

OVERVIEW

1959

1959

2019

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2019



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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Overview 1959-2019

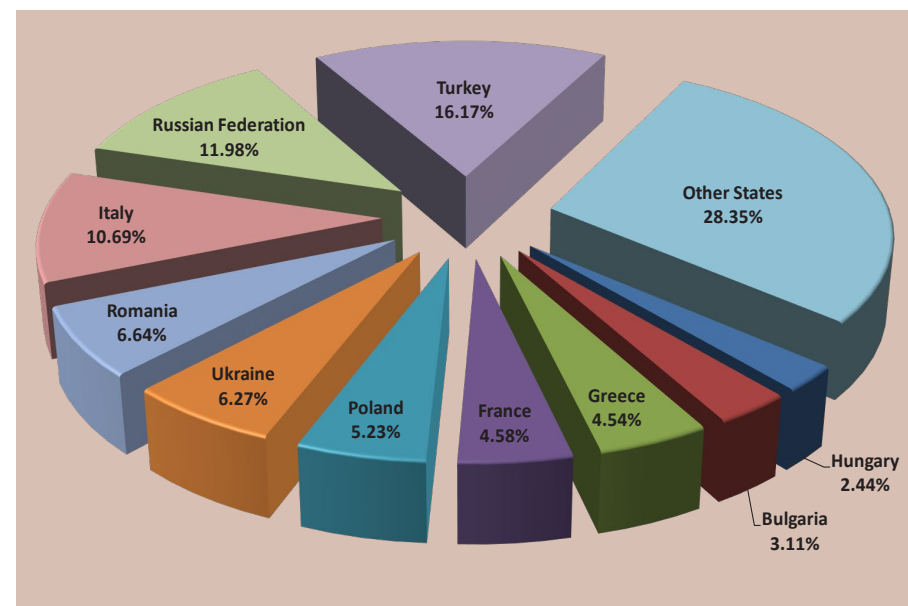
ECHR

Statistics 1959 to 2019

Judgments by State

Since it was established in 1959 the Court has delivered more than 22,500 judgments. Around 40% of these concerned 3 member States of the Council of Europe: Turkey (3,645), the Russian Federation (2,699) and Italy (2,410).

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.

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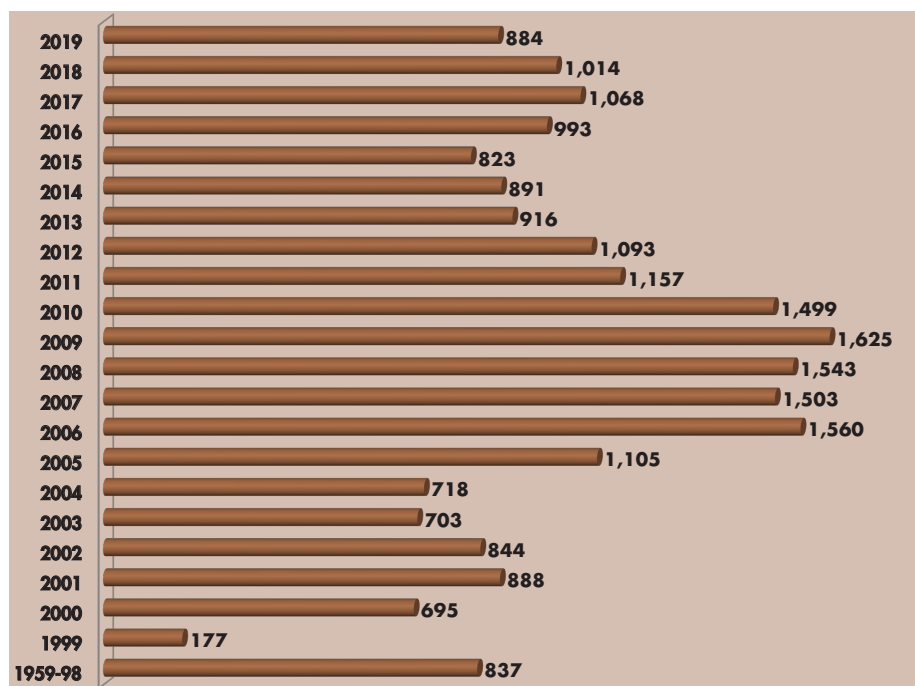
European Court of Human Rights
Public Relations Unit
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg cedex

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 882,000 applications through a judgment or decision, or by being struck out of the list.



