

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

Analysis of statistics 2023

January 2024

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Overview of the Court's statistics in 2023

The Court's statistics for 2023 disclose a decrease in the number of incoming applications allocated to a judicial formation. This can be explained principally by a decrease in the number of allocated applications coming from Russia, Türkiye, Serbia and Greece.

A. New applications

In 2023, 34,650 applications were allocated to a judicial formation, an overall decrease of 24% compared with 2022 (45,500). 21,000 of these were identified as single-judge cases likely to be declared inadmissible (a decrease of 21% in relation to 2022). As in previous years, single-judge applications continue to be processed as soon as they are identified as qualifying for such a procedure. In addition, 13,650 applications were identified as probable Chamber or Committee cases (a decrease of 27% compared with 2022).

B. Applications disposed of judicially and pending applications

38,260 applications were disposed of judicially, a decrease of 3% in relation to 2022 (39,570). The number of applications disposed of exceeded the number of allocated by slightly more than 3,600. As a result, the stock of allocated applications pending before the Court decreased over the year, from 74,650 to 68,450.

C. Processing of applications

1. Pre-allocation

As at 31 December 2023, the number of applications pending at the pre-judicial stage stood at 4,000, a decrease of 36% as compared with the same date of the previous year (6,250). The number of applications disposed of administratively in 2023 was 10,600, a decrease of 26%. 60% of these files were disposed of for failure to comply with the requirements of Rule 47 of the Rules of Court (contents of an individual application). The remainder of these files were disposed of administratively because applicants had not submitted an application form within the time-limit set by the Registry.

2. Inadmissibility or striking-out decisions

In 2023, 31,329 applications were declared inadmissible or struck out of the list of cases by a single judge, a Committee, a Chamber or a Grand Chamber, a 12% decrease compared with 2022 (35,402).

The single-judge formation decided 25,834 applications in 2023, 16% less than in 2022 (30,585). This can be explained mainly by a decrease in the number of applications allocated to a single judge in 2023.

In 2023, 2,425 applications were struck out by a Chamber or a Committee, in a decision following a friendly settlement or a unilateral declaration, an increase of 10% (2,208 in 2022). Friendly settlements (1,801) increased by 5% (1,718 in 2022) while unilateral declarations increased by 27% (624 in 2023 as against 490 in 2022). In addition, 3,070 applications were declared inadmissible by a Grand Chamber, a Chamber or a Committee or struck out by those formations on other grounds (18% more than in 2022).

3. Communicated applications

In 2023, 16,623 applications were communicated (an increase of 144% compared with 2022, when 6,822 applications were communicated). Of these applications, 57% were lodged against Russia.

4. Judgments

Judgments were delivered in respect of 6,931 applications (compared with 4,168 in 2022, an increase of 66%). A large proportion of these applications were joined, with the result that the number of judgments actually delivered was 1,014, a decrease of 13% compared to 2022. Furthermore, 682 judgments (in respect of 6,386 applications) were adopted by a three-judge Committee formation (-14% compared with 2022). However, there was an 80% increase (6,386 compared with 3,554 in 2022) in the number of applications

decided in a judgment by three-judge Committees, which accounted for 92% of applications decided by means of a judgment (compared with 85% in 2022). This year the number of applications decided by means of a judgment reached yet another record figure if the 2017 *Burmych and Others* judgment is not taken into account (*Burmych and Others v. Ukraine* (striking out) [GC], nos. 46852/13 and 12,147 others, 12 October 2017).

5. Requests for interim measures (Rule 39 of the Rules of Court)

The total number of decisions on interim measures (2,634) decreased by 15% compared with 2022 (3,116). The Court granted requests for interim measures in 1,419 cases (an increase of 30% in relation to the total of 1,094 in 2022) and dismissed them in 359 cases (a decrease of 48% compared with 685 in 2022). 91% of the requests granted (1,297 requests) concerned immigration issues in Belgium. It should be noted that 94% of the requests granted concerned issues other than expulsion or extradition. The remainder fell outside the scope of Rule 39 of the Rules of Court.

D. Priority policy¹

The essence of this policy is to concentrate more resources on the most important cases, namely the cases falling within the top three categories (“priority applications”). On 31 December 2023, 20,334 applications were pending in these categories (a decrease of 15% from the beginning of the year). This result was achieved thanks to the high productivity in these categories in 2023. Indeed, 6,880 priority applications were disposed of judicially, an increase of 66% compared to 2022 (4,152).

The number of priority applications communicated to the respondent Governments increased by 222% compared to 2022 (3,138 in 2022 and 10,114 in 2023). The number of priority applications declared inadmissible or struck out of the list of cases by a Grand Chamber, Chamber or Committee increased by 20% (1,509 in 2022 and 1,805 in 2023). The number of priority applications struck out following a friendly settlement or a unilateral declaration increased from 666 in 2022 to 794 in 2023. The number of priority applications giving rise to a judgment increased by 92% in 2023 (2,643 in 2022 and 5,075 in 2023). Such high figures were made possible by the processing of applications against Russia. In 2023 more than 7,700 priority applications against Russia were communicated, and more than 3,700 applications ended in a decision or judgment.

E. Conclusion

The Court has implemented the strategy adopted in 2020 for more targeted and effective case-processing with the aim of streamlining the handling of both priority and “impact” cases (i.e. non-priority Chamber cases which address core issues of relevance for the State in question and/or for the Convention system generally). This strategy is aimed at enhancing the Court’s immediate impact and relevance for the applicants and in the member States and its ability to address core legal issues of relevance for the Convention system as a whole. On 1 January 2021 there were almost 18,000 applications pending in category IV. By 1 January 2024 around 14,100 applications remained pending in category IV, of which 270 were identified as having an “impact”. The strategy has undoubtedly resulted in more efficient handling of important yet non-priority cases. Since January 2021, 704 “impact” applications have been processed, with 255 resulting in a judgment (68 in 2023, 111 in 2022 and 76 in 2021), 59 declared inadmissible or struck out of the list of cases (18 in 2023, 21 in 2022 and 20 in 2021) and 390 communicated (67 in 2023, 87 in 2022 and 236 in 2021).

