OVERVIEW

1959-2013

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Overview 1959-2013

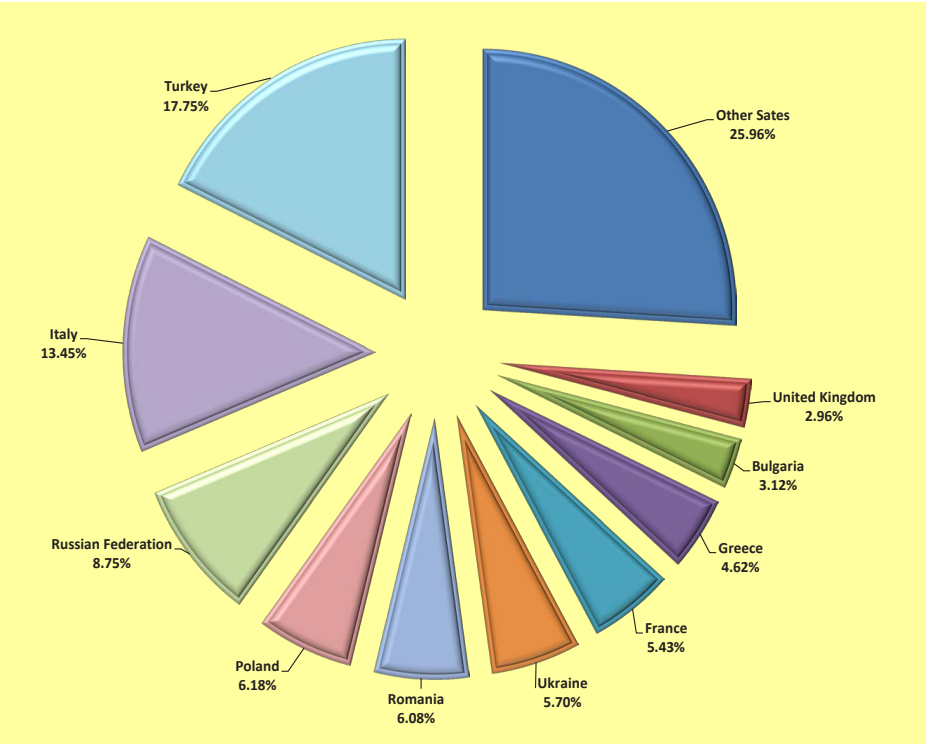
ECHR

Statistics 1959 to 2013

Violation judgments by State

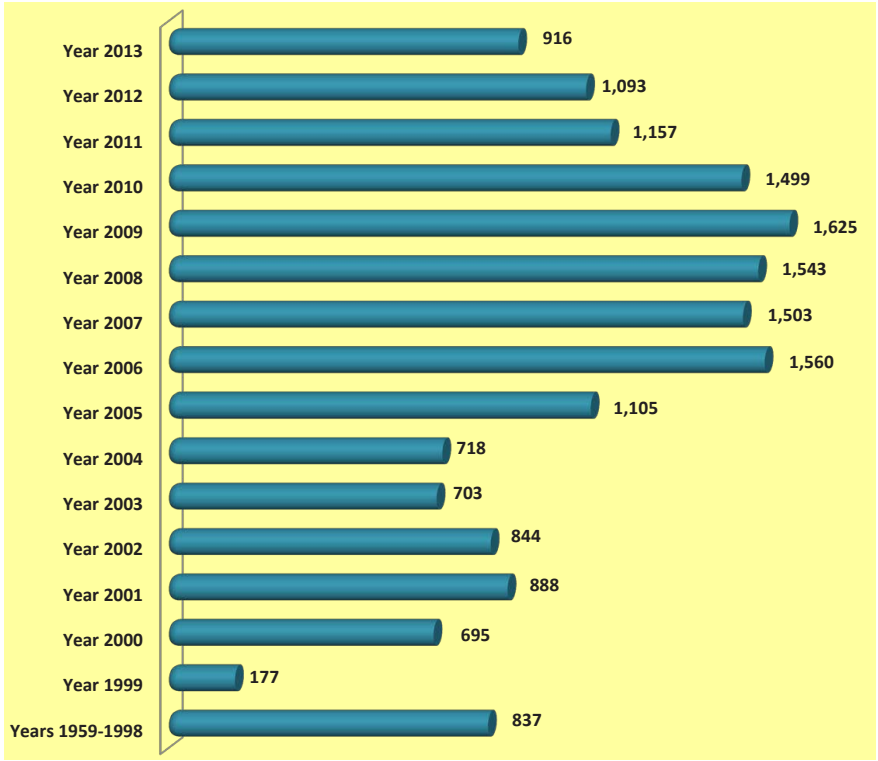
Since it was established in 1959 the Court has delivered about 17,000 judgments. Nearly half of the judgments concerned 5 member States: Turkey (2,994), Italy (2,268), the Russian Federation (1,475), Poland (1,042) and Romania (1,026).

