



*March 2008*

## **Analysis of statistics 2007**

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## ***Commentary on statistical overview of developments in the Court's caseload in 2007***

### **Number of applications**

In 2007 the number of applications allocated to a decision body increased by 6 % overall as compared with 2006. While the increase in number of applications allocated to a Committee was only 1 %, the increase in applications allocated to a Chamber rose by 35 %.

### **Pending cases**

The number of cases pending before a decision body increased by 19 % in 2007. The number of applications disposed of judicially in 2007 remained lower than the number of applications allocated to a decision body. The annual deficit was more than 13,000 applications (i.e. a monthly deficit of more than 1,080 applications) which is a 33 % increase as compared with 2006.

### **Processing applications**

The number of applications pending at the pre-judicial stage rose by 4 % in 2007. The number of applications disposed of administratively increased by 9 %. These are applications that were incomplete because the applicants failed to submit the application form duly completed together with the necessary documents within the allotted time.

In 2007 the number of applications declared inadmissible or struck out of the list of cases by a Committee or a Chamber fell by 4 %. The number of applications disposed of by a final judgment<sup>1</sup> increased by 16 %. The number of applications in respect of which a judgment was delivered remained stable (+1 %), although the number of judgments delivered fell by 4%. In other words, slightly more applications were decided with fewer judgments delivered, indicating that, in an effort to enhance efficiency, a greater number of applications are being joined. The number of cases communicated to a respondent Government increased by 7 %.

These figures can be explained in part by the Court's policy of concentrating efforts on Chamber cases and backlog cases. However, the applications processed by a Committee represent 89 % of the total number of applications disposed of at the judicial stage.

In 2007 the number of judgments of low importance, in which the Court merely repeated its established case-law, fell by 7 % while the overall number of judgments contributing to the case-law (whether of medium or high importance) rose by 8 %.

### **Requests for interim measures (Rule 39 of the Rules of Court)**

As compared with the previous year, the number of requests for interim measures increased significantly in 2007 in particular in respect of two countries: France and the United Kingdom. The Court granted requests for interim measures in 262 cases (i.e. an increase of 404 % as compared with 2006) and dismissed them in 565 cases (54 % more than in 2006). In addition, many requests fell outside the scope of application of Rule 39 of the Rules of Court

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<sup>1</sup> Judgments become final three months after delivery unless a referral to the Grand Chamber is requested (see Article 44 § 2 of the Convention).

but nonetheless required an urgent examination and thus diverted resources from the processing of cases.

### **Backlog applications**

As at 1 January 2007 the number of applications allocated to a decision body before 1 January 2004 stood at 7,837. During 2007, 743 of these applications were communicated to a respondent Government, 328 were declared admissible and 1,247 ended with the delivery of a judgment, which represents approximately 72 % of the total number of applications in respect of which judgments were delivered.

In all 2,811 of these applications were disposed of judicially, that is, ended with a striking out decision, an inadmissibility decision or a judgment that became final. Of those applications 792 were lodged against Turkey, 308 against Russia, 281 against Poland, 278 against Romania and 171 against Ukraine.

At the end of the year there remained 5,026 applications allocated before 1 January 2004, that is, a drop of 36%. Of those applications 1,419 were lodged against Turkey, 663 against Italy, 598 against Romania, 498 against Russia and 389 against Poland.

### **Time elapsed since date of allocation of cases**

52 % of cases allocated to a Chamber have been pending for less than two years and 17 % for between two and three years. The remaining 31 % of cases have been pending for over three years.

55 % of cases allocated to a Committee have been pending for less than one year, 32 % for more than one year and 12 % for more than two years.

