

OVERVIEW

1959-2016

THE
COURT



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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Overview 1959-2016

ECHR

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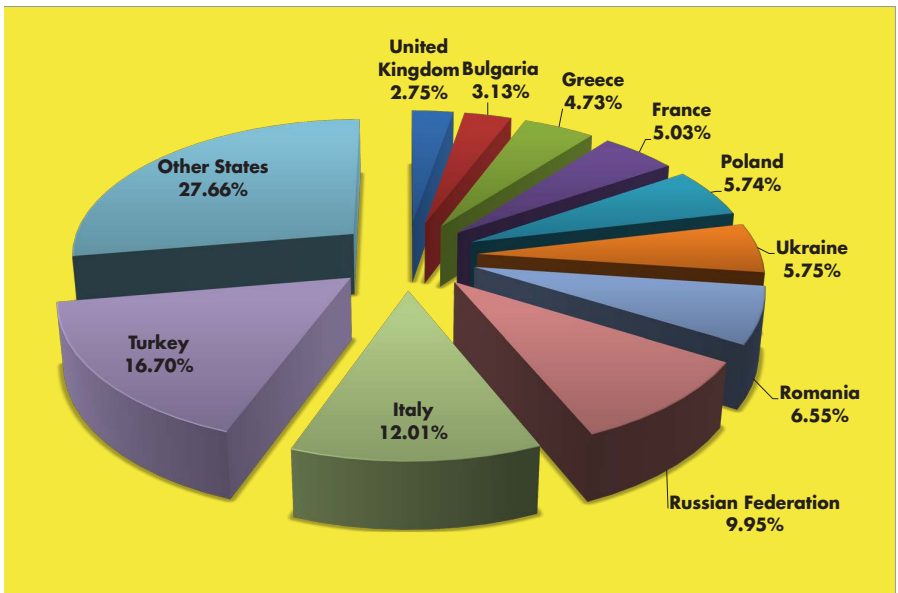
European Court of Human Rights
Public Relations Unit
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg cedex

Statistics 1959 to 2016

Judgments by State

Since it was established in 1959 the Court has delivered about 19,500 judgments. More than a quarter of these concerned 2 member States of the Council of Europe: Turkey (3,270) and Italy (2,351).

In 84% of the judgments it has delivered since 1959, the Court has found at least one violation of the Convention by the respondent State.

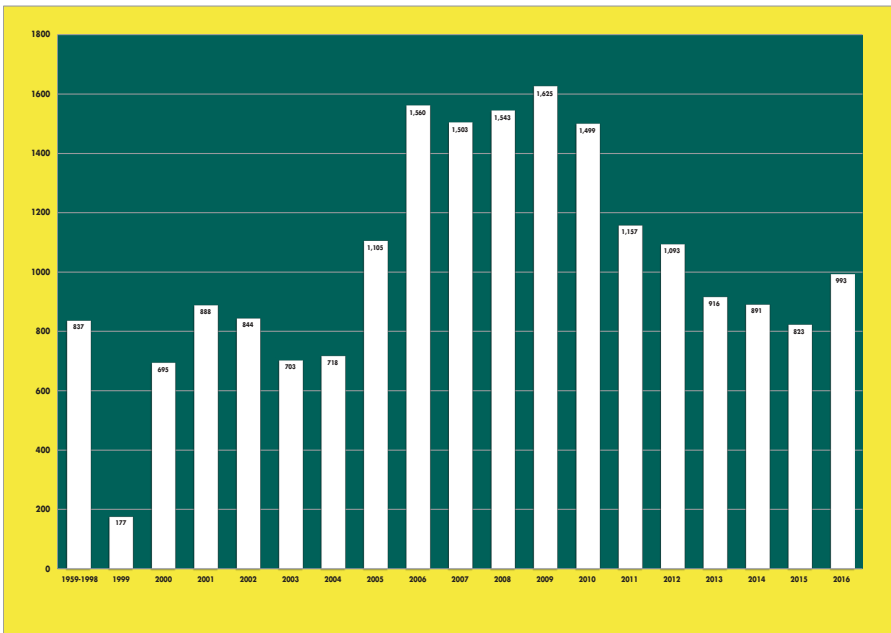


Judgments delivered by the Court

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

Although 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 712,600 applications.



