

June 2007

# **EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

# **ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS**

2006

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## **Survey**

#### Introduction

- 1. The main statistical developments are presented under four main headings:
  - o new applications ("new applications lodged" and "applications allocated to a decision body", that is a Committee of three judges or a Chamber of seven judges);
  - o processing applications (applications disposed of and other major procedural events);
  - o pending applications (overall situation and backlog);
  - o country-specific information.

### **New applications**

- 2. 51,300 "new applications lodged": this represents an increase of 13 % as compared with the 45,500 applications lodged in 2005 (which was itself an increase of 3 % in relation to 2004).
- 39,350 "applications allocated to a decision body"; this represents an increase of 11 % as compared with 35,400 applications allocated in 2005, when the annual rate of increase was 9 %. About 5,900 of these applications (15 %) were earmarked for Chamber procedure, as compared with 5,000 (14 %) in 2005.

### **Processing applications**

- 4. 12,250 applications were disposed of administratively, that is, that no judicial decision was taken since the applications were not continued after the initial correspondence with the Registry (the applicant having usually failed to submit the completed application form). Experience shows that in recent years about 30% of the persons applying to the Court have not pursued the matter.
- 5. 29,650 applications were finally disposed of judicially (by a decision or final judgment), which is an increase of 4 % (28,550 in 2005, when an increase of 36 % was recorded).
- 6. The number of applications dealt with by a Committee fell slightly (26,500 as compared with 26,800 in 2005, or a decrease of 1 %). These applications represent 89 % of all the applications disposed of judicially in 2006 (as compared with 94 % in 2005).
- 7. At the same time, an increase in productivity is noted in the processing of Chamber cases, which is reflected statistically in three ways.
- 8. The number of applications communicated to a respondent Government increased by 12 % (about 3,200 in 2006, as compared with 2,850 in 2005).

- 9. The number of applications declared admissible rose by 57 % to about 1,650 (1,050 in 2005).
- 10. More specifically, there was an increase of 58 % in the number of applications disposed of by a final judgment (1,500 as compared with some 950 in 2005). The number of judgments delivered including those which were not final rose by 41 % [1,560 judgments concerning 1,720 applications were delivered in 2006, compared with 1,105 (1,198) in 2005]. These gains indicate the effectiveness of the Court's policy of allocating greater resources to Chamber cases.
- 11. Nevertheless, the number of applications entering the judicial process exceeded those judicially disposed of by 25 %. The average deficit per month rose to 810 applications in 2006, as compared with 570 in 2005 (950 in 2004).

### **Pending applications**

- 12. The increase in the total number of applications pending before the Court continued, mainly on account of the increase in the number of applications lodged in 2006. 89,900 applications were pending on 1 January 2007, as compared with 81,000 on 1 January 2006 (an increase of 11 %).
- 13. Of this total, 66,500 applications were pending before a decision body (rate of increase 17%), of which 23,400 were before a Chamber. About 40 % of Chamber cases concern repetitive issues. The number of applications pending at the pre-judicial phase decreased by 3 % (23,400 on 1 January 2007).
- 14. The backlog of delayed applications further increased. On 1 January 2007 32,050 applications had not met the one-year target for the next procedural event (as compared with 26,750 on 1 January 2006 and 21,450 on 1 January 2005, representing a rate of increase of 20 % in 2006, following an increase of 25 % in 2005).

## Country-specific information – number of applications pending

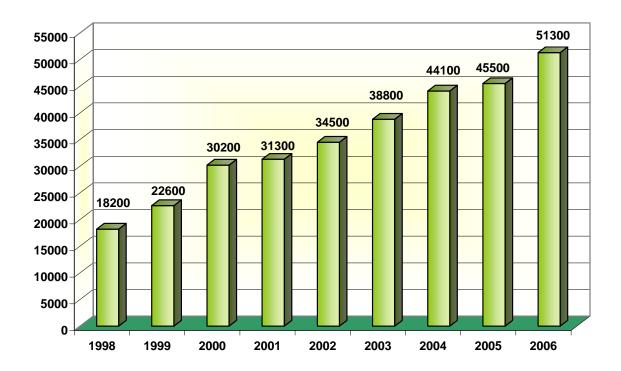
15. The States with the highest number of cases pending were Russia (19,300), Romania (10,850), Turkey (9,000) and Ukraine (6,800), that is 51 % of the total number of pending applications.

## I. New applications

## 1. Applications lodged<sup>1</sup>

1. 51,300 applications<sup>2</sup> were lodged in 2006, which represents an increase of 13 % as compared with 45,500 applications lodged in 2005. This followed increase rates of 3 % in 2005, 14 % in 2004, 12 % in 2003 and 10 % in 2002.

Chart 1 – Applications lodged per year



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The date of lodging for Convention purposes is the date of dispatch of the first letter setting out the object of the application under the Convention. Circular letters or other communications not containing a complaint under the Convention against one of the Contracting States are not recorded.

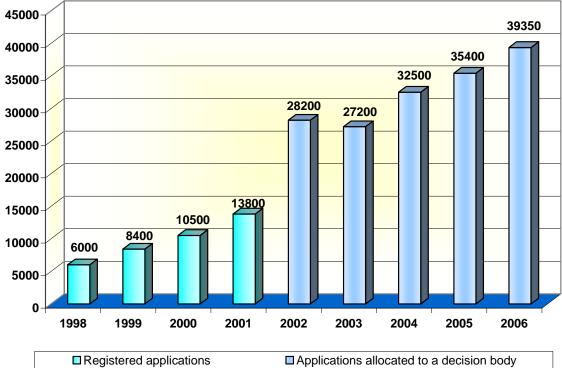
Figures represent the total number of applications, including joined applications. The document generally gives round figures (50 or 100). Figures prior to 1 November 1998 relate to the European Commission of Human Rights.