Throughput of applications 1959* - 2019

	Applications allocated to a judicial formation	Applications inadmissible or struck out	Applications declared delivered	Applications in which judgment was delivered	Total number of applications decided
	1959-2019	1959-2019	1959-2019	1959-2019	1959-2019
Albania	1,440	712	129	841	
Andorra	87	79	8	87	
Armenia	3,731	1,962	147	2,109	
Austria	8,521	9,134	436	9,570	
Azerbaijan	6,028	3,673	412	4,085	
Belgium	4,605	4,949	295	5,244	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11,558	9,405	562	9,967	
Bulgaria	17,284	15,997	836	16,833	
Croatia	16,178	15,230	452	15,682	
Cyprus	1,241	1,089	107	1,196	
Czech Republic	13,304	12,932	280	13,212	
Denmark	1,795	1,835	59	1,894	
Estonia	3,566	3,445	78	3,523	
Finland	5,679	5,477	191	5,668	
France	33,856	31,902	1,160	33,062	
Georgia	6,239	5,542	104	5,646	
Germany	26,612	30,283	388	30,671	
Greece	9,322	7,314	1,303	8,617	
Hungary	23,230	21,911	789	22,700	
Iceland	310	231	32	263	
Ireland	1,008	1,031	37	1,068	
Italy	47,431	39,191	3,392	42,583	
Latvia	4,814	4,454	152	4,606	
Liechtenstein	167	159	9	168	
Lithuania	6,797	6,419	252	6,671	
Luxembourg	665	670	46	716	
Malta	432	291	113	404	
Republic of Moldova	14,787	13,142	555	13,697	
Monaco	109	93	5	98	
Montenegro	2,995	2,821	73	2,894	
Netherlands	10,959	10,874	189	11,063	
North Macedonia	5,849	5,352	175	5,527	
Norway	1,916	1,864	61	1,925	
Poland	71,082	68,699	1,195	69,894	
Portugal	4,147	3,281	532	3,813	
Romania	81,999	71,246	2,896	74,142	
Russian Federation	173,610	152,634	5,902	158,536	
San Marino	112	79	24	103	
Serbia	31,029	29,440	843	30,283	
Slovak Republic	8,827	8,276	408	8,684	
Slovenia	9,722	9,288	381	9,669	
Spain	13,045	12,687	250	12,937	
Sweden	10,223	10,140	154	10,294	
Switzerland	7,357	7,273	199	7,472	
Turkey	110,388	95,476	5,808	101,284	
Ukraine	96,791	70,125	17,846	87,971	
United Kingdom	22,686	22,811	1,855	24,666	
TOTAL	933,533	830,918	51,120	882,038	

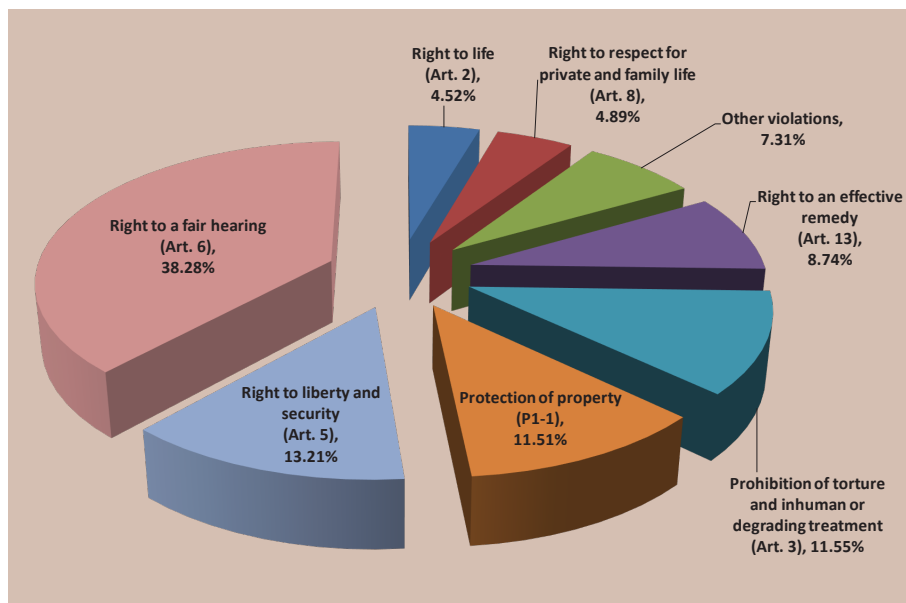
* This table includes cases dealt with by the European Commission of Human Rights prior to 1959.

Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (1959-2019)

Nearly 40% of the violations found by the Court have concerned Article 6 of the Convention, whether on account of the fairness (16.86%) or the length (21.41%) of the proceedings.

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

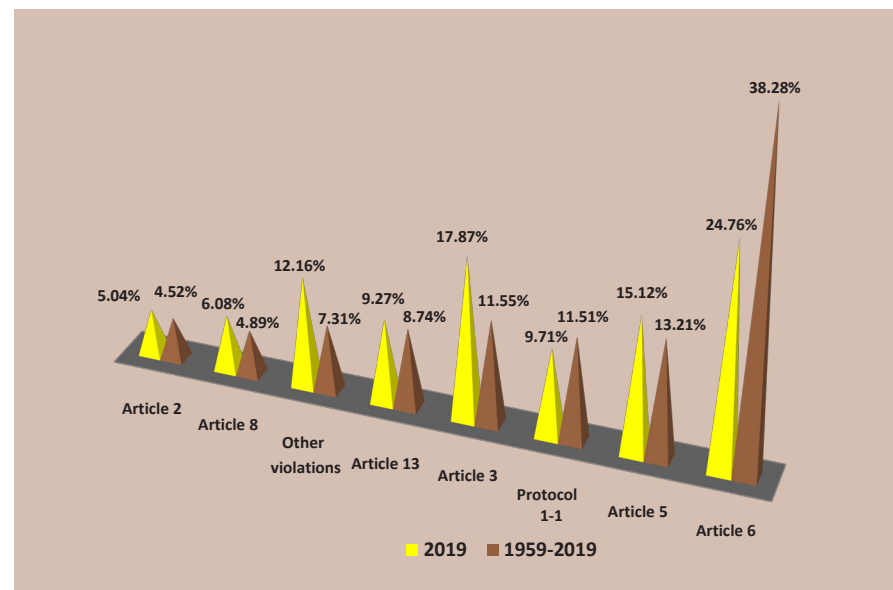
Lastly, in more than 15% of cases, the Court has found a serious violation of the Convention, concerning the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3).



Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments (Comparative Graph 1959-2019 & 2019)

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 2019 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 2019 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).