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 83% of cases.



Judgments delivered by the Court

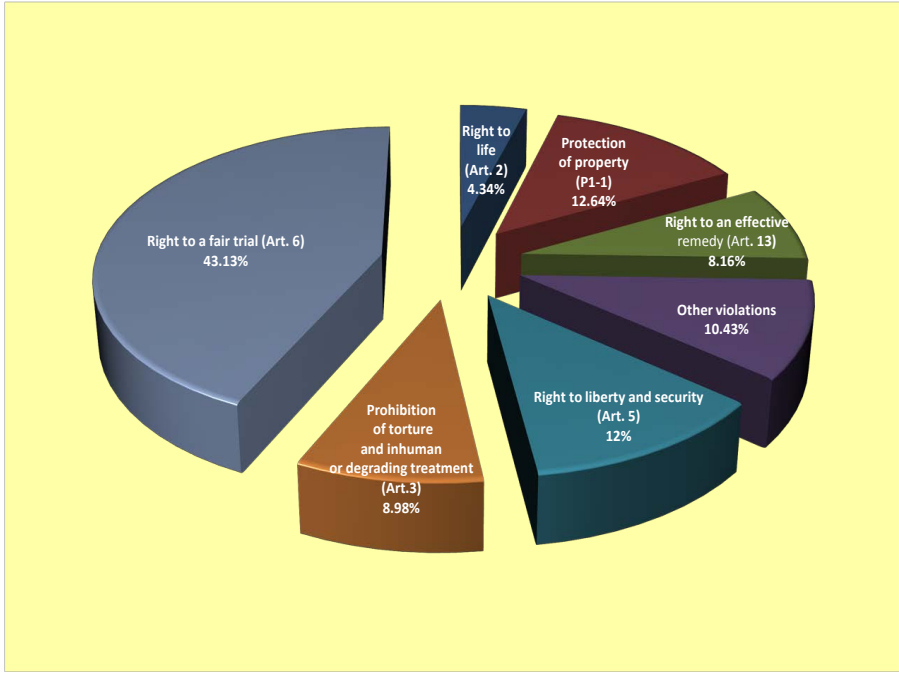
In recent years the Court has concentrated on examining complex cases and has decided to join certain applications which raise similar legal questions so that it can consider them jointly. Thus, although the number of judgments delivered each year is not increasing as rapidly as in the past, the Court has examined more applications.



Subject-matter of the Court's violation judgments

Nearly half of the judgments in which the Court found a violation include a violation of Article 6, whether on account of the fairness or the length of the proceedings. Furthermore, 55% of the violations found by the Court concern Article 6 or Protocol No. Article 1 (Protection of property).

Lastly, more than 13% of the violations found by the Court concern the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention).



