

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

Glossary of statistical terms

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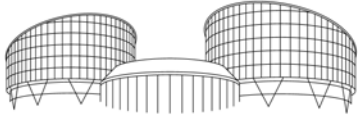
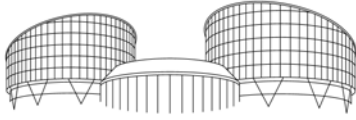


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Introduction

The purpose of this glossary is to explain the terminology which appears in the Court's statistical documents. The definitions are put in the order which best reflects the course of proceedings before the Court.

Applications and cases

When the Court's statistics refer to an "application", they mean a complaint registered in the Court's database under a separate application number. A "case" may comprise only one application examined separately or a number of applications examined jointly by the Court. For example, one judgment delivered by the Court may concern numerous applications which have been joined into one case.

Judicial formations

Judicial formations within the Court are Single-Judge formations, Committees, Chambers and the Grand Chamber.

Applications at a pre-judicial stage

This term refers to applications which have not been allocated to a judicial formation (e.g. the completed application form has not been received) and have not been disposed of administratively (see below).

Applications disposed of administratively

These are applications which were never allocated to a judicial formation because the applicants failed to submit a duly completed application form within the allotted time. Their complaints are not examined by the Court and the file opened in respect of the application is destroyed.

Applications allocated to a judicial formation

When the Registry receives the completed application form, an application is "allocated to a judicial formation" which opens the way to judicial examination. Upon allocation, a preliminary assessment is made as to whether the application is to be considered by a Single-Judge formation, a Committee or by a Chamber (applications are "earmarked" for Single-Judge, Committee or Chamber procedure).

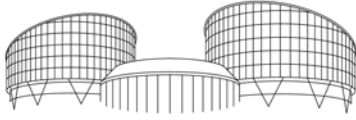
Applications pending before a judicial formation

This term indicates applications which have been allocated to a judicial formation and have not been disposed of by a final judgment or decision.¹

Applications decided (by decision or judgment delivered)

Applications allocated to a judicial formation are "decided" when a decision has been given to declare them inadmissible or strike out of the list of cases or a judgment has been delivered in their respect.

1. See "Processing applications - major procedural steps" below.



Importance of judgments

Judgments published in HUDOC, the Court's database of case-law, are classified under three categories in order to enable researchers to focus on the judgments which are significant from the jurisprudential point of view:

- **"High importance" judgments** are those selected for reporting in the Court's official printed reports. These are judgments which the Court considers make a significant contribution to the development, clarification or modification of its case-law, either generally or in relation to a particular State.
- **"Medium importance" judgments** are judgments which do not make a significant contribution to the case-law – and so are not published in the official reports – but which nevertheless are of some legal interest.
- **"Low importance" judgments** are judgments of little legal interest – those applying existing case-law, friendly settlements and routine striking-out judgments (unless these have any particular point of interest).

Processing applications - major procedural steps

- An application may be declared **inadmissible** or **struck out** of the Court's list of cases by a Single-Judge formation, Committee or a Chamber, without any further procedural steps.
- Otherwise the Section President or the competent Chamber generally decides to give notice of the application to the respondent government ("**communication**").
- At the communication stage the Section Registrar may encourage the Parties to reach a **friendly settlement**. If the parties accept the Registrar's proposal, reach a settlement on their own initiative or if the Court is otherwise satisfied that the case has been settled, it will be **struck out** of the list of cases.
- If the application has not been settled, the Chamber or Committee will resume, on the basis of the material received, the examination of the admissibility and merits. Unless the Chamber or Committee decides at this stage to declare the application inadmissible, the **decision on admissibility** is usually incorporated in the **judgment on the merits**. This judgment becomes final after expiry of a three-month period for submitting a request for referral to by the Grand Chamber.

Requests for interim measures

The Court receives a significant number of requests for the application of interim measures made pursuant to Rule 39 of the Rules of Court.

Statistics under this head refer to the number of the Court's decisions to grant or refuse such requests. In addition, many requests fall outside the scope of application of Rule 39 but nonetheless need to be dealt with by the Registry.