

# Overview 1959-2021

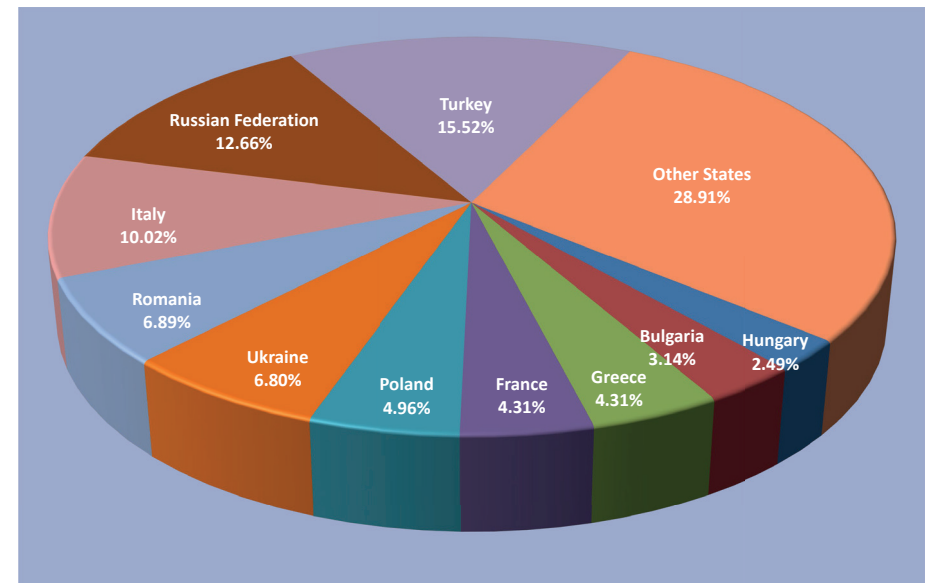
ECHR

# Statistics 1959 to 2021

## Judgments by State

Since it was established in 1959 the Court has delivered 24,511 judgments. Around 40% of these concerned 3 member States of the Council of Europe: Turkey (3,820), the Russian Federation (3,116) and Italy (2,466).

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



This document has been prepared by the Public Relations Unit, and does not bind the Court. It is intended to provide basic general information about the way the Court works. For more detailed information, please refer to documents issued by the Registry, available on the Court's website: [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int).

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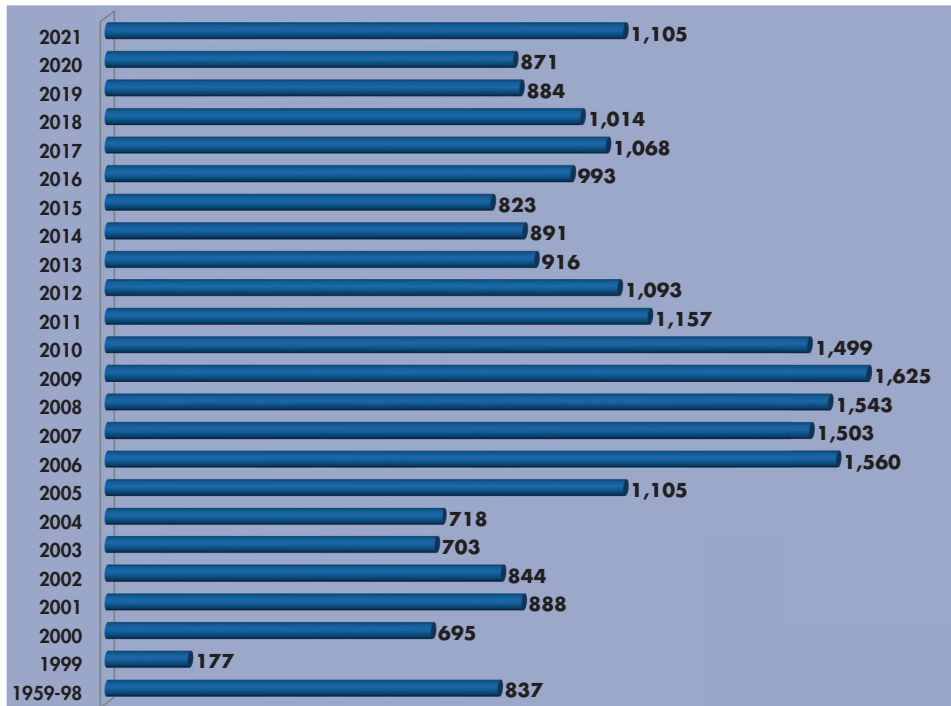
European Court of Human Rights  
Public Relations Unit  
Council of Europe  
F-67075 Strasbourg cedex

## Judgments delivered by the Court

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

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

Since it was set up, the Court has decided on the examination of around 957,300 applications through a judgment or decision, or by being struck out of the list.