1959-2013

	Total number of judgments	Judgments finding at least one violation	Judgments finding no violation	Friendly settlements/Striking-out judgments	Other judgments[1]	Right to life – deprivation of life	Lack of effective investigation	Prohibition of torture[2]	Inhuman or degrading treatment	Lack of effective investigation	Conditional violations[3]	Prohibition of slavery / forced labour	Right to liberty and security	Right to a fair trial[2]	Length of proceedings	Non-enforcement	No punishment without law	Right to respect for private and family life[2]	Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Freedom of expression	Freedom of assembly and association	Right to marry	Right to an effective remedy	Prohibition of discrimination	Protection of property	Right to education	Right to free elections	Right not to be punished twice	Other Articles of the Convention
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	P1-1	P1-2	P1-3	P7-4	
Albania	47	36	4	2	5			1	2	1			1	27	4	8	1	1					14		16				2
Andorra	6	3	1	1	1									2										1					
Armenia	48	43	3		2			1	7	1			20	17		1		1	3	1	7		1	1	7		1		9
Austria	337	242	58	24	13			1	4		1		10	90	91			16	1	34	1		14	26	4		1	4	
Azerbaijan	76	72		2	2		1	1	9	5			10	32	6	15				4	6		5		26		10		2
Belgium	186	132	22	16	16	2		1	12	1			31	49	56			10		4			9	9	1				1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	33	30	3					1	1				6	10	1	11	1	1					1	2	23				1
Bulgaria	527	478	31	5	13	15	26	3	48	27			251	70	179	6		52	5	10	11		152	7	73		2	1	22
Croatia	263	217	17	26	3	1	4		10	7			17	73	91	3		23		1		1	31	4	17			2	
Cyprus	63	52	5	3	3		1		3	1		1	4	8	35		1	7		1			11	2	4		1		1
Czech Republic	206	179	11	10	6	1	1		2	2			29	66	79			16		1	1		15	2	11				
Denmark	41	14	15	11	1								1	1	8			2		1	1		2		1				
Estonia	36	29	6	1					5	1			9	10	4		4						4						
Finland	166	129	24	9	4				1				2	37	59			23		18			10		2			1	
France	913	674	140	63	36	4	3	2	24		7	2	58	262	281	1	3	34	4	30	2		34	9	29				4
Georgia	57	45	9	1	2	1	3		16	8			17	11	5	1		3	1	1	1		4	1	6		1		4
Germany	263	173	67	10	13				3				28	18	102	1	9	20		5	2		23	12	3				
Greece	780	694	22	20	44	4	3	1	47	6			51	123	449	9		8	11	10	5		166	13	70		3		1
Hungary	313	297	7	6	3	1			11	4			26	12	223		1	11		11	5		7	3	6		1		4
Iceland	14	11		3									1	4						3	2				1				
Ireland	31	20	6	1	4								2	5	11			5		1			6	1					
Italy	2 268	1 721	58	353	136	2	4	4	20	2			29	256	1 187	10	3	144		7	3		81	3	335	1	17		26
Latvia	81	67	11	3		1	1		13	7			45	12	10		1	19	3	3	1		3	1	1		3		8
Liechtenstein	6	5	1										1	1	2					1			1						
Lithuania	99	78	14	7		3	3		6	1			19	20	27	1		13			1		2	4	9		1		
Luxembourg	43	32	8	3			1							12	17			4		3	1		3	1	1				

Overview 1959-2013

Violations by Article and by State*

1959-2013

	Total number of judgments	Judgments finding at least one violation	Judgments finding no violation	Friendly settlements/Striking-out judgments	Other judgments[1]	Right to life – deprivation of life	Lack of effective investigation	Prohibition of torture[2]	Inhuman or degrading treatment	Lack of effective investigation	Conditional violations[3]	Prohibition of slavery / forced labour	Right to liberty and security	Right to a fair trial[2]	Length of proceedings	Non-enforcement	No punishment without law	Right to respect for private and family life[2]	Freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Freedom of expression	Freedom of assembly and association	Right to marry	Right to an effective remedy	Prohibition of discrimination	Protection of property	Right to education	Right to free elections	Right not to be punished twice	Other Articles of the Convention
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	P1-1	P1-2	P1-3	P7-4	
Malta	57	40	7		10				1				16	9	9		1	3		3				3	11				
Republic of Moldova	273	249	3	2	19	2	6	8	61	34			61	111	11	15		17	4	17	13		41	3	96		2		9
Monaco	2	2											1	2															
Montenegro	17	16	1											3	4	4		1		2			2		4				
Netherlands	142	82	33	16	11		3	1	8				26	25	8			16		7			2	3	1				
Norway	35	25	10										1	10	2			6		5					1	1			
Poland	1 042	885	101	41	15	5	5		28	6			288	103	421	3		100	1	21	1	2	20	4	44				4
Portugal	271	198	10	56	7								2	24	112	1		8		18			23	1	43				
Romania	1 026	930	32	24	40	7	23	2	122	45			92	379	108	37	2	61	1	21	4		19	27	451		3		14
Russian Federation	1 475	1 381	70	13	11	232	249	45	454	123	2	1	549	631	169	53	1	118	5	25	12		338	8	486	2	3	3	93
San Marino	13	9	1	2	1								1	7	2				1						1				
Serbia	97	85	7		5		1		2	2			5	24	23	17		11		5			16	2	30				
Slovak Republic	308	274	9	21	4	2	2	1	4	2			40	27	194	2		17		7			33	2	7				1
Slovenia	292	275	14	3			2		6	2			2	7	249	3		7					243	1	1				
Spain	125	80	39	3	3				2	5			5	40	13		4	10		4				4	1				1
Sweden	130	54	46	26	4	1		1	4		1		2	26	12	1		9		2	1		2	1	6				
Switzerland	134	86	41	5	2		1		1	1			13	28	7			21	1	13	1	1	2	4					
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	100	93	4	3		1		2	1	6			12	27	56	5		2			1		7		5				
Turkey	2 994	2 639	63	204	88	114	162	29	279	171			626	770	563	60	4	87	7	224	61		254	9	639	4	7		32
Ukraine	962	948	9	2	3	9	27	12	105	48			185	477	297	21	1	41	3	9	3		173	2	325		2		24
United Kingdom	499	297	113	67	22	2	19	2	17		1	1	64	91	27		1	66	1	11	4	4	33	44	2	2	4		2
Sub-total		14 121	1 156	1 068	552	410	551	119	1 339	519	12	5	2 659	4 049	5 214	289	38	1 014	52	544	151	8	1 807	220	2 800	10	62	11	265
Total		16,863**																											