1959-2019	Total number of judgments Judgments finding at least one violation Striking-out judgments Friendly settlements Other judgments Right to life – deprivation of life Lack of effective investigation Inhuman or degrading treatment Lack of effective investigation Conditional treatment Prohibition of slavery Right to liberty and security Right to a fair trial Length of proceedings Non-punishment Freedom of thought, religion and family life Freedom of expression Freedom of assembly Right to marry Prohibition of discrimination Protection of property Right to education Right to free elections Right not to be tried or punished twice Other Articles of the Convention																													
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	2	2	3	3	3	2/3	4	5	6	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	P1-1	P1-2	P1-3	P7-4		
Albania	80	66	5	2	7			1	1	3	3			3	35	7	24	1	2					31		31			2	
Andorra	8	4	2	1	1										2				1					1	1					
Armenia	123	112	6		5	4	4	1	11	6				37	42	2	6		4	5	1	11		8	1	31		1	9	
Austria	397	279	77	24	17				1	4		1		13	95	115			20	1	35	1		18	27	4		1	4	
Azerbaijan	178	169	1	2	6	2	8	1	19	15				61	66	7	18		5	1	6	34		8		34		25	27	
Belgium	260	181	45	18	16	3	1	1	24	3	3			51	63	59	1		12	1	4			15	9	1		1	2	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	83	76	7						1	1				10	14	7	36	1	1	1				1	4	51			8	
Bulgaria	701	628	47	5	21	15	29	4	80	39	4			270	101	180	14		79	9	18	15		190	8	118	1	5	1	22
Croatia	412	325	54	26	7	2	10		15	12		1	29	109	97	3	2	47		5	1	1		33	7	37			2	
Cyprus	82	68	7	3	4		2		9	4		1	16	11	35		1	7		1				12	3	4		1	1	
Czech Republic	234	190	22	13	9	1	1		2	2				32	69	80			20		1	1		16	2	13				
Denmark	53	17	24	11	1						1			2	1	8			2		1	1		2	1	1				
Estonia	60	44	15	1					7	2				10	15	7		4	4		1			8		1				
Finland	190	141	36	9	4	1			2					2	37	62			24		20			10	2				6	
France	1,032	749	181	64	38	9	4	2	36	1	13	2	70	279	284	2	3	50	4	38	6			35	10	30			1	6
Georgia	104	83	17	1	3	4	6	1	24	14				23	27	5	1		7	3	1	1		4	7	7		2		6
Germany	348	195	125	13	15				4	1				32	26	102	1	10	23		9	2		24	13	4			1	
Greece	1,022	917	39	20	46	4	7	1	119	11	1	4	85	138	542	13			13	13	15	7	1	270	15	79	2	3	2	1
Hungary	550	519	17	6	8	2	1		31	8				48	20	329		1	21		30	10		51	6	50		3	4	
Iceland	31	23	5	3										1	8				1		7	2					1		3	
Ireland	38	24	9	1	4				1					2	5	13			5		2			9	1					
Italy	2,410	1,843	70	355	142	3	6	9	33	14				43	286	1,197	18	5	170		9	3		96	7	372	1	17	1	30
Latvia	144	115	24	3	2	1	2		19	13				59	21	19		1	29	3	4	1		5	2	2		3	9	
Liechtenstein	9	8	1											1	3	4					1			2						

Overview 1959-2019

1959-2019	Total number of judgments Judgments finding at least one violation Striking-out judgments Friendly settlements Other judgments Right to life – deprivation of life Lack of effective investigation Inhuman or degrading treatment Lack of effective investigation Conditional violations Prohibition of slavery Right to liberty and security Length of proceedings Non-punishment Freedom of thought, religion and family life Freedom of expression Freedom of assembly Right to marry Prohibition of discrimination Protection of property Right to education Right to free elections Other Articles of the Convention or punished twice Other Articles of the Convention or punished twice																												
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	2	2	3	3	3	2/3	4	5	6	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	P1-1	P1-2	P1-3	P7-4	
Lithuania	213	150	46	12	5	3	6		27	9			25	30	27	2	1	22	1	2	1		6	5	31		1	1	
Luxembourg	46	34	9	3			1						1	14	17			4		3	1		3	1	1				
Malta	101	74	16		11	1			3				26	12	9	1	2	4		5			7	4	30				1
Republic of Moldova	441	385	29	3	24	2	9	9	96	48			103	152	11	28	1	31	4	19	16		58	4	128		2		10
Monaco	3	3											1	3															
Montenegro	53	48	3		2		1		4	2			5	8	20	6		3		2			5	1	6				
Netherlands	165	93	44	16	12		4	1	10				30	30	8			17		7			2	3	1				
North Macedonia	165	145	12	3	5	2	2	3	5	11			17	47	65	5		7		2	5		10		12				1
Norway	53	34	19										1	12	2			12		6					1	1			
Poland	1,178	989	130	42	17	7	7	2	56	13			305	116	441	4		116	1	33	1	2	27	4	55				7
Portugal	354	270	19	56	9	2	4		1				7	38	144	6		15		27			43	2	47				
Romania	1,496	1,329	62	36	69	11	46	2	293	91			122	451	148	52	3	96	2	29	6		25	38	482	1	6	2	16
Russian Federation	2,699	2,551	104	14	30	310	346	63	875	221	40	1	1,121	881	205	151	2	220	10	72	45		633	19	655	3	6	4	144
San Marino	19	11	5	2	1								1	8	2			1	1										
Serbia	216	195	14		7		3		6	8			9	33	52	71		14		7			18	2	77		1	1	
Slovak Republic	374	334	11	22	7	2	2	1	4	3			55	42	208	2		22		10			38	3	20				1
Slovenia	368	338	23	4	3		3		21	6			6	23	263	3	1	12		2			266	3	7				
Spain	171	115	49	3	4				1	12			5	52	16	1	4	17		8			2	4	2				3
Sweden	153	61	59	28	5	1		1	4		5		2	28	12	1		9		2	1		3	1	6			1	
Switzerland	195	115	72	5	3		1		2	1	5		20	36	7			25	1	18	1	1	2	5					
Turkey	3,645	3,224	87	218	116	141	221	31	339	219			771	932	607	66	5	123	12	356	97		281	19	674	7	11		35
Ukraine	1,413	1,383	19	4	7	12	58	19	224	101			379	572	429	37	1	87	5	14	8	1	322	7	358		2	1	63
United Kingdom	552	320	141	68	23	2	20	2	17		1	1	70	93	30		1	72	1	12	4	4	34	45	3	2	8	2	
Sub-total		18,977	1,809	1,120	716	547	816	157	2,432	893	74	10	3,982	5,086	5,884	573	51	1,475	79	845	282	10	2,634	294	3,470	18	99	30	411
TOTAL ⁴				22,535																									