1. An explanation of the Court’s priority policy can be found on the Court’s internet site: http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Priority_policy_ENG.pdf

General information

Table 1 General statistical information

1. Applications allocated to a judicial formation [round figures (50)]	2023	2022	+/-
Applications allocated	34650	45500	-24%

2. Interim procedural events	2023	2022	+/-
Applications communicated to respondent Government	16623	6822	144%

3. Applications decided	2023	2022	+/-
By decision or judgment	38260	39570	-3%
- by judgment delivered	6931	4168	66%
- by decision (inadmissible or struck out)	31329	35402	-12%

4. Pending applications [round figures (50)]	31/12/2023	1/1/2023	+/-
Applications pending before a judicial formation	68450	74650	-8%
- Chamber and Grand Chamber	18150	35100	-48%
- Committee	46150	34800	33%
- Single-Judge formation	4150	4750	-13%

5. Pre-judicial applications [round figures (50)]	31/12/2023	1/1/2023	+/-
Applications at a pre-judicial stage	4000	6250	-36%
	2023	2022	+/-
Applications disposed of administratively	10600	14400	-26%

Number of applications allocated to a judicial formation²

Chart 1 Applications allocated to a judicial formation per year

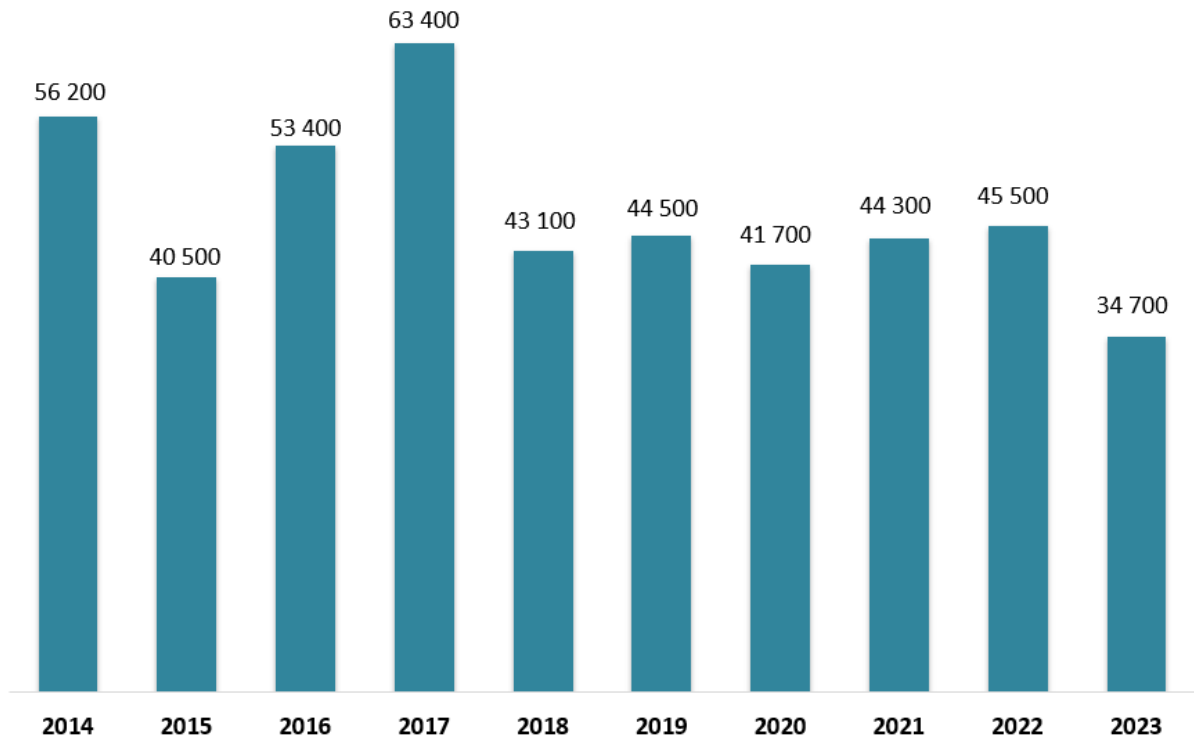
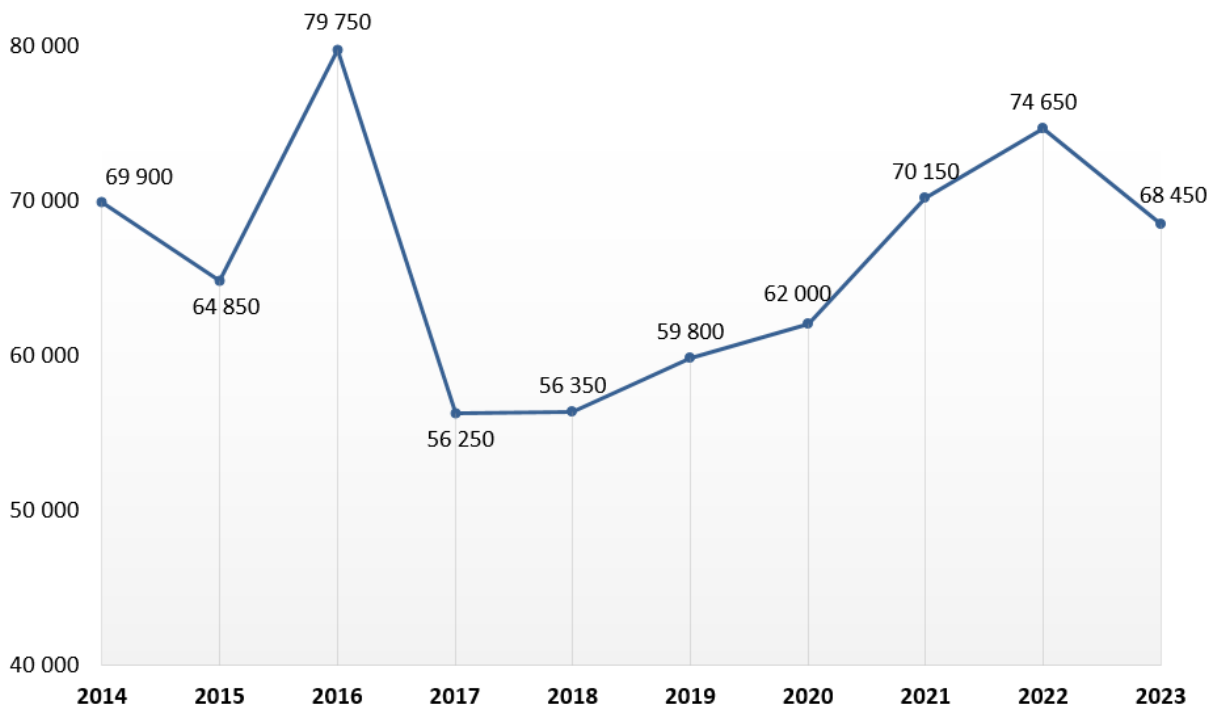


Chart 2 Applications pending before a judicial formation per year



2. Figures represent the total number of applications, including joined applications. The document generally gives round figures.