## General information

Table 1 General statistical information

<b>1. Allocated applications</b> (Committee/Chamber [round figures (50)])	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>+/-</b>
Applications allocated	<b>41700</b>	39350	6%

<b>2. Interim procedural events</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>+/-</b>
Applications communicated to respondent Government	<b>3440</b>	3217	7%
Applications declared admissible	<b>1621</b>	1634	-1%
- in separate decision	<b>181</b>	266	-32%
- in judgment on merits	<b>1440</b>	1368	5%

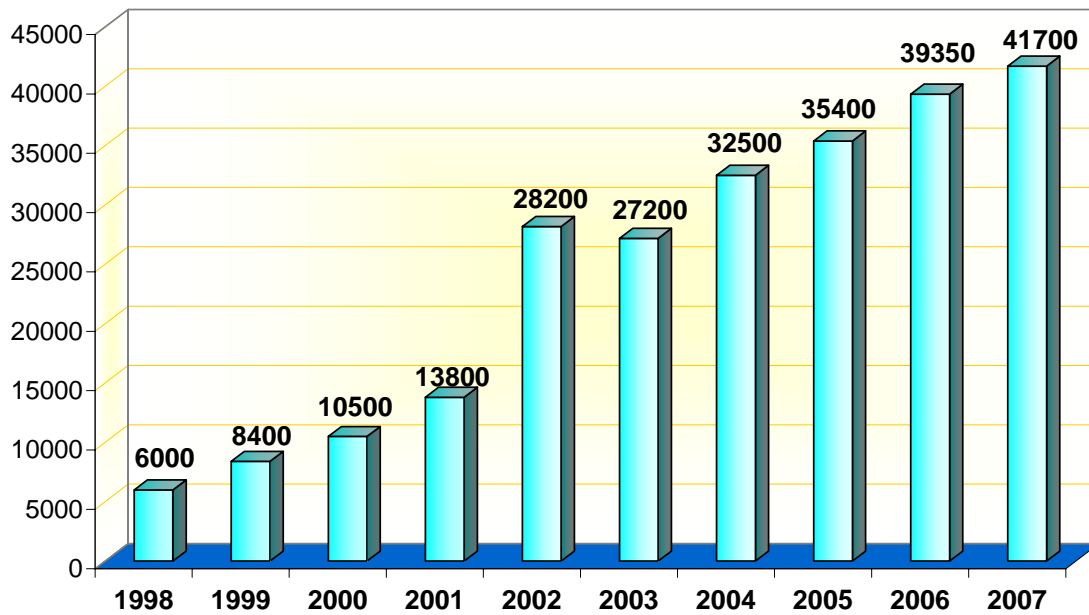
<b>3. Applications decided</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>+/-</b>
By decision or judgment	<b>28792</b>	29878	-4%
- by judgment delivered	<b>1735</b>	1719	1%
- by decision (inadmissible or struck out)	<b>27057</b>	28159	-4%

<b>4. Pending applications</b> [round figures (50)]	<b>31/12/2007</b>	<b>1/1/2007</b>	<b>+/-</b>
Applications pending before a decision body	<b>79400</b>	66500	19%
- Chamber (7 judges)	<b>27950</b>	22950	22%
- Committee (3 judges)	<b>51450</b>	43550	18%