#### Applications allocated to a decision body *2*.

2. When the fully completed application form, accompanied by all relevant documents, has been received at the Registry, the application is allocated to one of the Court's five Sections (the Fifth Section began work on 1 April 2006) for examination by a Committee of three judges or a Chamber of seven judges.



Chart 2 – Applications allocated to a decision body per year



- 3. The number of applications allocated to a decision body increased by 11 % (39,350 applications compared with 35,400 in 2005, when there was an increase of 9 %). It is recalled that the dramatic upsurge in applications allocated in 2002 was a transitional phenomenon following a change in working methods, transferring much of the screening of inadmissible applications from the administrative, pre-judicial phase to the judicial stage (decision by a Committee).
- 4. 33,450 applications were allocated to a Committee, that is, 85 % of the total allocated (as compared with 86 % in 2005 and 82 % in 2004).
- 5. In 67 % of the applications allocated to a Chamber and in 24 % of the cases allocated to a Committee in 2006, the applicants were represented by a lawyer.

## II. Processing applications

## 1. Applications disposed of

### a. Applications disposed of judicially

6. 29,650 applications were disposed of judicially, either by final judgment<sup>3</sup> or by decisions to declare them inadmissible or to strike them out of the list. This is an increase of 4 %, following a rise of 36 % in 2005 (28,550 and 21,100 applications disposed of in 2005 and 2004, respectively).

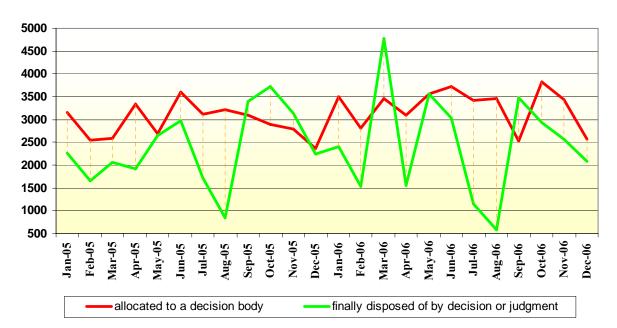


Chart 3 – Comparing applications allocated and applications disposed of judicially

- 7. The number of applications disposed of in the judicial process is less than the number of applications allocated to a decision body. In 2006 the annual deficit was 9,700 applications (monthly average 810), after a deficit of 6,800 applications in 2005 (monthly average 570) and 11,400 in 2004 (monthly average 950).
- 8. There was a slight reduction in the number of applications examined by a Committee (26,500 as compared with 26,800 in 2005, or a fall of 1 %). Such cases represent 89 % of the total number of applications disposed of judicially in 2006 (compared with 94 % in 2005) and 94 % of the total of 28,150 applications declared inadmissible or struck out of the list. Mention must be made in this context of successful processing schemes for Committee cases, put in place in anticipation of the entry into force of Protocol No. 14. In the light of the results obtained with regard to applications against Poland and Russia (for which an increase of 80 % was noted in 2005), the scheme was extended at the beginning of 2006 to Romania, Turkey and Bulgaria. There were increases of 13 %, 147 % and 93 % respectively with regard to these countries in the number of applications examined by a Committee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> A judgment or decision may concern more than one application: figures in this document generally indicate the number of applications.

9. The number of applications disposed of by a final judgment increased considerably, from 1,495 applications (1,407 judgments) as compared with 958 applications (862 judgments) in 2005 and 738 applications (670 judgments) in 2004.

### b. Applications disposed of administratively

10. About 12,250 applications were disposed of administratively and were therefore not channelled into the judicial process. The case files opened in respect of these applications were destroyed, as their authors had not pursued them after the initial exchange of correspondence (having failed, in the majority of cases, to return a completed application form). Experience in recent years shows that about 30 % of the persons applying to the Court have not pursued the matter.

## 2. Major procedural steps in processing applications

11. The number of applications for which the Court issued a decision continued to increase.

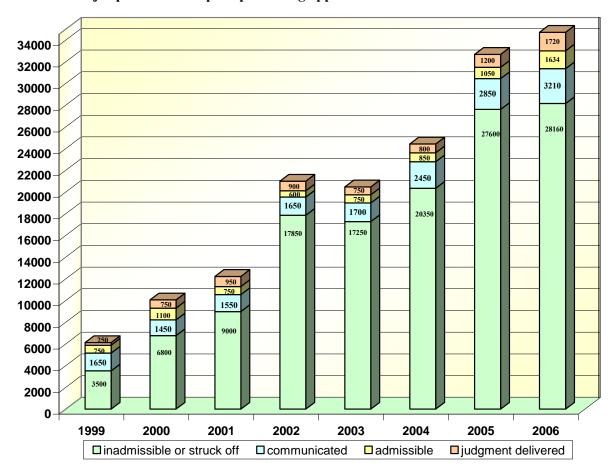


Chart 4 – Major procedural steps in processing applications

12. The Court's policy decision to devote more time to processing Chamber applications has produced a constant increase in communications, admissibility decisions and judgments.