Chart 3 Breakdown of 68,450 pending applications for the high case-count States

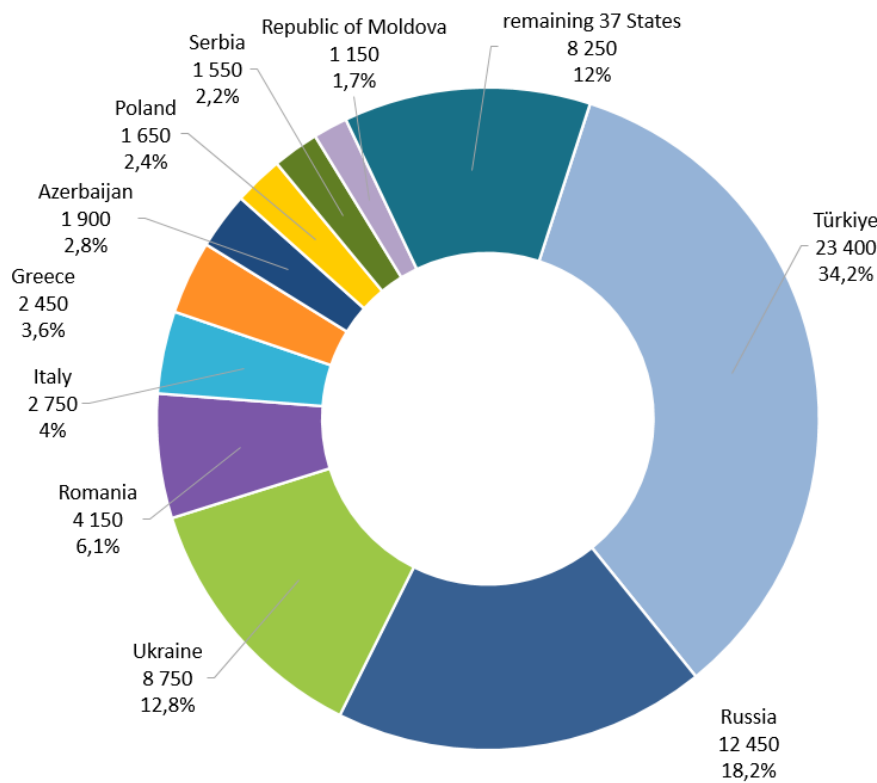
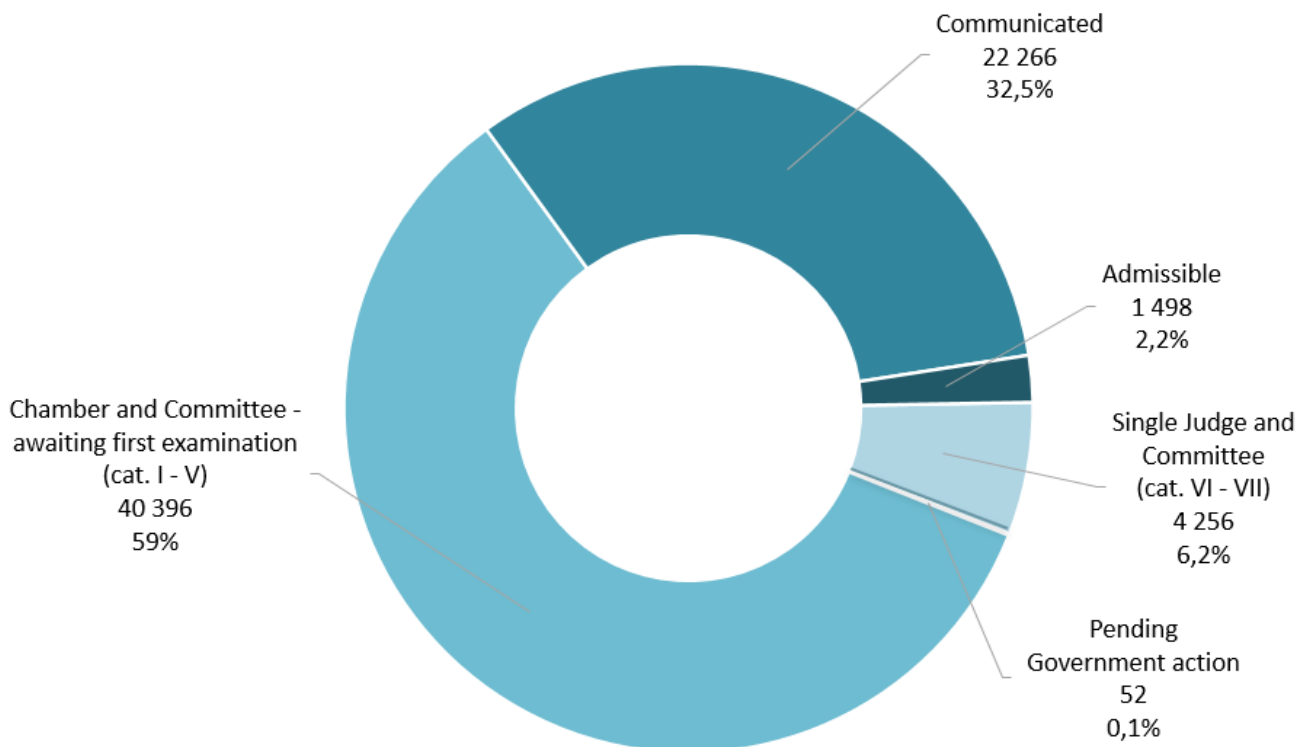
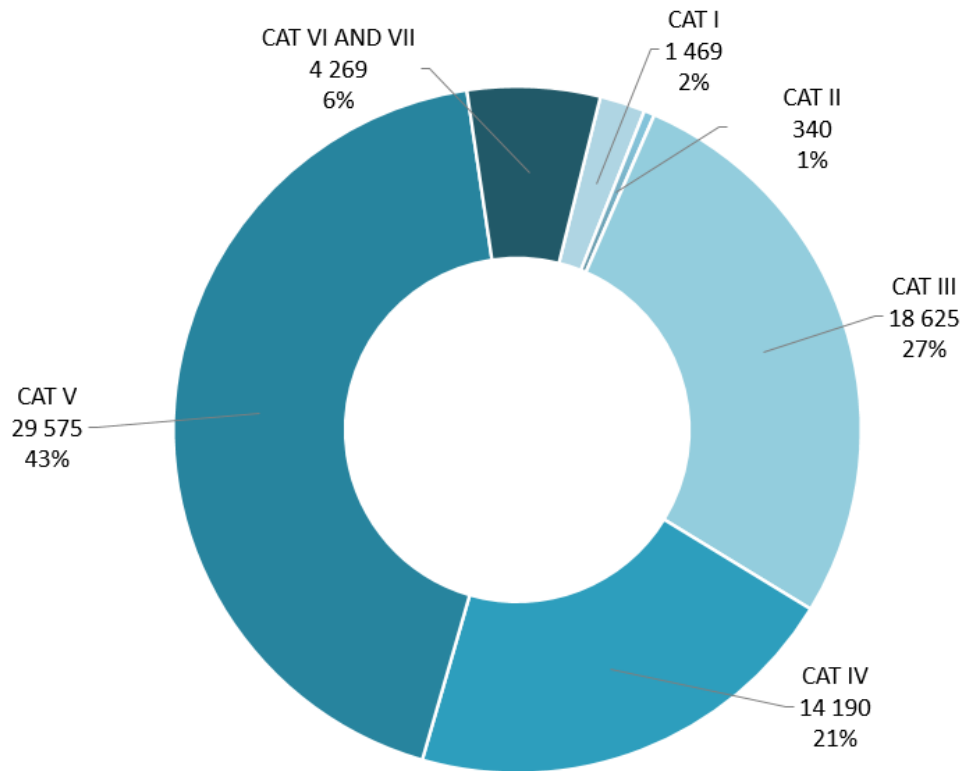


Chart 4 Breakdown of 68,450 pending applications by stage of proceedings and judicial formation³



3. The “Pending Government action” category was created to monitor applications following a judgment applying the pilot procedure.