* 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. Figures in this column are available only from 2013.

** Including 31 judgments which concern two or more respondent States.

Throughput of applications 1959* - 2013

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

	Applications allocated to a judicial formation	Applications which judgment was delivered	Applications in inadmissible or struck out	Applications declared	Total number of applications decided
	1959-2013	1959-2013	1959-2013	1959-2013
Albania	782	54	312	**366**
Andorra	61	6	55	**61**
Armenia	2 028	49	1 042	**1 091**
Austria	8 315	287	7 570	**7 857**
Azerbaijan	3 682	125	2 270	**2 395**
Belgium	4 518	149	3 926	**4 075**
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5 417	105	4 044	**4 149**
Bulgaria	12 339	614	9 324	**9 938**
Croatia	11 410	286	10 153	**10 439**
Cyprus	992	68	759	**827**
Czech Republic	11 229	234	10 422	**10 656**
Denmark	1 603	36	1 529	**1 565**
Estonia	2 573	42	2 195	**2 237**
Finland	4 634	161	4 274	**4 435**
France	28 382	876	26 332	**27 208**
Georgia	5 666	57	3 161	**3 218**
Germany	26 691	250	25 897	**26 147**
Greece	6 758	766	4 575	**5 341**
Hungary	7 221	318	5 178	**5 496**
Iceland	180	11	152	**163**
Ireland	896	20	841	**861**
Italy	35 103	2 845	15 801	**18 646**
Latvia	3 252	80	2 645	**2 725**
Liechtenstein	110	6	98	**104**
Lithuania	4 391	106	4 046	**4 152**
Luxembourg	546	42	491	**533**
Malta	257	56	147	**203**
Republic of Moldova	9 674	348	7 937	**8 285**
Monaco	70	4	62	**66**
Montenegro	1 662	29	843	**872**
Netherlands	8 287	96	7 604	**7 700**
Norway	1 361	38	1 228	**1 266**
Poland	57 928	1 048	55 302	**56 350**
Portugal	2 991	406	2 195	**2 601**
Romania	52 265	1 271	44 916	**46 187**
Russian Federation	120 273	2 370	101 203	**103 573**
San Marino	65	15	45	**60**
Serbia	20 584	361	9 039	**9 400**
Slovak Republic	6 725	321	6 166	**6 487**
Slovenia	8 059	304	5 987	**6 291**
Spain	9 386	137	8 853	**8 990**
Sweden	9 214	88	8 949	**9 037**
Switzerland	5 950	95	5 516	**5 611**
'The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia'	3 854	101	3 416	**3 517**
Turkey	58 481	3 846	43 858	**47 704**
Ukraine	56 427	3 661	39 538	**43 199**
United Kingdom	22 065	576	18 734	**19 310**
TOTAL	**644 357**	**22 764**	**518 630**	**541 394**

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 Court and the Commission 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.