## Throughput of applications 1959\* - 2021

	Applications allocated to a judicial formation	Applications inadmissible or struck out	Applications declared	Applications in judgment delivered	Total number of applications decided
	1959-2021	1959-2021	1959-2021	1959-2021	1959-2021
Albania	1 591	1 052	136	1 188	
Andorra	109	98	9	107	
Armenia	4 078	2 584	179	2 763	
Austria	8 958	9 524	444	9 968	
Azerbaijan	6 978	4 331	565	4 896	
Belgium	4 884	5 233	338	5 571	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13 212	11 974	641	12 615	
Bulgaria	18 515	17 092	942	18 034	
Croatia	17 491	16 540	530	17 070	
Cyprus	1 348	1 175	112	1 287	
Czech Republic	14 016	13 612	287	13 899	
Denmark	1 925	1 935	68	2 003	
Estonia	3 807	3 682	82	3 764	
Finland	5 890	5 689	193	5 882	
France	35 258	33 064	1 243	34 307	
Georgia	6 489	5 834	139	5 973	
Germany	27 755	31 426	400	31 826	
Greece	10 892	8 156	1 348	9 504	
Hungary	25 352	23 775	931	24 706	
Iceland	359	291	38	329	
Ireland	1 085	1 119	39	1 158	
Italy	50 538	41 623	3 468	45 091	
Latvia	5 496	4 950	165	5 115	
Liechtenstein	184	175	10	185	
Lithuania	7 624	7 157	280	7 437	
Luxembourg	724	715	51	766	
Malta	534	329	141	470	
Republic of Moldova	15 940	14 146	693	14 839	
Monaco	120	104	6	110	
Montenegro	3 594	3 276	93	3 369	
Netherlands	11 593	11 536	203	11 739	
North Macedonia	6 518	5 991	204	6 195	
Norway	2 131	2 048	75	2 123	
Poland	75 599	72 164	1 246	73 410	
Portugal	4 668	3 712	544	4 256	
Romania	87 964	78 572	3 732	82 304	
Russian Federation	191 965	167 488	7 214	174 702	
San Marino	136	95	25	120	
Serbia	34 858	32 786	880	33 666	
Slovak Republic	9 576	8 910	448	9 358	
Slovenia	10 136	9 634	392	10 026	
Spain	14 099	13 742	278	14 020	
Sweden	10 554	10 481	155	10 636	
Switzerland	7 908	7 794	221	8 015	
Turkey	129 040	107 527	6 498	114 025	
Ukraine	104 783	74 731	18 599	93 330	
United Kingdom	23 197	23 296	1 869	25 165	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 019 471</b>	<b>901 168</b>	<b>56 154</b>	<b>957 322</b>	

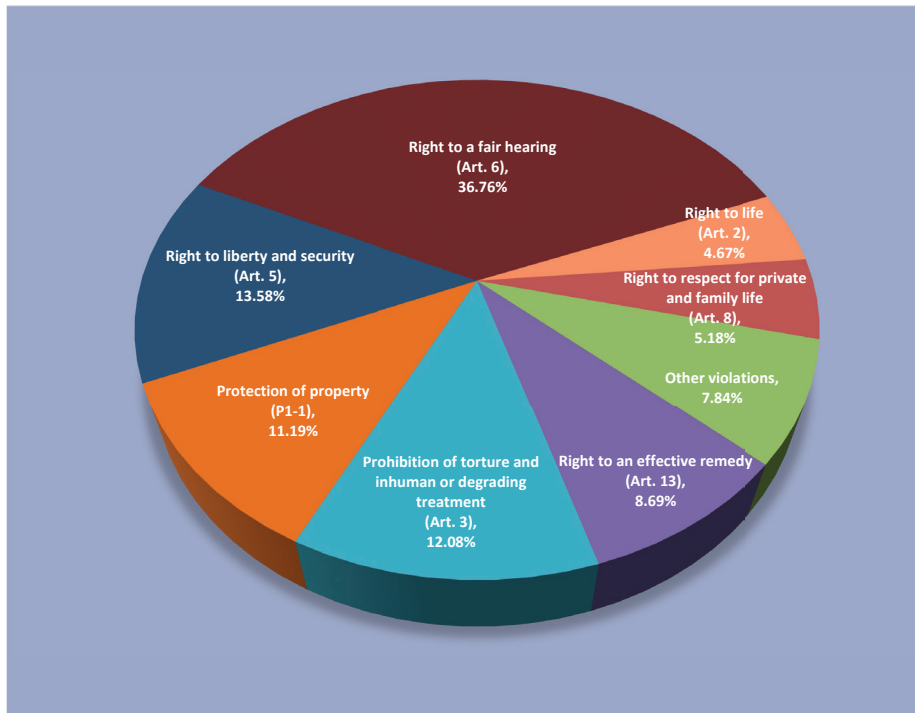
\* This table includes cases dealt with by the European Commission of Human Rights prior to 1959.

## Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (1959-2021)

Nearly 40% of the violations found by the Court have concerned Article 6 of the Convention, whether on account of the fairness (16.55%) or the length (18.28%) of the proceedings.

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

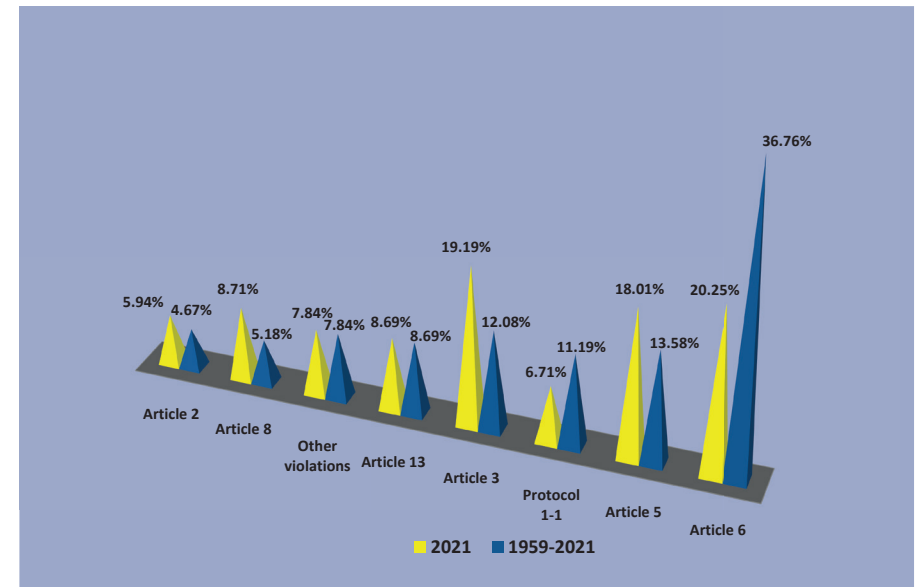
Lastly, in more than 16% of cases, the Court has found a serious violation of the Convention, concerning the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3).



## Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (Comparative Graph 1959-2021 & 2021)

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 2021 almost a quarter of all violations found by the Court related to this provision.

For a number of years, however, other violations of the Convention have been found increasingly frequently. In 2021 this was particularly the case with regard to the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3) as well as the right to liberty and security (Article 5).



# Violations by Article and by State

1959-2021	Total		Other judgments <sup>1</sup>		Friendly settlements/Out-of-judgments		Judgments finding no violation		Judgments finding at least one violation		Total number of judgments		Total		Other Articles of the Convention	
	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4
Albania	86	71	6	2	7											
Andorra	9	4	3	1	1											
Armenia	153	142	6	5	5											
Austria	404	284	79	24	17											
Azerbaijan	251	241	2	2	6											
Belgium	285	198	53	18	16											
Bosnia and Herzegovina	105	98	7													
Bulgaria	774	698	50	5	21											
Croatia	474	380	60	27	7											
Cyprus	87	73	3	4	3											
Czech Republic	236	191	23	13	9											
Denmark	61	21	28	11	1											
Estonia	64	47	16	1												
Finland	192	142	36	9	5											
France	1,062	760	194	64	38											
Georgia	192	107	21	1												
Germany	359	201	130	13	15											
Greece	1,060	948	44	20	48											
Hungary	614	577	21	6	10											
Iceland	36	26	6	3	1											
Ireland	40	25	10	1	4											
Italy	446	1,890	79	355	142											
Latvia	156	125	26	3	2											
Lithuania	10	8	2													
Liechtenstein																

Overview 1959-2021

# Violations by Article and by State

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	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4	Total	PI-4
Lithuania	236	164	53	13	6											
Latvia	51	36	12	3												
Luxembourg	125	95	18													
Malta	541	461	42	5	33											
Republic of Moldova	4	3	1													
Monaco	68	62	4													
Montenegro	176	98	50	16	12											
Netherlands	185	164	13	3	5											
North Macedonia	67	44	23													
Norway	1,220	1,027	133	42	18											
Poland	364	278	21	56	9											
Portugal	1,473	1,469	86	45	73											
Romania	3,116	2,943	115	16	42											
Russian Federation	20	12	5	2	1											
Serbia	232	207	18	7												
Slovak Republic	409	366	13	22	8											
Slovenia	373	342	24	4	3											
Spain	193	134	52	3	4											
Sweden	154	62	59	28	5											
Switzerland	216	124	84	5	3											
Turkey	3,520	3,385	95	219	121											
Ukraine	1,659	1,659	22	4	11											
United Kingdom	563	327	144	69	23											
Subtotal	20,225	1,996	1,137	760	604											
TOTAL <sup>4</sup>																

Overview 1959-2021

This table has been generated automatically using the conclusions in the metadata for each judgment in the HUDOC database.