Chart 5 Breakdown of 68,450 pending applications by category



Processing of applications

Chart 6 38,260 applications disposed of judicially in 2023

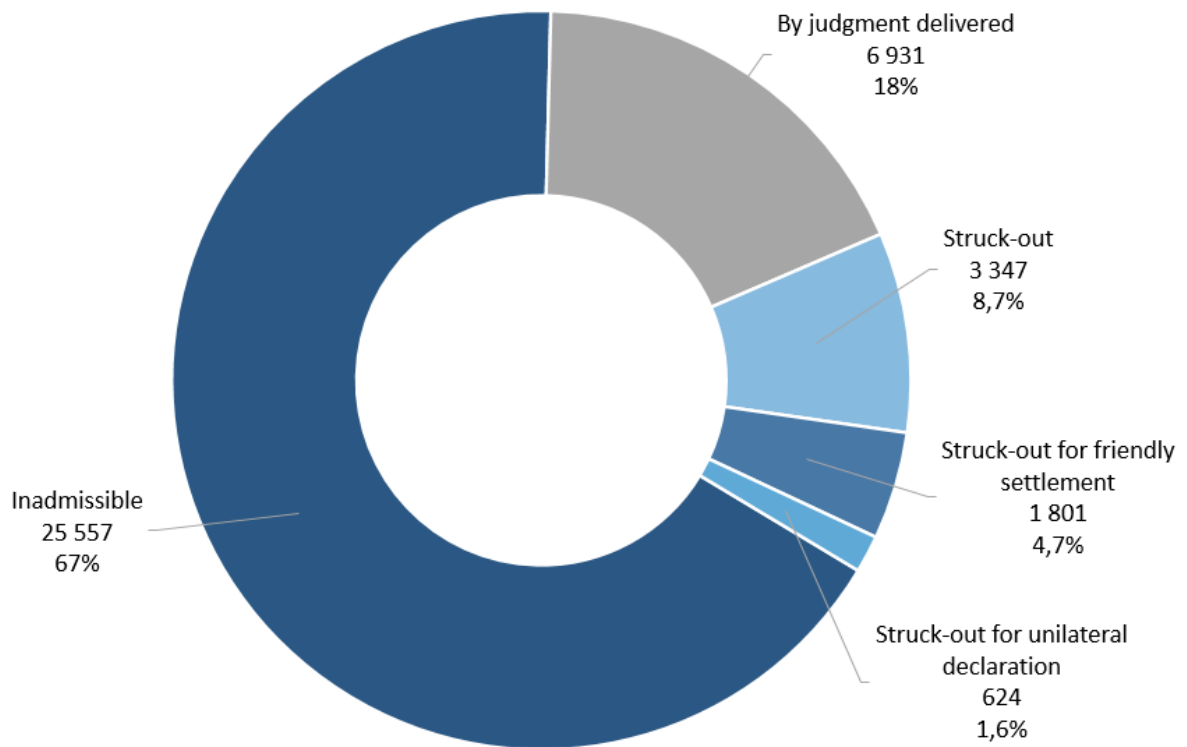
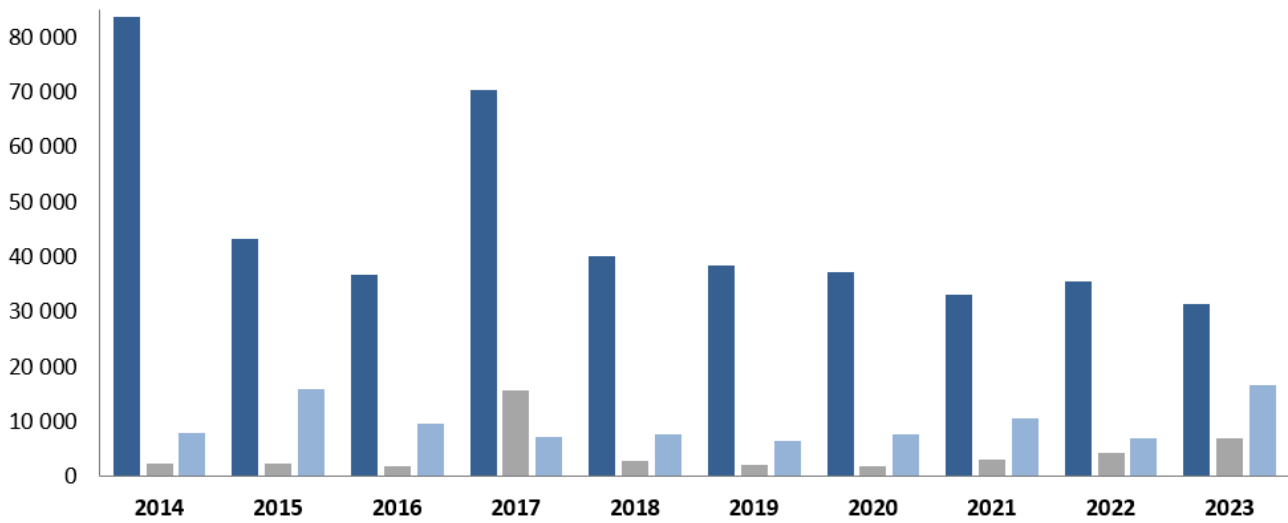
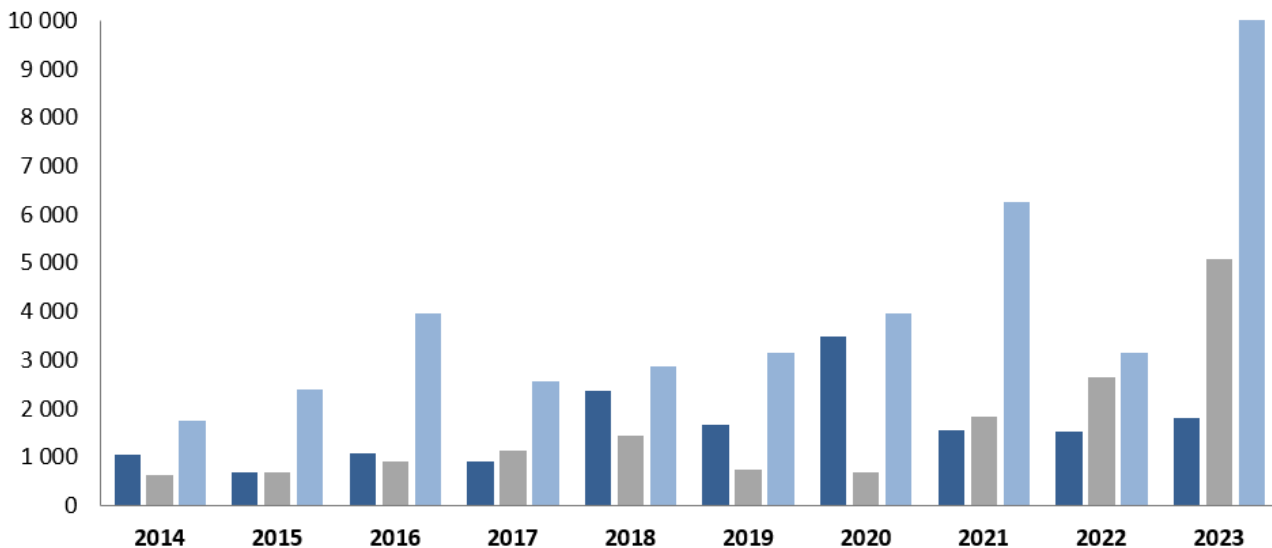