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

2013 has also seen 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

Beginning of the dispute

Proceedings before the national courts

Exhaustion of domestic court

Decision of the highest domestic court

Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights

Application to the Court

Admissibility criteria

- Exhaustion of domestic remedies
- 6-month deadline for applying to the Court (from the final domestic judicial decision)
- Complaints against a contracting State to the Convention
- Applicant has suffered a significant disadvantage

Initial analysis

- Inadmissibility decision = case concluded
- Examination of the admissibility and merits
- Admissibility decision

Judgment finding a violation

Judgment finding no violation

Request for re-examination of the case

- Request dismissed = case concluded
- Request accepted = referral to the Grand Chamber

- Final judgment finding a violation
- Judgment finding no violation = case concluded

Execution of judgment

Transmission of the case file to the Committee of Ministers

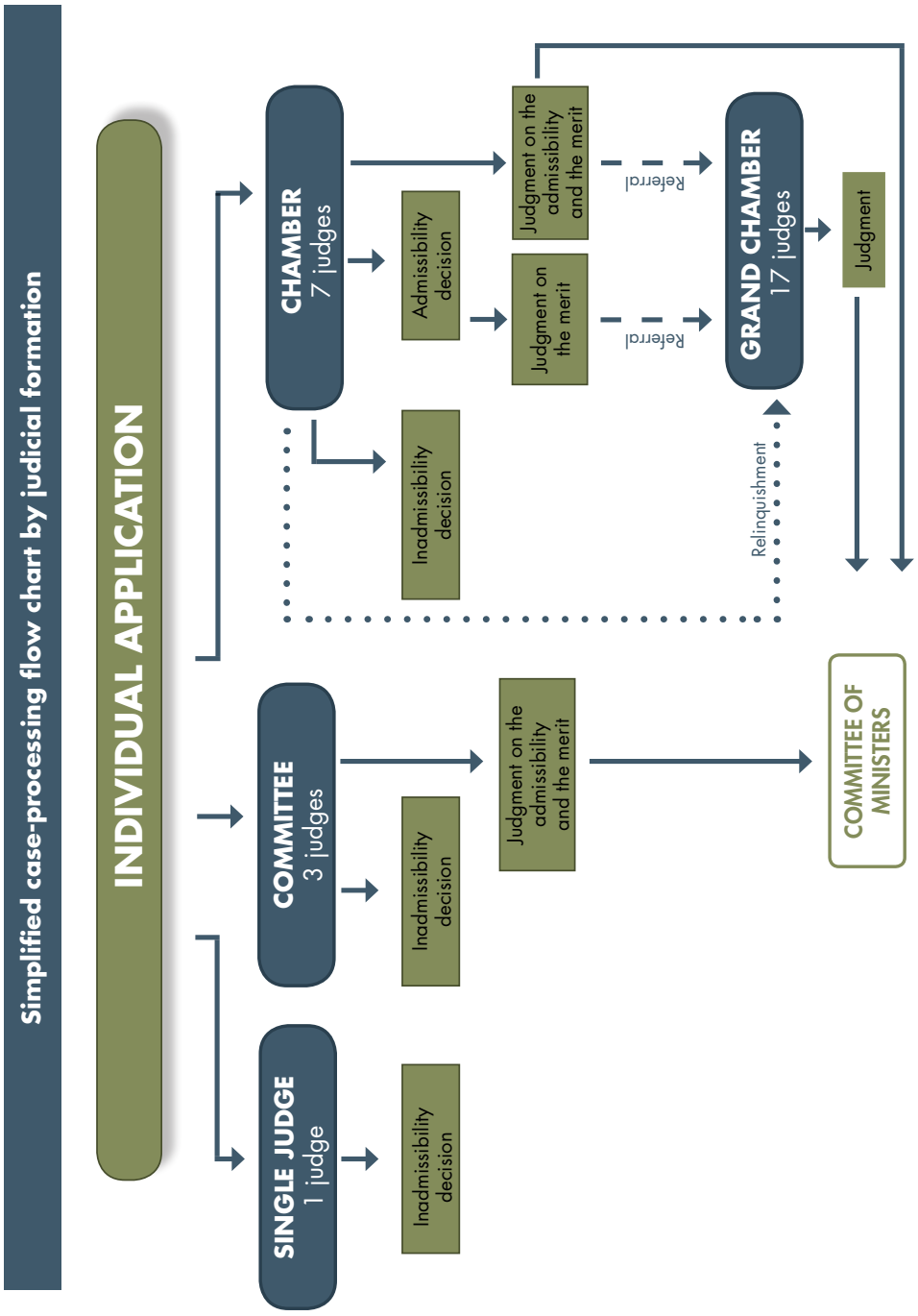
Obligations of the State in question

- Payment of compensation (just satisfaction)
- Adoption of general measures (amendment to the legislation)
- Adoption of individual measures (restitution, reopening of the proceedings...)

