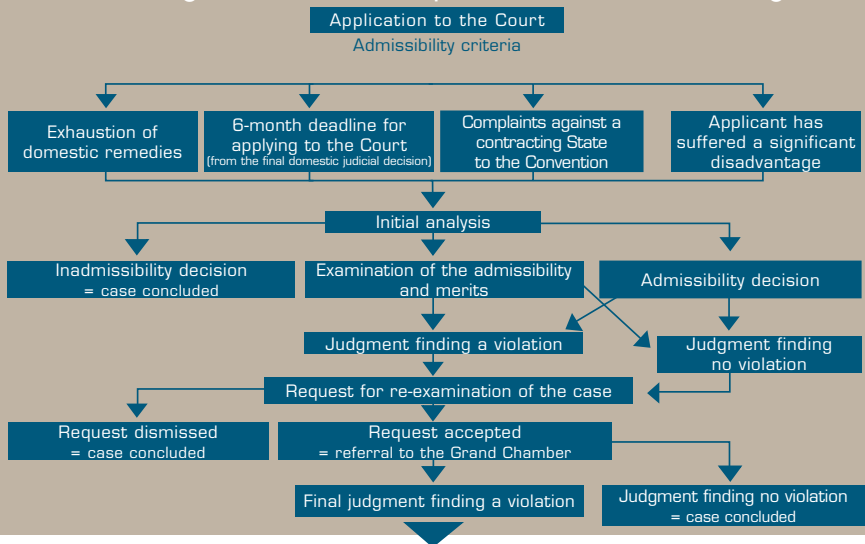
2013 also saw the adoption of **Protocol No. 16**, which will allow the highest domestic courts and tribunals to request the Court to give advisory opinions on questions of principle relating to the interpretation or application of the rights and freedoms defined in the Convention or the protocols thereto.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

The life of an application

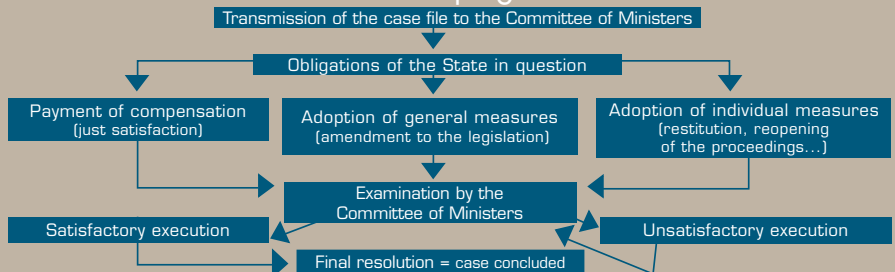
Proceedings at national level



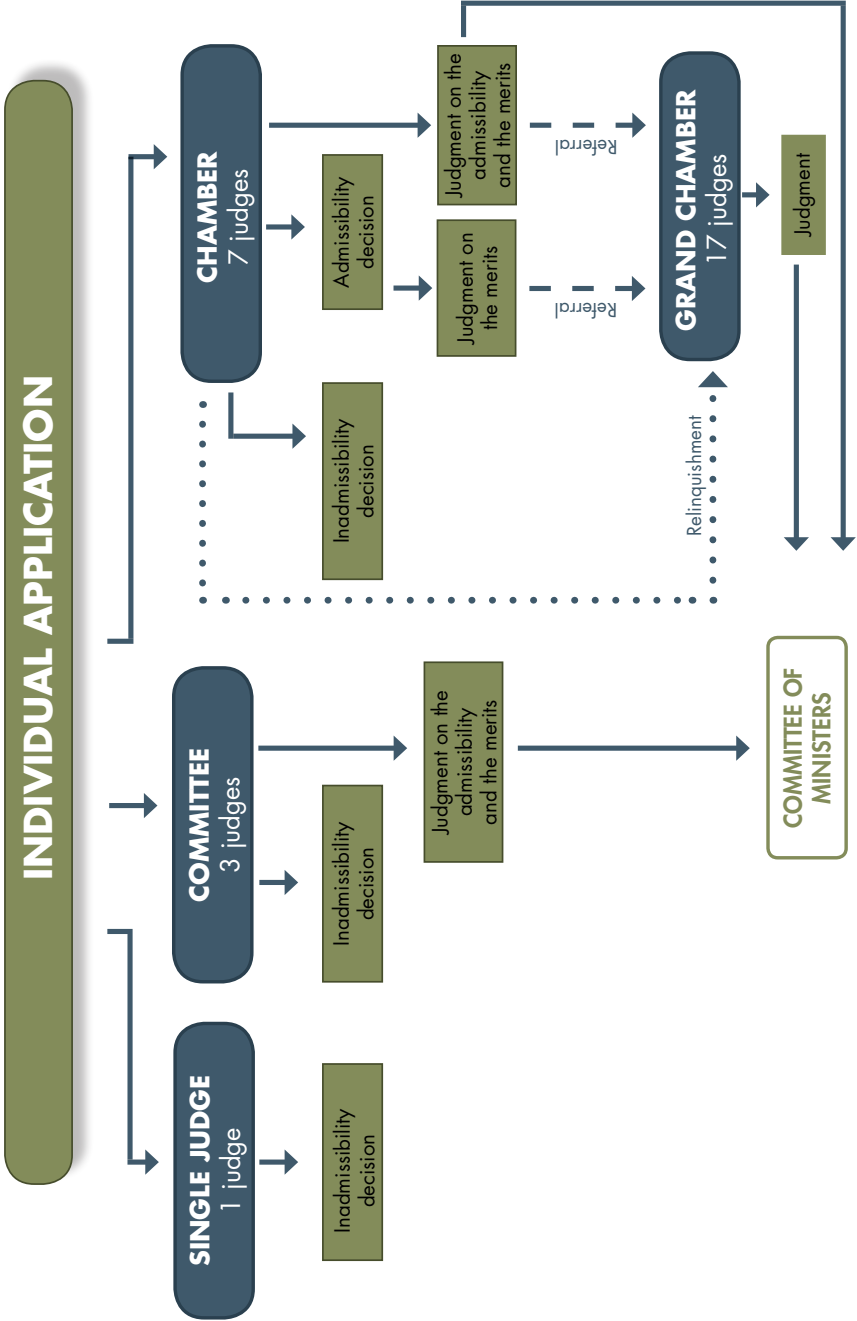
Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights



Execution of judgments



Simplified flow chart of case-processing by the Court





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