Chart 7 Applications in categories I to VII processed over the past ten years



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applications inadmissible or struck out	83 680	43 134	36 580	70 356	40 022	38 480	37 289	32 962	35 402	31 329
Applications by judgment delivered	2 388	2 441	1 927	15 595	2 739	2 187	1 901	3 131	4 168	6 931
Applications communicated	7 896	15 964	9 534	7 226	7 646	6 441	7 683	10 629	6 822	16 623

Chart 8 Applications in categories I, II and III processed over the past ten years



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applications inadmissible or struck out	1 051	680	1 067	905	2 357	1 649	3 487	1 549	1 509	1 805
Applications by judgment delivered	623	691	898	1 134	1 424	751	679	1 824	2 643	5 075
Applications communicated	1 742	2 392	3 972	2 555	2 871	3 138	3 953	6 266	3 138	10 114

Chart 9 Number of judgments (legal acts) over the past ten years

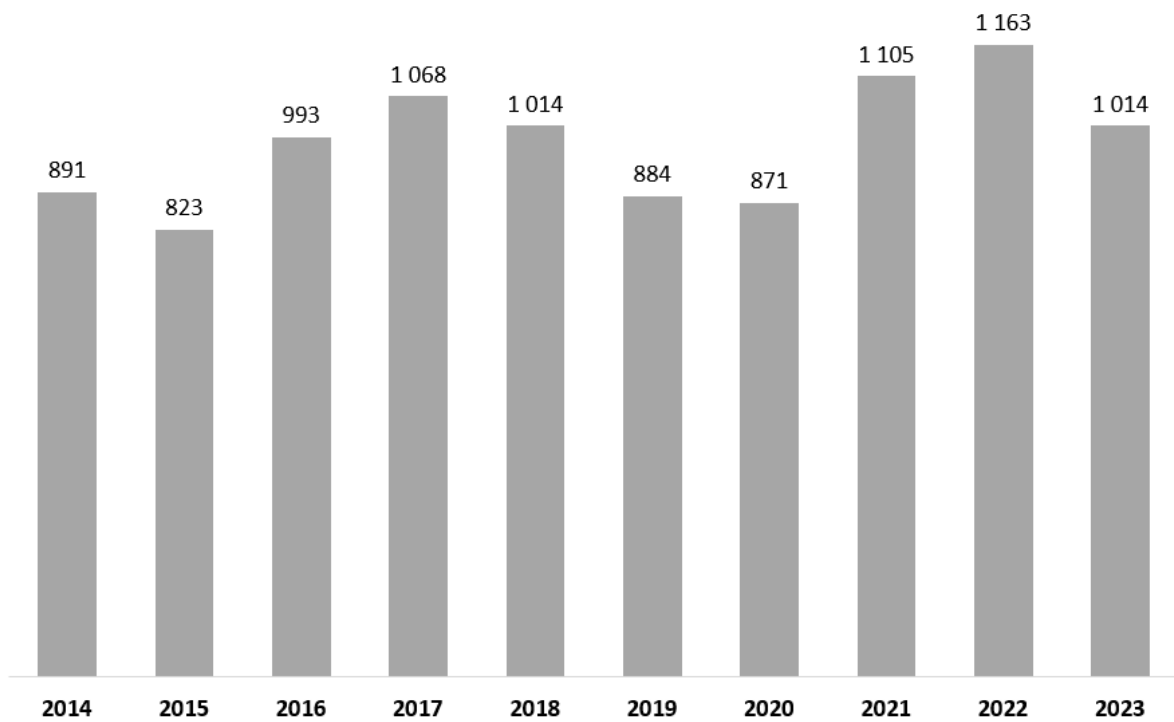


Chart 10 Evolution of the friendly settlements and unilateral declarations over the past ten years