Throughput of applications 1959* - 2016

	Judicial formation allocated to a	Applications inadmissible or struck out	Applications declared or	Applications in which judgment was delivered	Total number of applications decided
	1959-2016	1959-2016	1959-2016	1959-2016	1959-2016
Albania	1,159		564	119	683
Andorra	76		67	8	75
Armenia	3,060		1,409	78	1,487
Austria	9,135		8,454	396	8,850
Azerbaijan	4,645		2,775	216	2,991
Belgium	5,078		4,429	260	4,689
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8,012		6,615	128	6,743
Bulgaria	15,178		13,788	716	14,504
Croatia	14,075		13,115	383	13,498
Cyprus	1,113		973	95	1,068
Czech Republic	12,277		11,899	258	12,157
Denmark	1,769		1,689	50	1,739
Estonia	3,157		3,037	59	3,096
Finland	5,193		4,959	187	5,146
France	31,533		29,639	1,087	30,726
Georgia	5,920		3,779	68	3,847
Germany	29,187		28,642	338	28,980
Greece	8,138		6,254	1,196	7,450
Hungary	19,426		9,930	566	10,496
Iceland	242		195	16	211
Ireland	973		927	31	958
Italy	43,850		32,559	3,217	35,776
Latvia	4,053		3,764	125	3,889
Liechtenstein	145		136	9	145
Lithuania	5,563		5,133	154	5,287
Luxembourg	630		563	44	607
Malta	346		223	82	305
Republic of Moldova	12,621		10,954	420	11,374
Monaco	89		80	4	84
Montenegro	2,112		1,961	41	2,002
Netherlands	9,955		9,452	181	9,633
Norway	1,664		1,551	50	1,601
Poland	65,255		62,368	1,139	63,507
Portugal	3,632		2,819	498	3,317
Romania	69,494		60,281	1,918	62,199
Russian Federation	140,731		129,694	3,393	133,087
San Marino	87		57	16	73
Serbia	25,937		24,177	611	24,788
Slovak Republic	7,712		7,182	362	7,544
Slovenia	8,871		6,945	353	7,298
Spain	11,204		10,869	218	11,087
Sweden	9,841		9,612	150	9,762
Switzerland	6,826		6,470	175	6,645
'The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia'	4,938		4,557	139	4,696
Turkey	70,439		53,744	4,281	58,025
Ukraine	85,228		62,170	4,931	67,101
United Kingdom	23,781		21,599	1,834	23,433
TOTAL	794,350		682,059	30,600	712,659

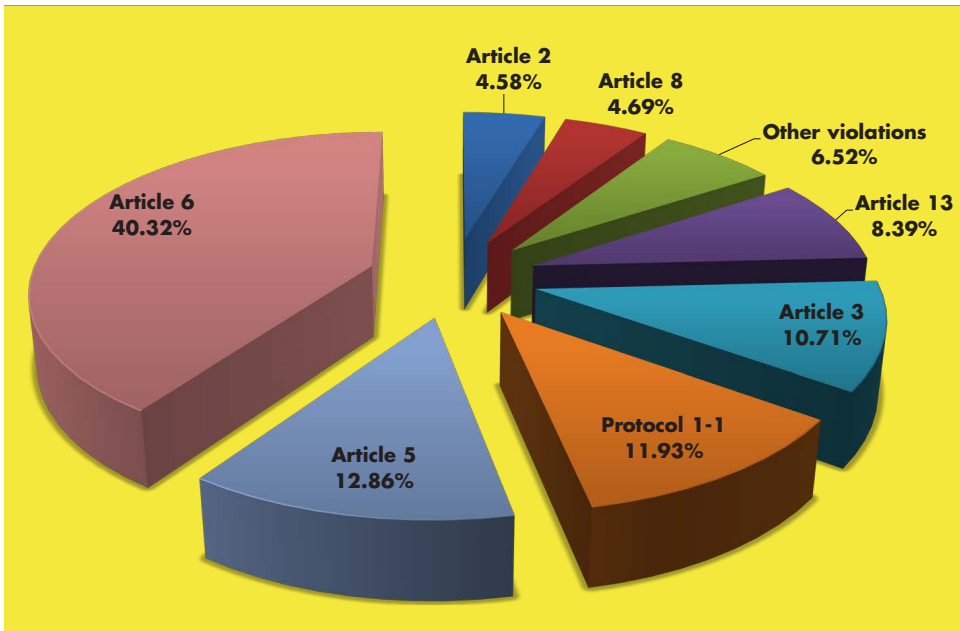
* This table includes cases dealt with by the European Commission of Human Rights prior to 1959.

Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (1959-2016)

More than 40% of the violations found by the Court have concerned Article 6 of the Convention, whether on account of the fairness (17.35%) or the length (21.34%) of the proceedings.

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

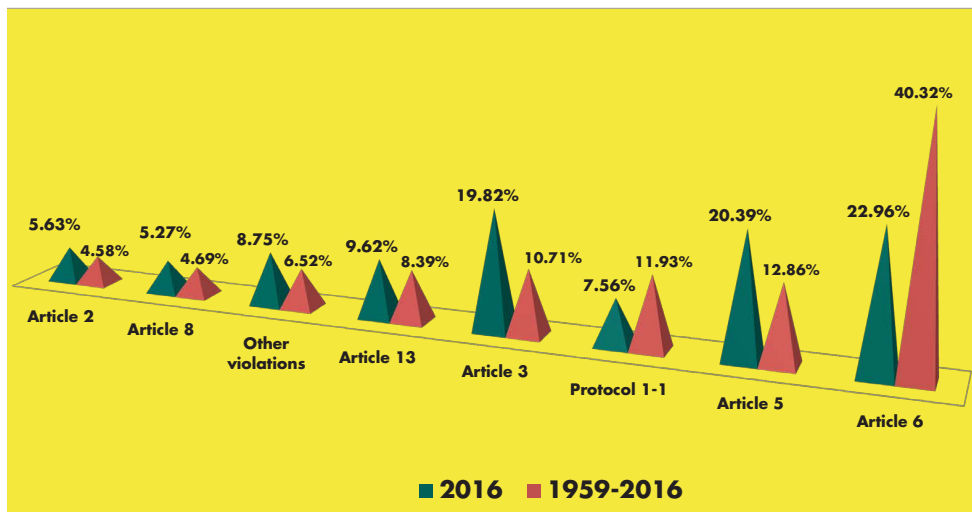
Lastly, in more than 15% of cases, the Court has found a serious violation of the Convention, concerning the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3).



Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (Comparative Graph 1959-2016 & 2016)

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 2016 nearly a quarter of all violations found by the Court related to this provision.

For a number of years, however, other violations of the Convention have been found increasingly frequently. In 2016 this was particularly the case with regard to the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3) and the right to liberty and security (Article 5).



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.

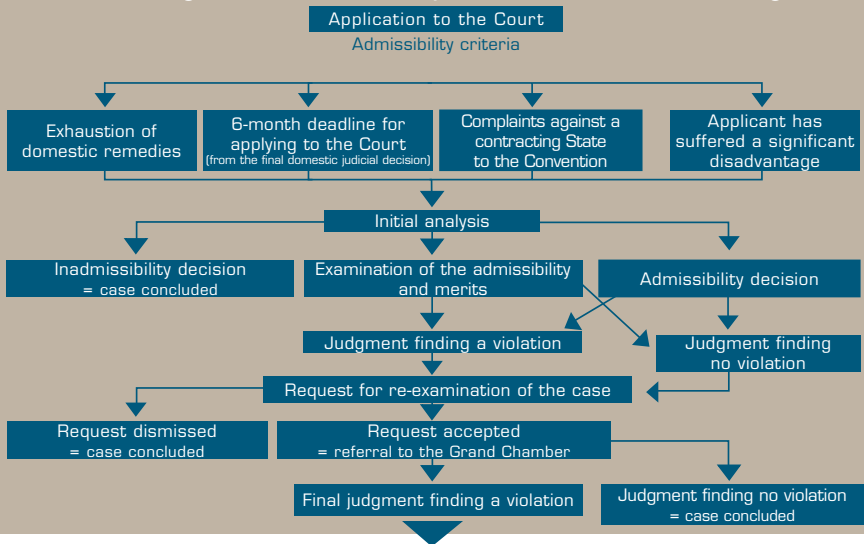
2013 also saw the adoption of **Protocol No. 16**, which will allow the highest domestic courts and tribunals to request the Court to give advisory opinions on questions of principle relating to the interpretation or application of the rights and freedoms defined in the Convention or the protocols thereto.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