Examination by the Committee of Ministers

- Satisfactory execution
- Unsatisfactory execution

Final resolution = case concluded



February 2014

European Court of Human Rights
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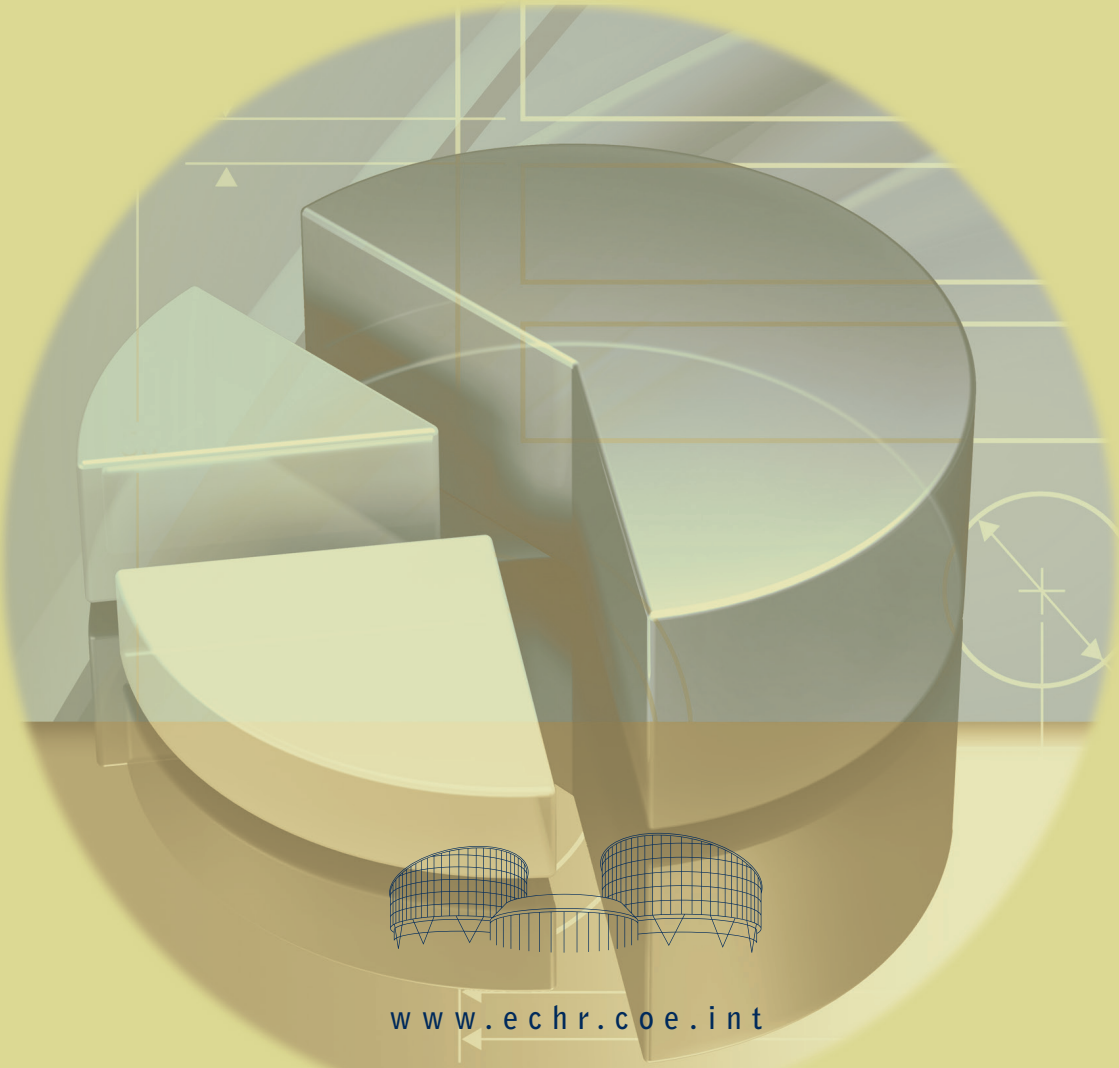

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