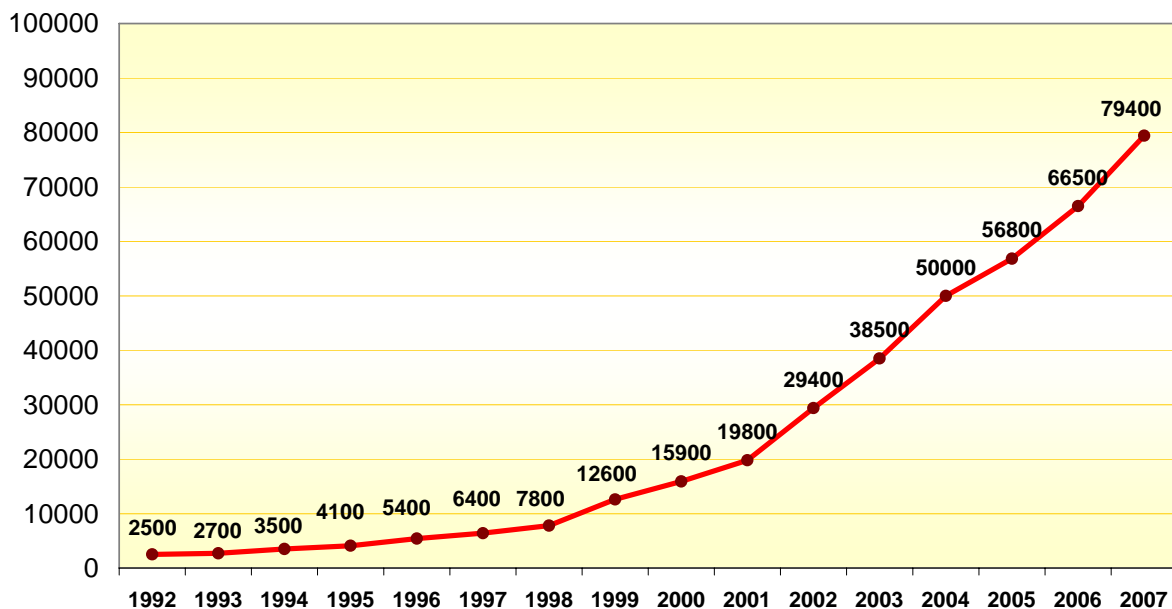
<b>5. Pre-judicial applications</b> [round figures (50)]	<b>31/12/2007</b>	<b>1/1/2007</b>	<b>+/-</b>
Applications at a pre-judicial stage	<b>24450</b>	23400	4%
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>+/-</b>
Applications disposed of administratively (applications not pursued - files destroyed)	<b>13413</b>	12274	9%