- 13. Most of the total of 3,210 applications (2,860 in 2005, an increase of 12 %) were communicated by the Section Presidents (85 %).
- 14. The procedure of joint examination of admissibility and merits under Article 29 § 3 of the Convention was frequently applied in 2006; separate admissibility decisions are now adopted only in the more complex cases (these separate decisions represented 16 % of applications declared admissible in 2006, as compared with 38 % in 2005 and 63 % in 2004). This has facilitated the processing of applications, doing away with one procedural step. Of the 1,634 applications declared admissible in 2006 (compared with 1,036 in 2005, an increase of 58 %), the admissibility decision appeared in a judgment for 1,368 of them (compared with 637 in 2005, 302 in 2004 and 186 in 2003).
- 15. 1,560 judgments concerning 1,720 applications were delivered. In 1,445 of these judgments, at least one violation of the Convention was found.

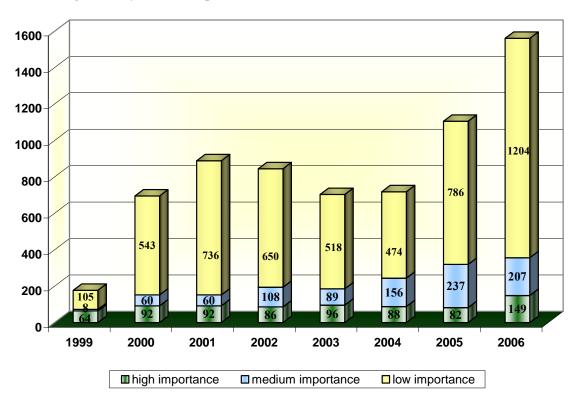


Chart 5 – Judgments by level of importance<sup>4</sup>

16. The number of judgments of high importance which had changed little over the last six years, increased considerably in 2006 (149 judgments of this type in 2006, compared with less than 100 in previous years). The number of judgments of low importance also increased significantly. These increases demonstrate the impact of the Court's policy decision to allocate greater resources to Chamber cases.

1. High importance, 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Importance levels:

Medium importance, judgments which do not make a significant contribution to the case-law but nevertheless do not merely apply existing case-law.

<sup>3.</sup> Low importance, judgments with little legal interest - those applying existing case-law, friendly settlements and striking out judgments (unless these have any particular point of interest).

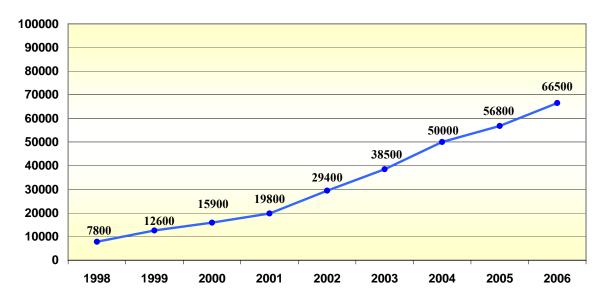
- 17. Friendly settlements were achieved in respect of 293 applications. Most of them were stuck out of the list by simple decision (267 applications), the remainder by a judgment after having been declared admissible (26 applications). This is more than in 2005, when 222 applications were disposed of after friendly settlement.
- 18. 35 public hearings were held in 2006. They concerned 40 applications.
- 19. 52 requests for interim measures submitted under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court were granted (compared with 51 in 2005) and 365 requests were refused (408 in 2005).
- 20. In 2006 177 applications were granted priority treatment pursuant to Rule 41 of the Rules of Court. In 2005 priority was accorded to 220 applications.

### III. The Court's case-load

## 1. Overall situation of pending applications

- 21. 89,900 applications were pending before the Court at the end of 2006. Of these applications, 66,500 were allocated to a decision body, while 23,400 were at the pre-judicial stage prior to allocation, compared with 81,000 pending applications at the end of 2005.
- 22. The increase in the total number of pending applications was 11 % in 2006, as compared with 4 % in 2005 and 19 % in 2004 (there were 81,000 pending applications at the end of 2005, 78,000 at the end of 2004 and 65,500 at the end of 2003). It should be noted that the lower increase observed in 2005 was due, among other reasons, to the 14 % decrease in the number of applications at the pre-judicial stage (applications not pursued by the applicants).
- 23. The increase in the number of applications pending before a decision body was limited to 17 % in 2006 and 14 % in 2005, following increases of 30 % in 2004 and 2003.

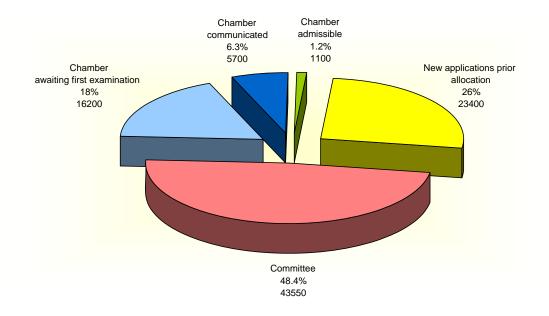
Chart 6 – Applications pending before a decision body



## 2. Breakdown of pending applications

- 24. The quantity of applications pending at the pre-judicial stage represent about a quarter of the total caseload. 77 % of these applications have been pending no longer than one year (timespan since lodging) and the vast majority (92 %) no longer than eighteen months. Some files may remain longer in this phase, for example, if the applicant continues writing without completing the application form or if relevant domestic proceedings are still pending.
- 25. The majority of applications in the judicial process at the end of 2006 were earmarked for Committee procedure (43,500, 65 % of the applications pending before a decision body and 48.4 % of all pending cases). Some 70 % of the Chamber applications (16,200 applications) were waiting for a first examination of admissibility.
- 26. At the end of 2006 22 cases were pending before the Grand Chamber, a figure which represents 0.02 % of pending cases.