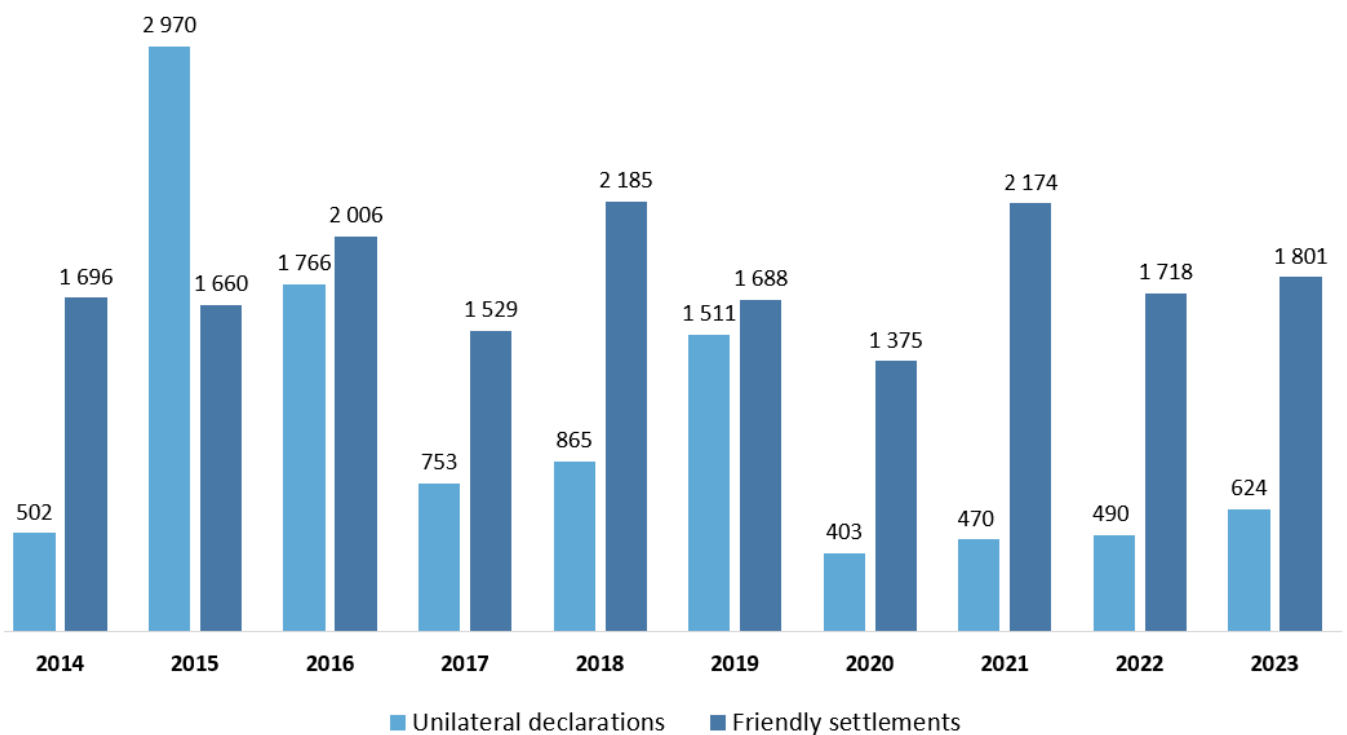


Chart 11 Applications by judgment delivered over the past 25 years

25,852 judgments were delivered in respect of 66,175 applications. The biggest group was delivered in 2017 (see *Burmych and Others v. Ukraine (striking out)* [GC], nos. 46852/13 and 12147 others, 12 October 2017).

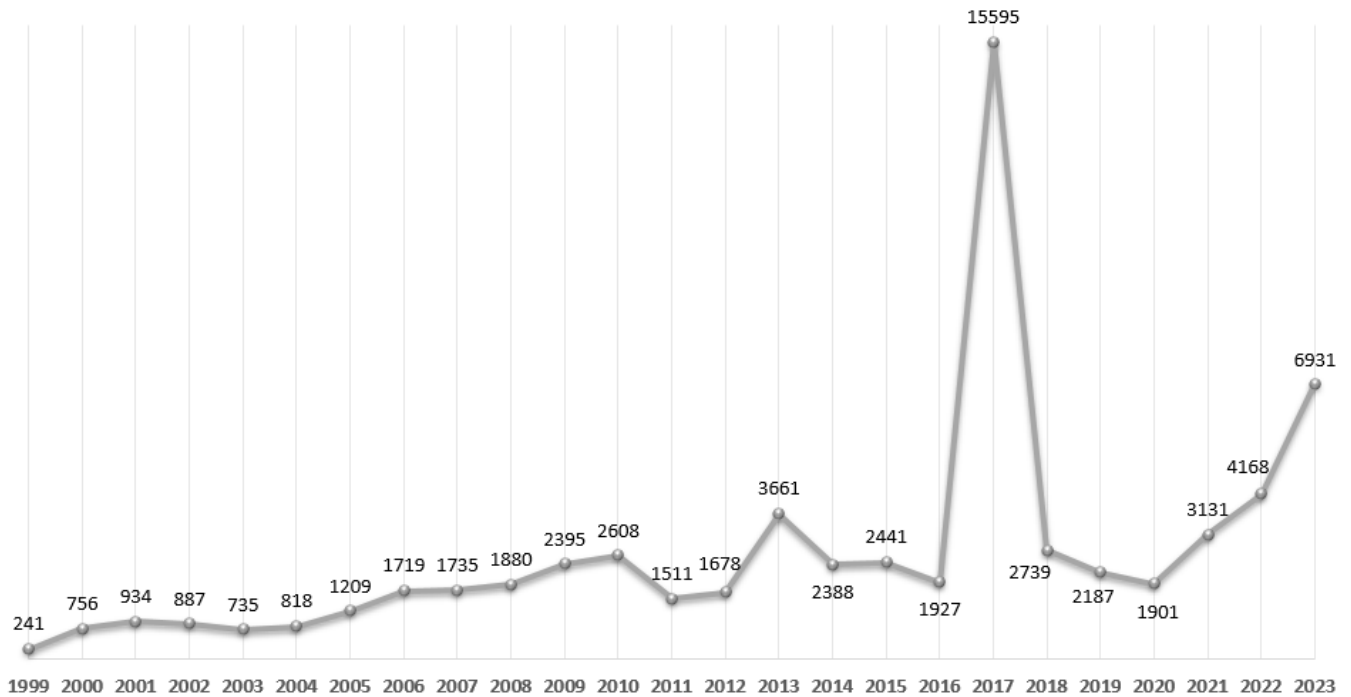


Chart 12 Applications inadmissible or struck out over the past 25 years

935,612 applications were declared inadmissible or struck out. 2012-2014 are the years with the biggest numbers of decided applications, principally by Single Judge, following the entry into force of Protocol No. 14.