Number of applications allocated to a decision body<sup>2</sup>

**Chart 1 Applications allocated to a decision body per year**

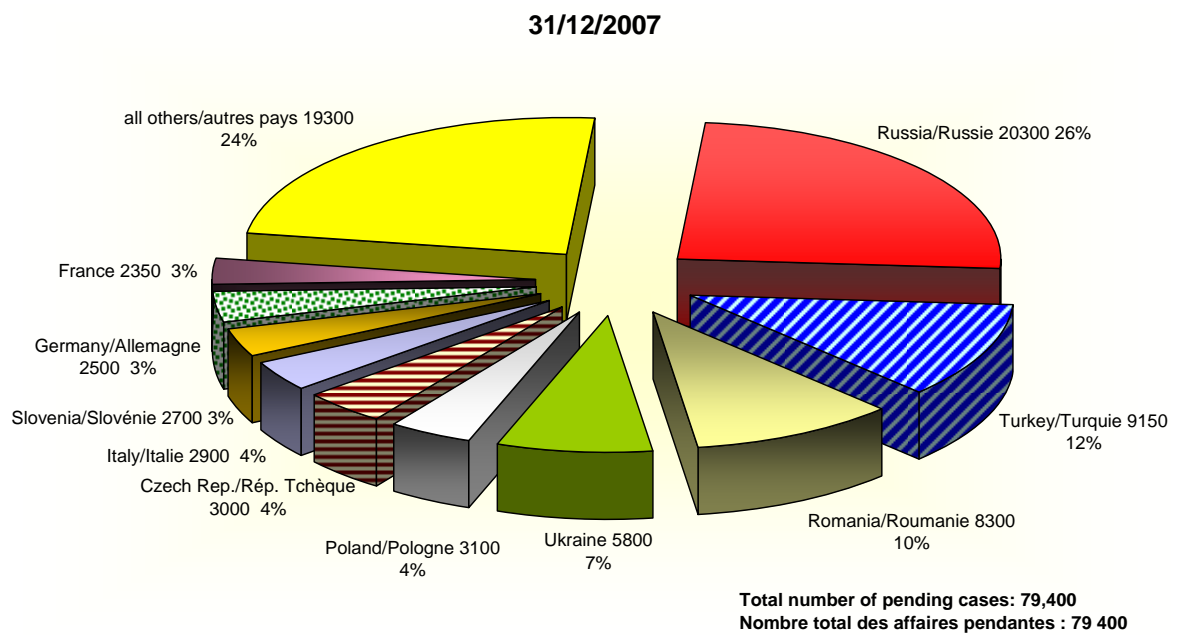


**Chart 2 Applications pending before a decision body**

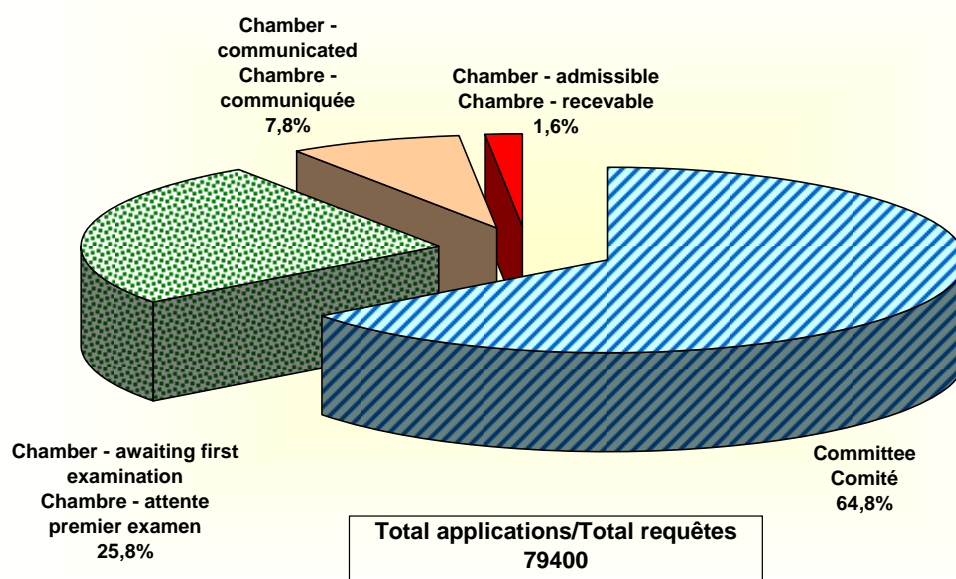


<sup>2</sup> Figures represent the total number of applications, including joined applications. The document generally gives round figures. Figures prior to 1 November 1998 relate to the European Commission of Human Rights. The upsurge in applications allocated in 2002 was due to a change in working methods, transferring much of the screening of inadmissible applications from the administrative, pre-judicial phase to the judicial stage.