Chart 7 – The Court's total case-load by stage of proceedings and decision body



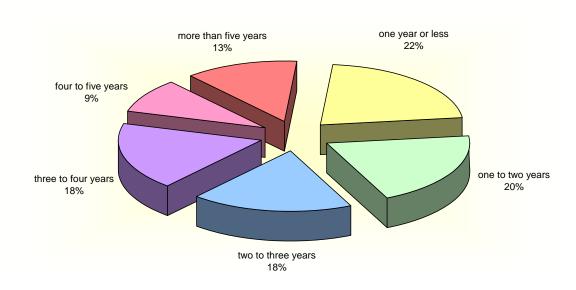
## 3. "Backlog"

27. The Court started 2006 with a total number of about 26,750 applications which were not processed within the time-spans set by the Court ("backlog" applications) and ended it with 32,050. Following increases of 89 % in 2003 and 40 % in 2004, the rate of increase in backlog cases fell to 25 % in 2005 and to 20 % in 2006. Nevertheless, at the end of 2006 applications exceeding the one-year target made up 48 % of the total of applications pending before a decision body. 91 % of the backlog applications were awaiting a first examination on admissibility (29,200 applications, of which 9,400 were pending before a Chamber).

## 4. Time-span since lodging

- 28. For about three-quarters of the applications lodged with the Court, the period in which they are pending is less than two years (time-span since the date on which the application was lodged).
- 29. With regard to applications pending before a decision body, it emerges that the proceedings in 67 % of the cases have lasted for two years or less, from two to three years in 16 % of the cases and for more than three years in 17 % of cases.
- 30. In almost 40 % of Chamber cases, the proceedings have lasted more than three years, and in 13 % of cases they have lasted for more than five years (the older cases are, generally speaking, those which raise the most complex issues and therefore require more time to process).

Chart 8 – Time-span since date of lodging – pending Chamber cases



The Court set targets regarding the time-limit within which certain procedural steps should be taken. Twelve months ("one-year target") are regarded as a maximum acceptable duration of the proceedings

i. from allocation of the application to a decision body to the first examination of admissibility,

ii. from communication of the application to the respondent Government to a judgment when the joint procedure under Article 29 § 3 is applied or to a separate decision on admissibility,

iii. from a separate decision on admissibility to delivery of a judgment.

The term "backlog" is used to refer to applications which do not meet the one-year target at one of these three procedural stages. The total figure includes applications which were delayed for procedural reasons, mainly because they were adjourned to await the outcome of lead cases or pending the outcome of domestic proceedings.

# IV. Country-specific information

## 1. Overall situation

31. The total case-load and the inflow of applications received by the Court vary considerably between the Contracting States (for more details see Appendix I).

Chart 9 – Pending applications per Contracting State (prior to allocation/pending before a decision body)