This table has been generated automatically, using the conclusions recorded in the metadata for each judgment contained in HUDOC, the Court's case-law database.

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

2. Figures in this column may include conditional violations.

3. Cases in which the Court held there would be a violation of Article 2 and/or 3 if the applicant was removed to a State where he/she was at risk. Figures in this column are available only from 2013 onwards.

4. Including seventy-four judgments which concern two or more respondent 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, 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, 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. It will enter into force as soon as all the States Parties to the Convention have signed and ratified it.

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

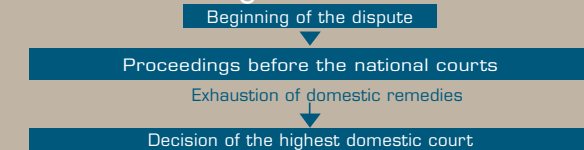
The Court has reformed its working methods in order to increase its efficiency.

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.

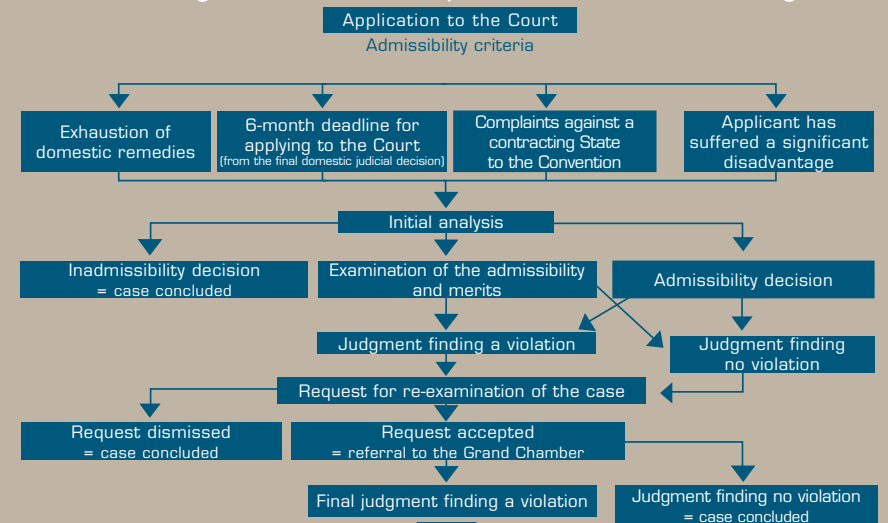
The Court has also adopted a priority policy so as to take into consideration the importance and urgency of the issues raised when deciding the order in which cases are to be dealt with.