**Chart 3 High case-count States (more than 2,000 applications pending before a decision body)**

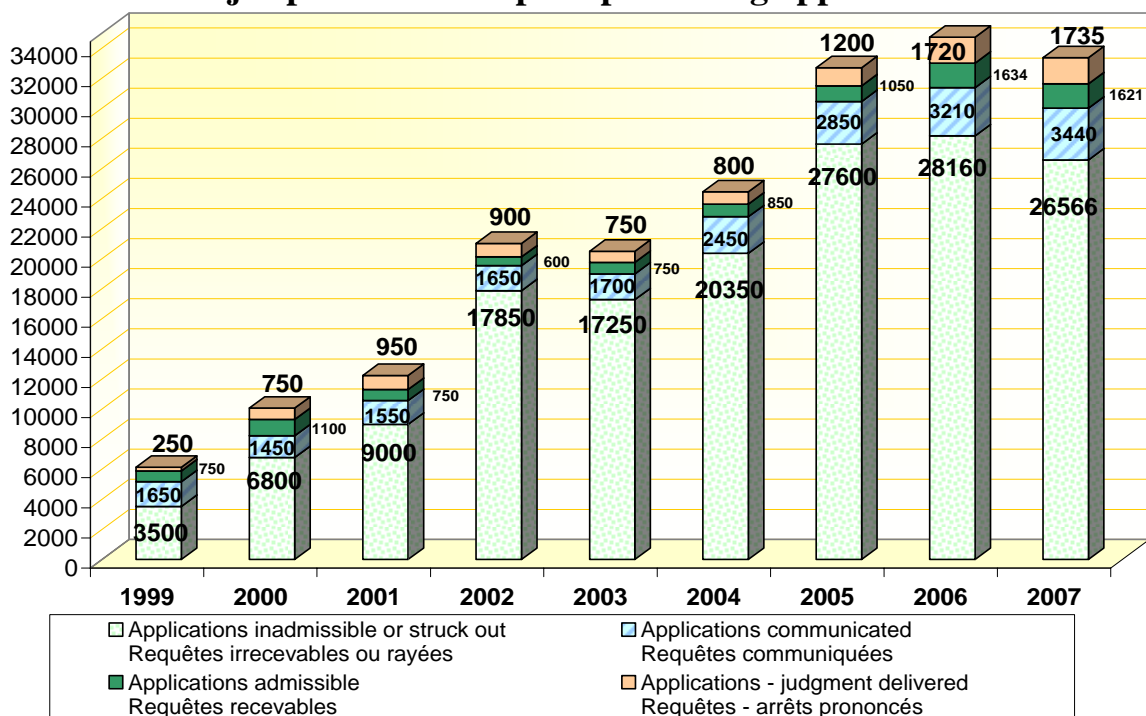


**Chart 4 The Court's total caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body**

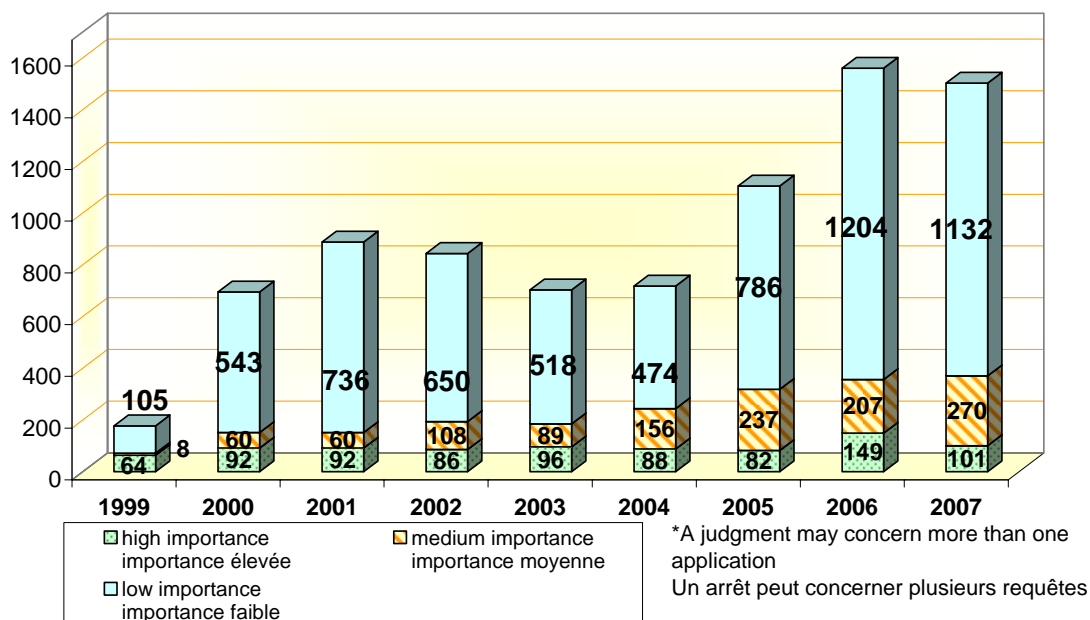


## Processing applications

**Chart 5 Major procedural steps in processing applications**



**Chart 6 Judgments by level of importance<sup>3</sup>**

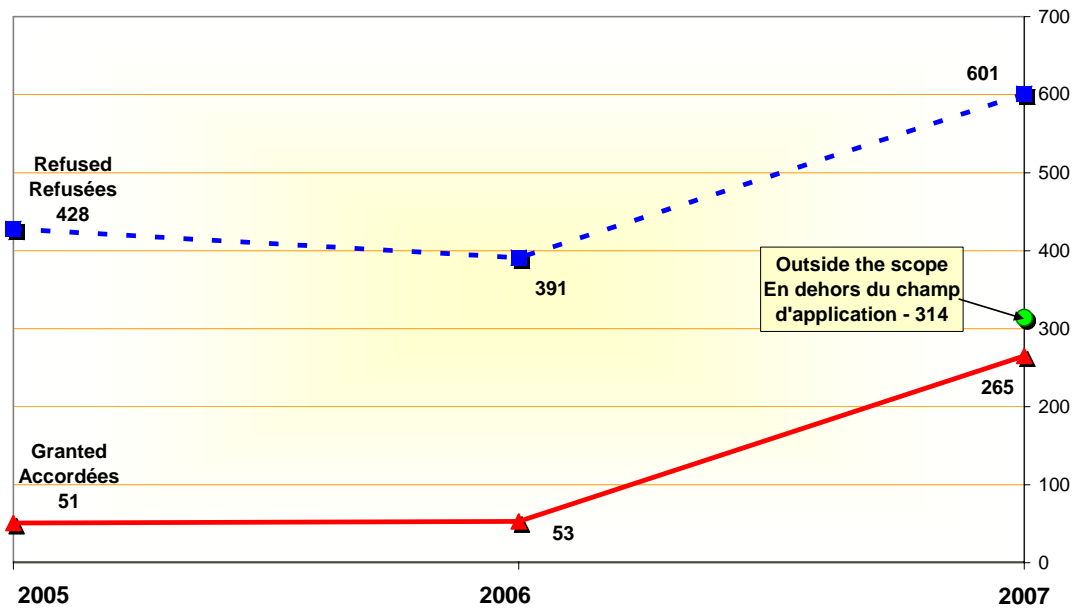