The life of an application

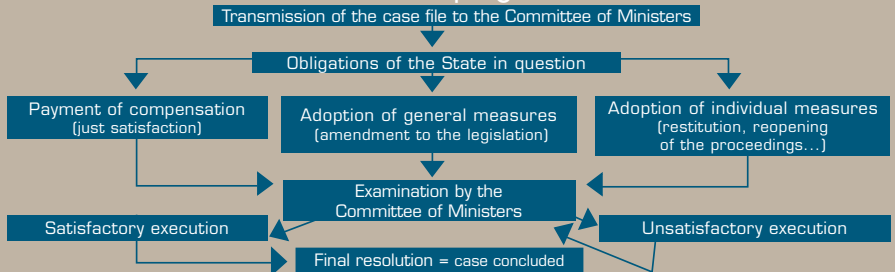
Proceedings at national level

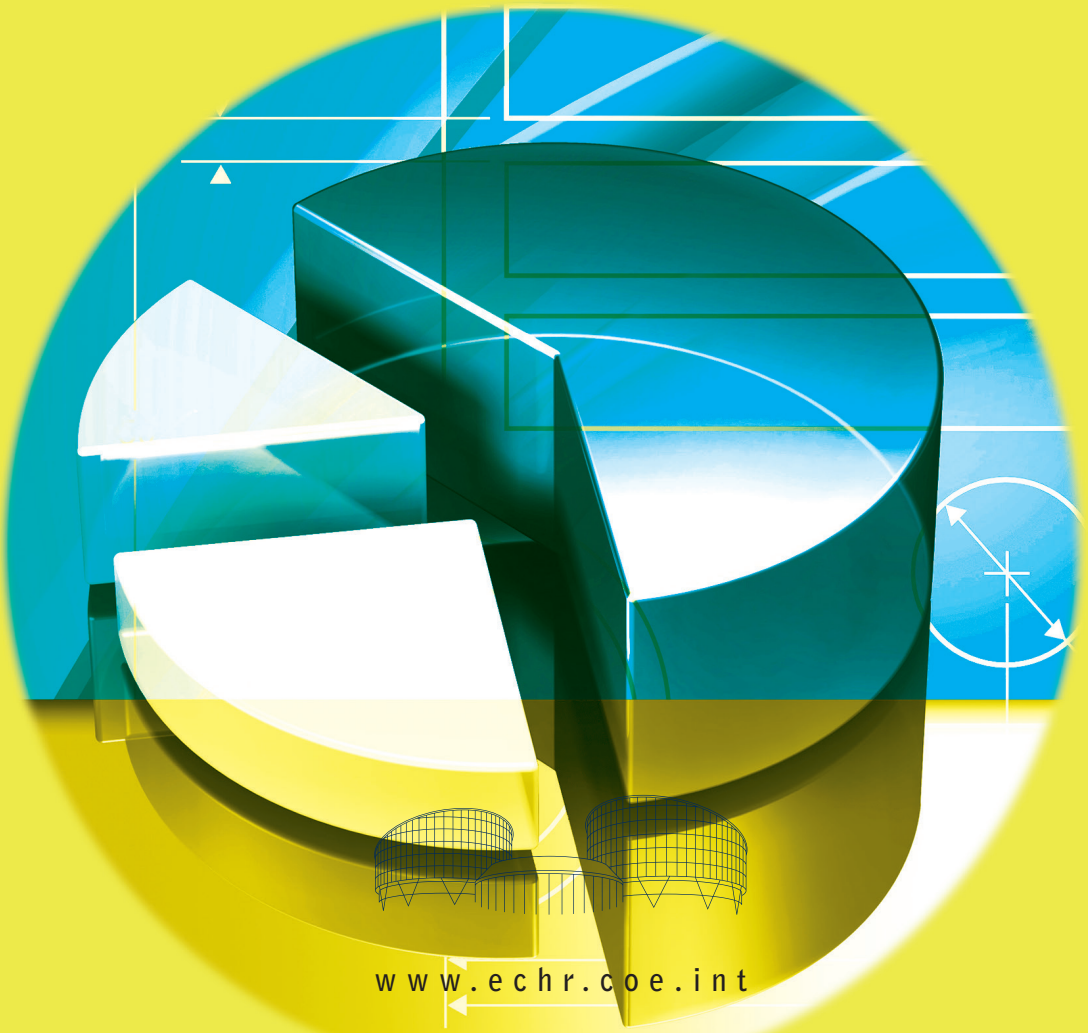


Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights



Execution of judgments





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