The life of an application

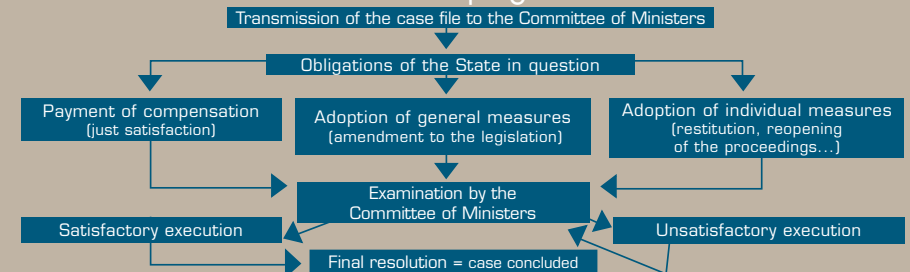
Proceedings at national level



Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights

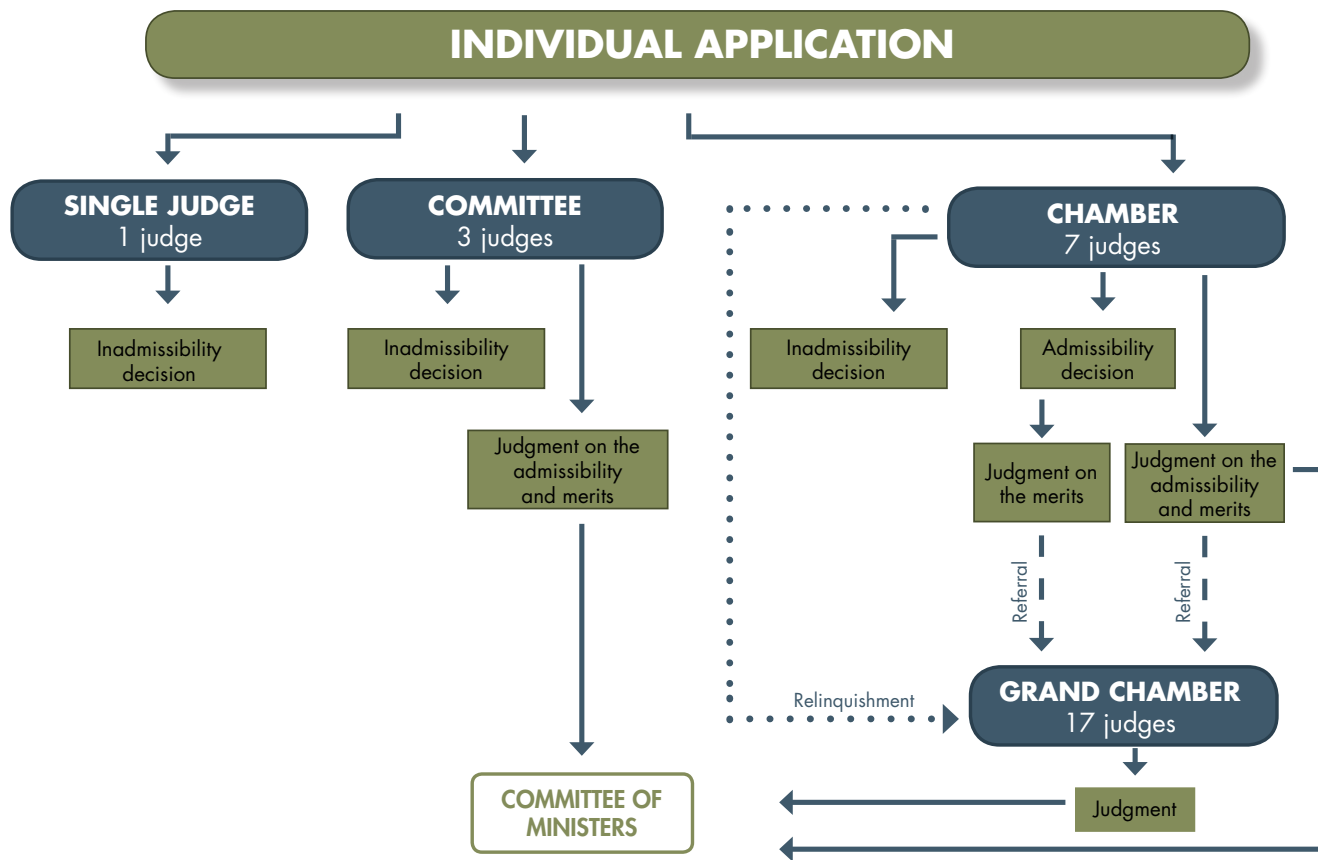


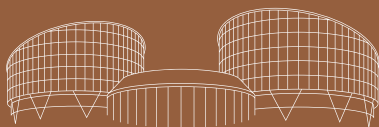
Execution of judgments



Simplified flow chart of case-processing by the Court

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