<sup>3</sup> Importance levels:

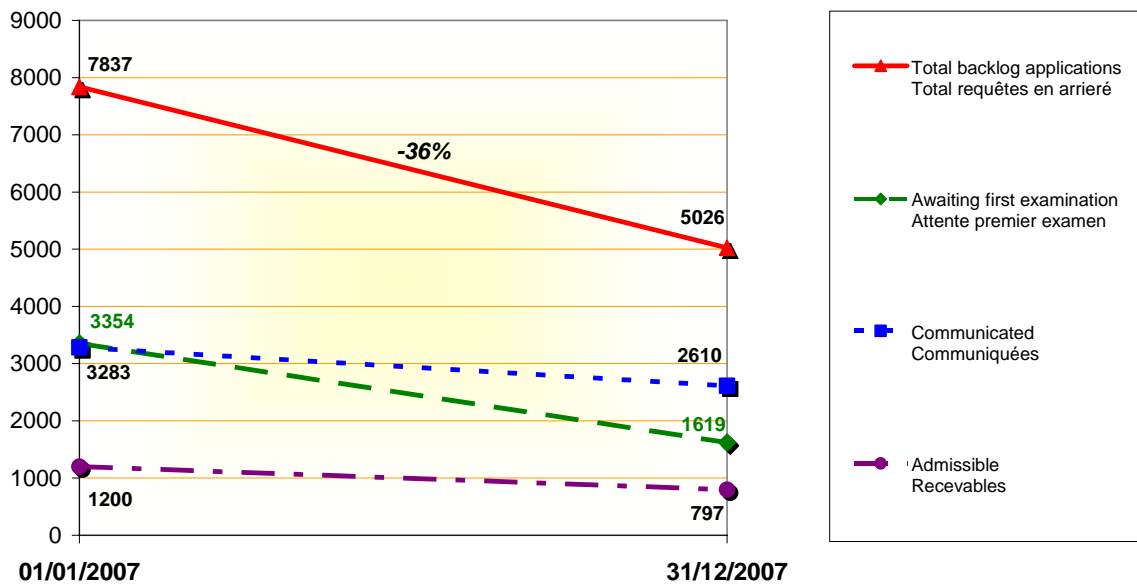
1. High importance, judgments which the Court considers make a significant contribution to the development, clarification or modification of its case-law, either generally or in relation to a particular State.
2. Medium importance, judgments which do not make a significant contribution to the case-law but nevertheless do not merely apply existing case-law.
3. 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).