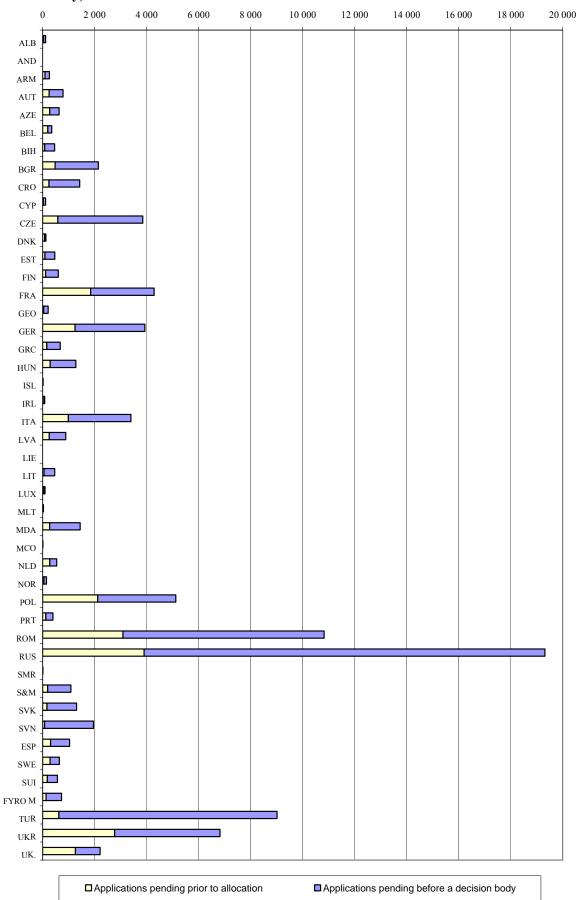


Chart 10 – Breakdown and processing of applications

|                        | new applications 2005         |                                      |                               | new applications 2006                |   |      |  | processing applications 2006   |       |                        |                         |       | applications pending<br>on 1/1/2007 |                             |  |  |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------|--|--|-------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| State                  | new<br>applications<br>lodged | applications<br>allocated<br>(total) | new<br>applications<br>lodged | applications<br>allocated<br>(total) | applications<br>allocated to a<br>Committee |      | applications<br>disposed of by<br>a decision /<br>final<br>judgment* | applications<br>disposed of<br>adm. (not<br>pursued by<br>applicant) | comm. | declared<br>admissible | judgment<br>delivered** | total | before a<br>decision<br>body        | backlog<br>1-year<br>target |  |  |
| Albania                | 60                            | 40                                   | 63                            | 52                                   | 25  | 48%  | 28   | 12   | 15    | 2                      | 2                       | 113   | 75                                  | 23                          |  |  |
| Andorra                | 8                             | 5                                    | 6                             | 8                                    | 8   | 100% | 10   | 3  | 1     | 0                      | 1                       | 4     | 4                                   | 0                           |  |  |
| Armenia                | 342                           | 110                                  | 94                            | 98                                   | 70  | 71%  | 95   | 178  | 10    | 1                      | 0                       | 263   | 169                                 | 77                          |  |  |
| Austria                | 445                           | 301                                  | 450                           | 341                                  | 270   | 79%  | 165  | 142  | 30    | 18                     | 21                      | 785   | 536                                 | 166                         |  |  |
| Azerbaijan             | 196                           | 175                                  | 445                           | 223                                  | 174   | 78%  | 58   | 46   | 13    | 5                      | 3                       | 634   | 362                                 | 122                         |  |  |
| Belgium                | 293                           | 169                                  | 227                           | 106                                  | 93  | 88%  | 114  | 135  | 22    | 17                     | 7                       | 349   | 149                                 | 24                          |  |  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 235                           | 210                                  | 302                           | 240                                  | 180   | 75%  | 149  | 32   | 32    | 1                      | 1                       | 462   | 383                                 | 114                         |  |  |
| Bulgaria               | 1046                          | 821                                  | 923                           | 746                                  | 596   | 80%  | 873  | 193  | 110   | 37                     | 45                      | 2141  | 1661                                | 926                         |  |  |
| Croatia                | 759                           | 553                                  | 657                           | 642                                  | 587   | 91%  | 376  | 138  | 50    | 22                     | 22                      | 1425  | 1180                                | 505                         |  |  |
| Cyprus                 | 77                            | 66                                   | 78                            | 56                                   | 43  | 77%  | 77   | 21   | 31    | 8                      | 15                      | 115   | 86                                  | 11                          |  |  |
| Czech Republic         | 1424                          | 1263                                 | 2774                          | 2476                                 | 2191  | 88%  | 1303   | 239  | 79    | 32                     | 39                      | 3853  | 3268                                | 1613                        |  |  |
| Denmark                | 99                            | 72                                   | 108                           | 66                                   | 64  | 97%  | 99   | 54   | 4     | 4                      | 2                       | 125   | 49                                  | 4                           |  |  |
| Estonia                | 211                           | 164                                  | 233                           | 183                                  | 170   | 93%  | 91   | 57   | 6     | 3                      | 1                       | 467   | 379                                 | 190                         |  |  |
| Finland                | 279                           | 244                                  | 291                           | 262                                  | 203   | 77%  | 206  | 50   | 11    | 23                     | 17                      | 602   | 488                                 | 204                         |  |  |
| France                 | 2963                          | 1827                                 | 2860                          | 1832                                 | 1668  | 91%  | 1469   | 1413   | 86    | 119                    | 96                      | 4287  | 2442                                | 719                         |  |  |
| Georgia                | 98                            | 72                                   | 117                           | 105                                  | 55  | 52%  | 36   | 4  | 22    | 2                      | 5                       | 212   | 171                                 | 57                          |  |  |
| Germany                | 2304                          | 1582                                 | 2217                          | 1587                                 | 1516  | 96%  | 1135   | 991  | 28    | 8                      | 10                      | 3932  | 2687                                | 1495                        |  |  |
| Greece                 | 453                           | 369                                  | 446                           | 371                                  | 253   | 68%  | 296  | 150  | 66    | 45                     | 55                      | 678   | 519                                 | 78                          |  |  |
| Hungary                | 673                           | 647                                  | 574                           | 425                                  | 368   | 87%  | 337  | 134  | 37    | 32                     | 32                      | 1277  | 988                                 | 528                         |  |  |
| Iceland                | 6                             | 6                                    | 14                            | 12                                   | 11  | 92%  | 7  | 2  | 2     | 0                      | 0                       | 21    | 14                                  | 1                           |  |  |
| Ireland                | 64                            | 45                                   | 72                            | 40                                   | 35  | 88%  | 54   | 37   | 0     | 0                      | 0                       | 80    | 30                                  | 9                           |  |  |