1. Other judgments: just satisfaction, revision, preliminary objections and lack of jurisdiction.
2. Figures in this column may include conditional violations.
3. Cases where the Court found there would be a violation of Article 2 and/or 3 if the applicant is removed to a State where he/she is at risk. Figures in this column are available only from 2013.
4. Seventy-nine judgments are against more than one respondent State.

## History of the Court's reforms

Since the Court was set up in 1959, the member States of the Council of Europe have adopted a number of protocols to the European Convention on Human Rights with the aim of improving and strengthening its supervisory mechanism.

In 1998 Protocol No. 11 thus replaced the original two-tier structure, comprising the Commission and the Court on Human Rights, sitting a few days per month, by a single full-time Court. This change put an end to the Commission's filtering function, enabling applicants to bring their cases directly before the Court.

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

Since 2010, several high-level conferences on the future of the Court have been convened to identify methods of guaranteeing the long-term effectiveness of the Convention system. These conferences have, in particular, led to the adoption of Protocols Nos. 15 and 16 to the Convention.

Protocol No. 15, adopted in 2013, inserted references to the principle of subsidiarity and the doctrine of the margin of appreciation into the Convention's preamble; it also reduced from 6 to 4 months the time within which an application must be lodged with the Court after a final national decision. It entered into force on 1 August 2021.

Protocol No. 16 entered into force in 2018, allowing the highest courts and tribunals of a State Party to ask the Court to give advisory opinions on questions of principle relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention rights and freedoms.

## Working methods

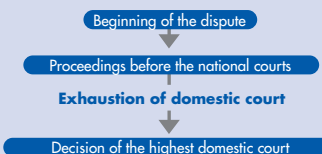
The Court has reformed its working methods in order to increase its efficiency.

The Court has developed the pilot-judgments procedure to cater for the massive influx of applications concerning similar issues, also known as "systemic or structural issues" – i.e. those that arise from the non-conformity of domestic law with the Convention as regards the exercise of a particular right.

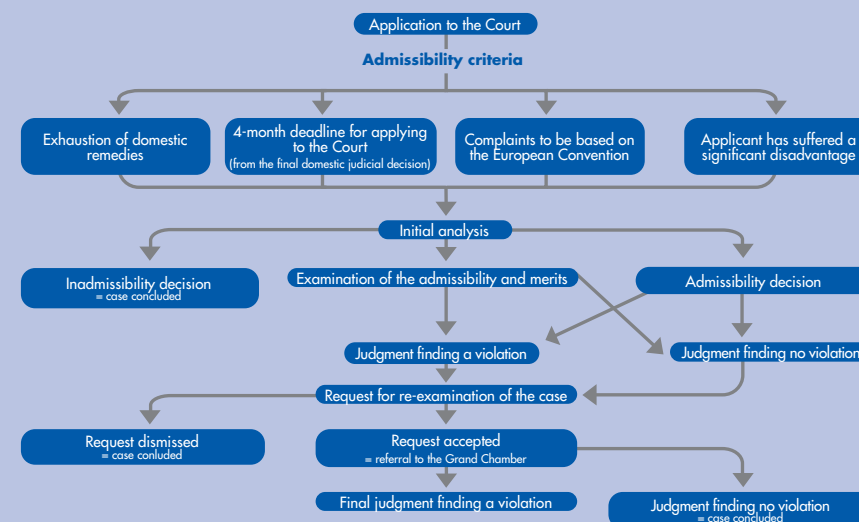
The Court has also adopted a priority policy so as to take into consideration the importance and urgency of the issues raised when deciding the order in which cases are to be dealt with.

# The life of an application

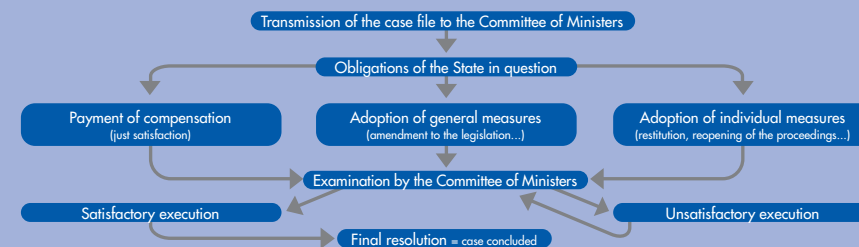
## Proceedings at national level



## Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights



## Execution of judgment



# Simplified flow chart of case-processing by the Court