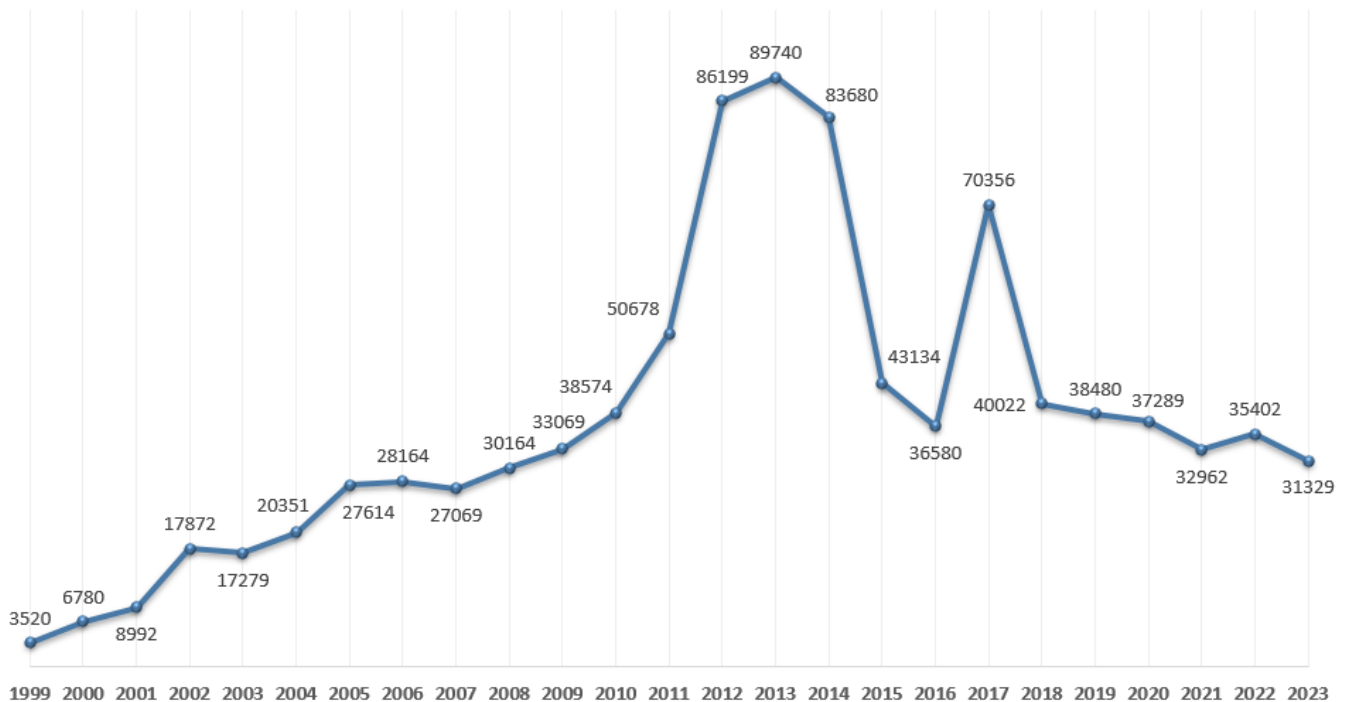


Table 2 Unilateral declarations and friendly settlements

State	Unilateral Declaration			Friendly Settlement		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Albania	2	3	9	6	2	1
Andorra	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armenia	1	0	0	1	1	5
Austria	0	0	0	6	0	1
Azerbaijan	55	4	111	67	64	154
Belgium	11	21	6	6	22	8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1	0	6	48	1
Bulgaria	6	2	4	30	33	7
Croatia	17	12	6	34	20	5
Cyprus	0	1	0	1	1	0
Czech Republic	0	1	1	4	4	2
Denmark	0	0	0	1	0	1
Estonia	0	0	1	2	1	0
Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	2	4	2	10	6	8
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	0	0	0	1	2	0
Greece	1	4	80	40	7	367
Hungary	8	13	6	221	170	235
Iceland	5	16	0	7	2	0
Ireland	2	0	0	3	0	0
Italy	142	179	247	236	85	164
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	1	9	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	0	1	0	0
Republic of Moldova	7	1	3	8	3	10
Monaco	0	0	0	1	0	0
Montenegro	0	0	1	1	4	6
Netherlands	0	2	0	4	4	4
North Macedonia	9	6	30	74	19	86
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	56	33	54	131	77	135
Portugal	4	2	11	11	14	18
Romania	48	41	11	224	406	57
Russia	42	23	0	244	27	0
San Marino	0	0	2	2	0	1
Serbia	1	10	8	708	625	490
Slovakia	6	2	3	26	23	19
Slovenia	0	0	1	0	13	3
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	1	0	0	1	7	2
Türkiye	30	109	27	43	10	9
Ukraine	13	0	0	7	0	0
United Kingdom	0	0	0	5	9	2
Total	470	490	624	2174	1718	1801

Table 3 The Court’s total caseload by stage of proceedings and judicial formation

State	Single Judge and Committee (cat. VI-VII)	Chamber and Committee- awaiting first examination (cat. I-V)	Communicated	Pending Government action	Admissible	TOTAL
Albania	25	257	90		11	383
Andorra	2					2
Armenia	83	272	476		5	836
Austria	89	19	17			125
Azerbaijan	11	975	859		32	1877
Belgium	21	266	119		2	408
Bosnia and Herzegovina	69	13	21		1	104
Bulgaria	49	364	82		6	501
Croatia	102	499	132		6	739
Cyprus	9	5	25		1	40
Czech Republic	46	44	39		2	131
Denmark	6	1	25		2	34
Estonia	12	5	16		4	37
Finland	40	4	9		1	54
France	56	152	222		38	468
Georgia	34	74	72		5	185
Germany	102	40	30		2	174
Greece	27	1186	1209		7	2429
Hungary	54	163	345		16	578
Iceland	10	1	27			38
Ireland	4	3	1			8
Italy	151	1684	589		319	2743
Latvia	208	98	67		7	380
Liechtenstein						0
Lithuania	45	45	56		4	150
Luxembourg	3	7	4		1	15
Malta		11	13		3	27
Republic of Moldova	17	835	270		27	1149
Monaco		12	4			16
Montenegro	32	20	29			81
Netherlands	67	24	47		11	149
North Macedonia	33	221	83		11	348
Norway	22	26	6			54
Poland	133	789	651	52	23	1648
Portugal	9	322	124		8	463
Romania	225	2695	1142		109	4171
Russia	96	3886	7736		735	12453
San Marino	1	20	48		3	72
Serbia	764	398	373			1535
Slovakia	74	87	161		1	323
Slovenia	104	783	21		2	910
Spain	87	10	45		2	144
Sweden	20	5	10		1	36
Switzerland	70	64	52		3	189
Türkiye	956	16874	5537		30	23397
Ukraine	241	7111	1333		52	8737
United Kingdom	47	26	49		5	127
Total	4256	40396	22266	52	1498	68468