| Italy                  | 1251                          | 848                                  | 1300                          | 934                                  | 735   | 79%  | 647  | 732  | 377   | 79                     | 103                     | 3393  | 2404                                | 1311                        |  |  |
| Latvia                 | 349                           | 234                                  | 406                           | 269                                  | 217   | 81%  | 83   | 146  | 24    | 11                     | 10                      | 890   | 635                                 | 348                         |  |  |
| Liechtenstein          | 3                             | 3                                    | 1                             | 1                                    | 1   | 100% | 1  | 1  | 0     | 1                      | 1                       | 3     | 3                                   | 2                           |  |  |
| Lithuania              | 282                           | 266                                  | 236                           | 203                                  | 198   | 98%  | 174  | 57   | 25    | 9                      | 7                       | 464   | 408                                 | 174                         |  |  |
| Luxembourg             | 55                            | 28                                   | 59                            | 31                                   | 27  | 87%  | 19   | 34   | 8     | 4                      | 2                       | 94    | 48                                  | 6                           |  |  |
| Malta                  | 11                            | 13                                   | 28                            | 16                                   | 9   | 56%  | 15   | 3  | 4     | 5                      | 8                       | 30    | 13                                  | 2                           |  |  |
| Moldova                | 635                           | 594                                  | 724                           | 519                                  | 397   | 76%  | 278  | 65   | 99    | 36                     | 20                      | 1445  | 1178                                | 563                         |  |  |
| Monaco                 | 2                             | 1                                    | 7                             | 4                                    | 1   | 25%  | 1  | 2  | 0     | 0                      | 0                       | 5     | 4                                   | 0                           |  |  |
| Netherlands            | 522                           | 412                                  | 537                           | 397                                  | 355   | 89%  | 340  | 180  | 13    | 6                      | 7                       | 544   | 272                                 | 92                          |  |  |
| Norway                 | 78                            | 57                                   | 84                            | 67                                   | 64  | 96%  | 61   | 24   | 5     | 10                     | 1                       | 148   | 99                                  | 21                          |  |  |
| Poland                 | 5044                          | 4571                                 | 4646                          | 3990                                 | 3683  | 92%  | 5889   | 1417   | 254   | 111                    | 115                     | 5125  | 3008                                | 1524                        |  |  |
| Portugal               | 294                           | 221                                  | 294                           | 216                                  | 151   | 70%  | 131  | 79   | 29    | 17                     | 5                       | 399   | 276                                 | 67                          |  |  |
| Romania                | 4056                          | 3109                                 | 4878                          | 3312                                 | 2851  | 86%  | 2361   | 1075   | 287   | 58                     | 73                      | 10826 | 7736                                | 4518                        |  |  |
| Russia                 | 10599                         | 8089                                 | 12241                         | 10177                                | 9418  | 93%  | 4952   | 1977   | 380   | 151                    | 102                     | 19319 | 15416                               | 6787                        |  |  |
| San Marino             | 2                             | 4                                    | 0                             | 2                                    | 0   | 0%   | 3  | 0  | 0     | 0                      | 0                       | 5     | 5                                   | 3                           |  |  |
| Serbia and Montenegro  | 693                           | 660                                  | 688                           | 586                                  | 536   | 91%  | 422  | 111  | 40    | 1                      | 1                       | 1088  | 895                                 | 291                         |  |  |
| Slovak Republic        | 510                           | 445                                  | 542                           | 486                                  | 416   | 86%  | 162  | 89   | 63    | 40                     | 34                      | 1307  | 1142                                | 584                         |  |  |
| Slovenia               | 404                           | 347                                  | 1743                          | 1340                                 | 273   | 20%  | 393  | 46   | 40    | 193                    | 190                     | 1955  | 1880                                | 517                         |  |  |
| Spain                  | 657                           | 493                                  | 520                           | 359                                  | 328   | 91%  | 288  | 196  | 15    | 3                      | 5                       | 1037  | 734                                 | 366                         |  |  |
| Sweden                 | 608                           | 448                                  | 484                           | 371                                  | 344   | 93%  | 444  | 158  | 12    | 5                      | 8                       | 642   | 354                                 | 61                          |  |  |
| Switzerland            | 326                           | 232                                  | 335                           | 277                                  | 262   | 95%  | 180  | 97   | 5     | 5                      | 9                       | 568   | 385                                 | 116                         |  |  |
| FYRO Macedonia         | 248                           | 220                                  | 384                           | 289                                  | 215   | 74%  | 73   | 13   | 29    | 10                     | 8                       | 726   | 593                                 | 267                         |  |  |
| Turkey                 | 2410                          | 2489                                 | 2353                          | 2330                                 | 1458  | 63%  | 3538   | 225  | 497   | 362                    | 334                     | 9016  | 8389                                | 5443                        |  |  |
| Ukraine                | 2770                          | 1869                                 | 4269                          | 2482                                 | 2074  | 84%  | 1241   | 688  | 313   | 131                    | 120                     | 6822  | 4051                                | 1620                        |  |  |
| United Kingdom         | 1713                          | 1006                                 | 1608                          | 844                                  | 767   | 91%  | 982  | 808  | 39    | 7                      | 23                      | 2211  | 948                                 | 525                         |  |  |

<sup>\*</sup> These judgments have become final in the relevant year according to Article 44 of the Convention. \*\* One judgment may concern several joined applications.

Chart 11 - Applications lodged per Contracting State and population

| State                  |          |               | new app<br>lodg | ged         | `            | )00s)        | application<br>to a decis | ion body   | allocated/population<br>(10.000s) |      |  |
|------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------|--|
|                        | 1.1.2005 | 1.1.2005      | 2005            | 2006        | 2005         | 2006         | 2005                      | 2006       | 2005                              | 2006 |  |
| Albania                | 3127     | 3127          | 60              | 63          | 0.19         | 0.20         | 40                        | 52         | 0.13                              | 0.17 |  |
| Andorra                | 75       | 75            | 8               | 6           | 1.07         | 0.80         | 5                         | 8          | 0.67                              | 1.07 |  |
| Armenia                | 3216     | 3216          | 342             | 94          | 1.06         | 0.29         | 110                       | 98         | 0.34                              | 0.30 |  |
| Austria                | 8207     | 8266          | 445             | 450         | 0.54         | 0.54         | 301                       | 341        | 0.37                              | 0.41 |  |
| Azerbaidjan            | 8388     | 8388          | 196             | 445         | 0.23         | 0.53         | 175                       | 223        | 0.21                              | 0.27 |  |
| Belgium                | 10446    | 10511         | 293             | 227         | 0.28         | 0.22         | 169                       | 106        | 0.16                              | 0.10 |  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 3842     | 3842          | 235             | 302         | 0.61         | 0.79         | 210                       | 240        | 0.55                              | 0.62 |  |
| Bulgaria               | 7761     | 7719          | 1046            | 923         | 1.35         | 1.20         | 821                       | 746        | 1.06                              | 0.97 |  |
| Croatia                | 4444     | 4443          | 759             | 657         | 1.71         | 1.48         | 553                       | 642        | 1.24                              | 1.45 |  |
| Cyprus                 | 749      | 766           | 77              | 78          | 1.03         | 1.02         | 66                        | 56         | 0.88                              | 0.73 |  |
| Czech Republic         | 10221    | 10251         | 1424            | 2774        | 1.39         | 2.71         | 1263                      | 2476       | 1.24                              | 2.42 |  |
| Denmark                | 5411     | 5427          | 99              | 108         | 0.18         | 0.20         | 72                        | 66         | 0.13                              | 0.12 |  |
| Estonia                | 1348     | 1345          | 211             | 233         | 1.57         | 1.73         | 164                       | 183        | 1.22                              | 1.36 |  |
| Finland                | 5237     | 5256          | 279             | 291         | 0.53         | 0.55         | 244                       | 262        | 0.47                              | 0.50 |  |
| France                 | 62519    | 62886         | 2963            | 2860        | 0.47         | 0.45         | 1827                      | 1832       | 0.29                              | 0.29 |  |
| Georgia                | 4361     | 4361          | 98              | 117         | 0.22         | 0.27         | 72                        | 105        | 0.17                              | 0.24 |  |
| Germany                | 82501    | 82438         | 2304            | 2217        | 0.28         | 0.27         | 1582                      | 1587       | 0.19                              | 0.19 |  |
| Greece                 | 11083    | 11125         | 453             | 446         | 0.41         | 0.40         | 369                       | 371        | 0.33                              | 0.33 |  |
| Hungary                | 10098    | 10077         | 673             | 574         | 0.67         | 0.57         | 647                       | 425        | 0.64                              | 0.42 |  |
| Iceland                | 294      | 300           | 6               | 14          | 0.20         | 0.47         | 6                         | 12         | 0.20                              | 0.40 |  |
| Ireland                | 4109     | 4209          | 64              | 72          | 0.16         | 0.17         | 45                        | 40         | 0.11                              | 0.10 |  |
| Italy                  | 58462    | 58752         | 1251            | 1300        | 0.21         | 0.22         | 848                       | 934        | 0.15                              | 0.16 |  |
| Latvia                 | 2306     | 2295          | 349             | 406         | 1.51         | 1.77         | 234                       | 269        | 1.01                              | 1.17 |  |
| Liechtenstein          | 35       | 35            | 3               | 1           | 0.87         | 0.29         | 3                         | 1          | 0.87                              | 0.29 |  |
| Lithuania              | 3425     | 3403          | 282             | 236         | 0.82         | 0.69         | 266                       | 203        | 0.78                              | 0.60 |  |
| Luxembourg             | 455      | 460           | 55              | 59          | 1.21         | 1.28         | 28                        | 31         | 0.62                              | 0.67 |  |
| Malta                  | 403      | 404           | 11              | 28          | 0.27         | 0.69         | 13                        | 16         | 0.32                              | 0.40 |  |
| Moldova                | 3604     | 3604          | 635             | 724         | 1.76         | 2.01         | 594                       | 519        | 1.65                              | 1.44 |  |
| Monaco                 | 32       | 32            | 2               | 724         | 0.63         | 2.19         | 1                         | 4          | 0.31                              | 1.25 |  |
| Netherlands            | 16306    | 16334         | 522             | 537         | 0.32         | 0.33         | 412                       | 397        | 0.25                              | 0.24 |  |
| Norway                 | 4606     | 4640          | 78              | 84          | 0.17         | 0.18         | 57                        | 67         | 0.12                              | 0.14 |  |
| Poland                 | 38174    | 38157         | 5044            | 4646        | 1.32         | 1.22         | 4571                      | 3990       | 1.20                              | 1.05 |  |
| Portugal               | 10529    | 10570         | 294             | 294         | 0.28         | 0.28         | 221                       | 216        | 0.21                              | 0.20 |  |
| Romania                | 21659    | 21610         | 4056            | 4878        | 1.87         | 2.26         | 3109                      | 3312       | 1.44                              | 1.53 |  |
| Russia                 | 143821   | 143821        | 10599           | 12241       | 0.74         | 0.85         | 8089                      | 10177      | 0.56                              | 0.71 |  |
| San Marino             | 29       | 29            | 2               | 0           | 0.74         | 0.00         | 4                         | 2          | 1.38                              | 0.71 |  |
| Serbia and Montenegro  | 8118     | 8118          | 693             | 688         | 0.85         | 0.85         | 660                       | 586        | 0.81                              | 0.09 |  |
|                        | 5385     | 5389          | 510             | 542         | 0.85         | 1.01         | 445                       | 486        | 0.81                              | 0.72 |  |
| Slovak Republic        | 1998     |               |                 |             |              |              |                           |            |                                   |      |  |
| Slovenia               | 43038    | 2003<br>43758 | 404             | 1743<br>520 | 2.02         | 8.70<br>0.12 | 347<br>493                | 1340       | 1.74                              | 6.69 |  |
| Spain                  | 9011     | 9048          | 657             |             | 0.15<br>0.67 |              |                           | 359<br>371 | 0.11                              | 0.08 |  |
| Sweden                 |          |               | 608             | 484         |              | 0.53         | 448                       |            | 0.50                              | 0.41 |  |
| Switzerland            | 7415     | 7459          | 326             | 335         | 0.44         | 0.45         | 232                       | 277        | 0.31                              | 0.37 |  |
| FYRO Macedonia         | 2032     | 2032          | 248             | 384         | 1.22         | 1.89         | 220                       | 289        | 1.08                              | 1.42 |  |
| Turkey                 | 71610    | 72520         | 2410            | 2353        | 0.34         | 0.32         | 2489                      | 2330       | 0.35                              | 0.32 |  |
| Ukraine                | 47075    | 47075         | 2770            | 4269        | 0.59         | 0.91         | 1869                      | 2482       | 0.40                              | 0.53 |  |
| United Kingdom         | 60060    | 60393         | 1713            | 1608        | 0.29         | 0.27         | 1006                      | 844        | 0.17                              | 0.14 |  |