Table 4 Major procedural steps in processing of applications by State

State	Applications allocated to a judicial formation			Applications communicated to the Government			Applications declared inadmissible or struck out			Applications decided by a judgment		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Albania	75	85	133	38	12	47	220	107	106	4	9	37
Andorra	11	10	6	2	0	0	9	8	9	0	0	0
Armenia	134	111	147	36	48	348	194	177	510	17	31	31
Austria	222	254	200	19	4	11	190	258	166	8	4	9
Azerbaijan	425	389	438	116	237	613	298	269	655	79	51	77
Belgium	155	1169	1328	65	147	38	151	166	2125	28	13	14
Bosnia and Herzegovina	784	407	248	59	27	18	529	808	326	60	15	2
Bulgaria	623	597	486	74	70	55	526	568	485	60	28	39
Croatia	698	886	1012	111	70	52	637	809	705	45	37	46
Cyprus	52	43	29	15	9	16	47	58	32	3	7	5
Czech Republic	331	309	343	14	19	21	332	311	334	6	10	14
Denmark	67	97	87	6	22	12	47	100	86	8	4	5
Estonia	113	141	103	12	11	6	105	145	97	2	6	6
Finland	91	170	91	3	2	2	109	150	72	1	0	2
France	764	831	729	165	94	89	684	852	838	23	30	57
Georgia	120	150	156	23	21	23	110	508	99	17	15	20
Germany	574	535	450	10	13	7	584	501	459	3	8	13
Greece	912	1947	541	330	921	340	521	519	875	15	22	20
Hungary	1086	1267	2469	458	323	435	894	1070	2442	89	202	72
Iceland	21	30	19	17	6	3	33	46	11	2	4	0
Ireland	35	28	21	4	2	0	48	27	20	1	1	3
Italy	1610	1931	1957	365	784	510	1352	1950	2549	54	39	117
Latvia	268	272	166	23	17	19	266	251	185	3	8	7
Liechtenstein	8	1	6	0	0	0	8	2	6	1	0	0
Lithuania	429	360	351	27	34	26	396	307	428	10	23	15
Luxembourg	30	35	28	1	3	2	30	37	25	5	1	2
Malta	62	19	22	26	16	6	21	38	25	17	15	14
Republic of Moldova	630	642	653	76	150	53	553	601	496	80	35	40
Monaco	8	8	9	5	1	0	9	4	5	0	0	1
Montenegro	381	295	173	4	18	21	189	414	193	6	3	0
Netherlands	248	198	231	22	26	15	282	250	172	7	1	14
North Macedonia	394	367	335	41	24	133	362	302	368	6	12	25
Norway	116	131	87	6	3	1	92	120	96	10	5	9
Poland	2889	2146	1843	328	379	426	1768	1881	2574	28	34	74
Portugal	260	335	371	45	69	121	283	238	278	5	11	6
Romania	2971	3302	2821	1020	1058	841	4366	3720	3041	487	507	400
Russia	9432	6077	1695	1069	297	9418	5261	4424	833	741	1759	4466
San Marino	18	56	16	7	13	39	12	3	11	0	4	1
Serbia	1993	3289	1522	1025	738	446	1933	3093	1910	29	31	15
Slovakia	460	479	457	52	48	143	366	464	323	27	26	19
Slovenia	234	287	978	9	30	10	172	271	203	7	4	2
Spain	614	718	421	10	17	25	587	730	370	13	13	16
Sweden	157	162	143	10	2	5	158	167	138	1	3	2
Switzerland	273	257	280	21	15	12	242	227	245	7	8	15
Türkiye	9548	12551	8341	4155	652	1494	5654	6493	4232	567	752	807
Ukraine	3721	1914	2531	677	353	710	2126	1703	1999	539	372	388
United Kingdom	210	240	201	28	17	11	206	255	172	10	5	4
Total	44257	45528	34674	10629	6822	16623	32962	35402	31329	3131	4168	6931

Country charts are available at <https://echr.coe.int/dashboards>.

Table 5 Applications allocated per Contracting State and population*

State	Applications allocated to a judicial formation			Population (1 000)			Allocated/population (10 000)		
	2021	2022	2023	1.1.2021	1.1.2022	1.1.2023	2021	2022	2023
Albania	75	85	133	2830	2794	2762	0,27	0,30	0,48
Andorra	11	10	6	77	80	82	1,43	1,25	0,73
Armenia	134	111	147	2963	2963	2977	0,45	0,37	0,49
Austria	222	254	200	8933	8979	9105	0,25	0,28	0,22
Azerbaijan	425	389	438	10119	10156	10127	0,42	0,38	0,43
Belgium	155	1169	1328	11555	11618	11754	0,13	1,01	1,13
Bosnia and Herzegovina	784	407	248	3287	3234	3211	2,39	1,26	0,77
Bulgaria	623	597	486	6917	6839	6448	0,90	0,87	0,75
Croatia	698	886	1012	4036	3862	3851	1,73	2,29	2,63
Cyprus	52	43	29	896	905	921	0,58	0,48	0,31
Czech Republic	331	309	343	10495	10517	10828	0,32	0,29	0,32
Denmark	67	97	87	5840	5873	5933	0,11	0,17	0,15
Estonia	113	141	103	1330	1332	1366	0,85	1,06	0,75
Finland	91	170	91	5534	5548	5564	0,16	0,31	0,16
France	764	831	729	67657	67872	68071	0,11	0,12	0,11
Georgia	120	150	156	3728	3689	3736	0,32	0,41	0,42
Germany	574	535	450	83155	83237	84359	0,07	0,06	0,05
Greece	912	1947	541	10679	10460	10394	0,85	1,86	0,52
Hungary	1086	1267	2469	9731	9689	9597	1,12	1,31	2,57
Iceland	21	30	19	369	376	388	0,57	0,80	0,49
Ireland	35	28	21	5006	5060	5194	0,07	0,06	0,04
Italy	1610	1931	1957	59236	59030	58851	0,27	0,33	0,33
Latvia	268	272	166	1893	1876	1883	1,42	1,45	0,88
Liechtenstein	8	1	6	39	39	40	2,05	0,26	1,50
Lithuania	429	360	351	2796	2806	2857	1,53	1,28	1,23
Luxembourg	30	35	28	635	645	661	0,47	0,54	0,42
Malta	62	19	22	516	521	542	1,20	0,36	0,41
Republic of Moldova	630	642	653	2597	2604	2513	2,40	2,47	2,60
Monaco	8	8	9	39	36	36	2,05	2,22	2,50
Montenegro	381	295	173	621	618	617	6,14	4,77	2,80
Netherlands	248	198	231	17475	17591	17811	0,14	0,11	0,13
North Macedonia	394	367	335	2069	1837	1830	1,90	2,00	1,83
Norway	116	131	87	5391	5425	5489	0,22	0,24	0,16
Poland	2889	2146	1843	37840	37654	36754	0,76	0,57	0,50
Portugal	260	335	371	10298	10352	10467	0,25	0,32	0,35
Romania	2971	3302	2821	19202	19042	19052	1,55	1,73	1,48
Russia*	9432	6077	1695	143667	143667	143667	0,66	0,42	0,12
San Marino	18	56	16	35	34	34	5,14	16,47	4,71
Serbia	1993	3289	1522	6872	6797	6664	2,90	4,84	2,28
Slovakia	460	479	457	5460	5435	5429	0,84	0,88	0,84
Slovenia	234	287	978	2109	2107	2117	1,11	1,36	4,62
Spain	614	718	421	47399	47433	48060	0,13	0,15	0,09
Sweden	157	162	143	10379	10452	10522	0,15	0,15	0,14
Switzerland	273	257	280	8670	8739	8813	0,31	0,29	0,32
Türkiye	9548	12551	8341	83614	84680	85280	1,14	1,48	0,98
Ukraine	3721	1914	2531	45246	45246	45246	0,82	0,42	0,56
United Kingdom	210	240	201	68134	67509	67737	0,03	0,04	0,03
Total	44257	45528	34674	837369	837258	839640	0,53	0,54	0,41

* 46 Council of Europe member States had a combined population of approximately 696 million inhabitants on 1 January 2023. The average number of applications allocated per 10,000 inhabitants (without taking into account the figures in respect of Russia) was 0.47 in 2023. **SOURCES on 01.01.2023:** Internet sites of Eurostat (General and regional statistics: “Population on 1 January” database) and of the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.