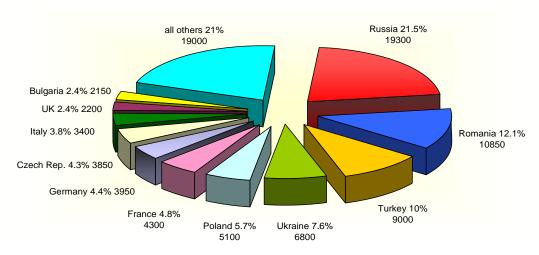
SOURCES: Internet sites of the Eurostat service ["Population and social conditions": total number of inhabitants in a given area on 1 January 2007 or, in certain cases, on 31 December 2006 (population based either on data from the most recent census, adjusted by the components of population change since the last census, or on population registers] and the United Nations Statistics Division ["Population and Vital Statistics Report: Series A; Population, latest available census and estimates, latest available data" (last updated on 9 April 2007)].

32. Taking into account population density – the Council of Europe member States had a combined population of almost 810 million inhabitants on 1 January 2006 – the average number of applications lodged per one million inhabitants was 63 in 2006.

## 2. Specific situations

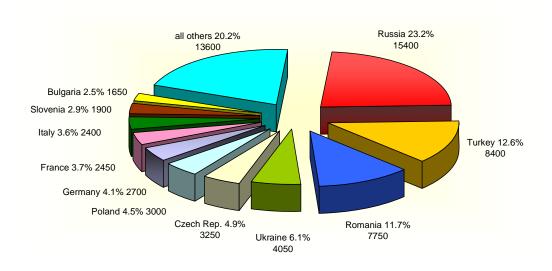
33. Eleven high case-count States with a total of more than 2,000 applications each accounted for more than 80 % of the total case-load.

Chart 12 – High case-count States (total of more than 2,000 pending applications)



- 34. The number of applications pending against four States (Russia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine) represent more than half of the Court's total case-load.
- 35. The case-load concerning five of the eleven high case-count States increased last year. The highest rates of increase were noted in respect of the Czech Republic (48 %), Ukraine (48 %), Russia (38 %) and Romania (14 %). The number of applications against Poland decreased by 34 % and against Turkey by 14 %. The number of applications against the United Kingdom decreased by 10 %.
- 36. The situation concerning applications pending before a decision body is similar. The highest rates of increase were noted in respect of the Czech Republic (55 %), Russia (52 %), Ukraine (45 %) and Romania (14 %). The number of applications against Poland decreased by 39 % and against Turkey by 13 %. The number of applications against Bulgaria went down by 8 %.

Chart 13 – High case-count States (more than 1,250 applications pending before a decision body)



37. The following non-exhaustive list identifies groups of similar applications against the above high case-count and other Contracting States:

### Czech Republic: complaints about

- length of proceedings (a total of 1,375 applications, of which 230 concern only length and the remainder other complaints in addition)
- inefficient functioning of the domestic law restricting rent increases (42 applications concerning some 3,850 applicants)
- civil proceedings actions against the Brokers' Agency (some 500 applications).

### - **France**: complaints about

- retroactivity of specific labour legislation (about 60 applications)

### Italy: complaints about

- length of proceedings (about 1,540 applications)
- property issues, such as expropriation (about 220 applications)
- detention (some 130 applications)
- bankruptcy proceedings raising not only a length issue but also an Article 8 issue regarding the applicant's legal situation (about 120 applications)
- child custody (about 35 applications)

### Moldava: complaints about

- non-enforcement of judgments (about 230 applications)

#### Poland: complaints about

- length of civil (about 285 applications) and of criminal proceedings (about 100 applications)
- complaints that an entitlement to compensation for property abandoned in the territories beyond the Bug River had not been satisfied (about 250 applications pilot judgment procedure)
- length of detention (50 applications)
- conditions of detention (about 90 applications)
- refusal by legal aid lawyer to lodge an appeal on points of law (90 applications)
- procedure concerning taking away retirement pensions for raising children with specific needs (about 130 applications)

#### Romania: complaints about

- non-execution of judgments (about 175 applications)
- nationalisation and other property issues (about 65 applications)
- military pensions (about 45 applications)
- "Străin and Others" (sale of unlawfully nationalised property to a third party) (about 50 applications)
- ill-treatment (about 50 applications)
- length of civil or criminal proceedings (about 110 applications)
- access to a court (66 applications)
- absence of regulations governing the payment of allowances provided for by law (about 90 applications)

### Russia: complaints about

- non-execution of judgments (about 190 applications)
- events in Chechnya (about 200 applications)
- conditions of detention (about 40 applications)
- excessive length of civil proceedings (about 25 applications)
- excessive length of pre-trial detention without sufficient grounds (about 55 applications)
- quashing of final judgments in supervisory review proceedings (about 60 applications)
- method of calculating military pensions (about 300 cases)
- method of calculating wages in a steel works in Karelia (about 300 applications)

### Slovenia: complaints about

- length of proceedings (about 1,700 applications)

#### Turkey: complaints about

- property issues, such as expropriation and destruction of property, the late and insufficient payment of interest on State debts (in total about 700 applications)
- refusal of access to property in northern Cyprus (1,500 cases)
- Articles 2 and 3 issues not including the above property cases (about 480 applications)
- length of proceedings (about 400 applications)

#### United Kingdom: complaints about

- differential treatment in respect of widowers' pensions (about 270 applications)
- dismissal of homosexuals from the armed forces (about 60 applications)

#### Ukraine: complaints about

- non-execution of judgments (720 applications)
- military pensions (750 applications)
- length of civil proceedings (215 applications)
- length of criminal proceedings (90 applications).