**Chart 7 Requests for interim measures 2005-2007<sup>4</sup>**

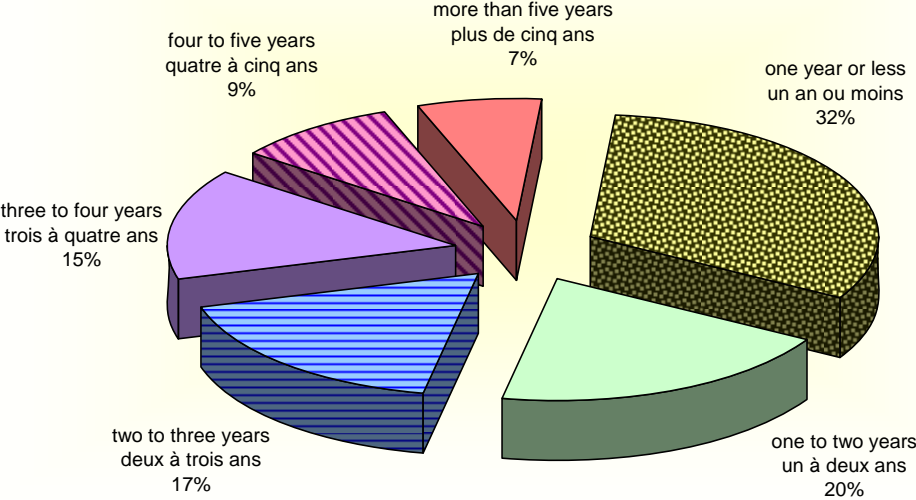


**Chart 8 Applications allocated to a decision body before 1 January 2004 (backlog)**

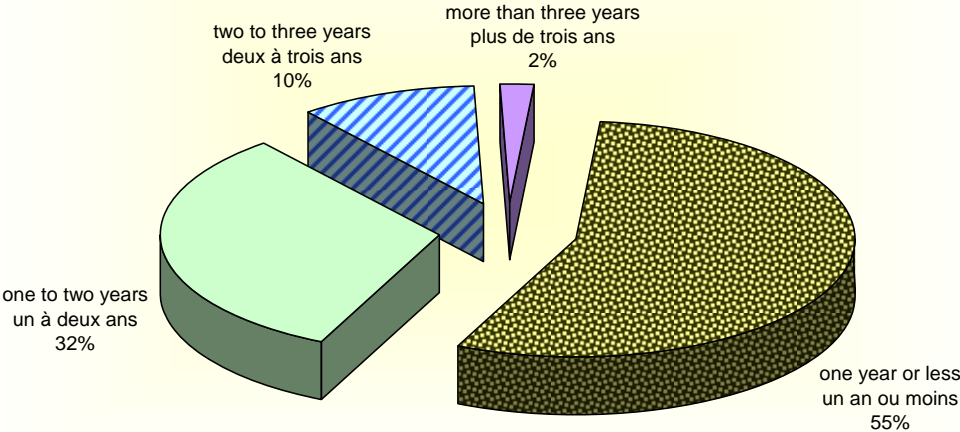


<sup>4</sup> Statistics on the number of requests for interim measures falling outside the scope of application of Rule 39 are available only from 2007.

**Chart 9** Time elapsed since date of allocation to a decision body– Pending Chamber cases



**Chart 10** Time elapsed since date of allocation to a decision body – Pending Committee cases



**Table 2 Applications allocated per Contracting State and population**

State/Etat	Applications allocated to a decision body Requêtes attribuées à un organe décisionnel			population (1 000)			attribuées/population allocated/population (10 000)		
	2005	2006	2007	1.1.2005	1.1.2006	1.1.2007	2005	2006	2007
Albania/Albanie	45	52	54	3127	3127	3153	0,14	0,17	0,17
Andorra/Andorre	5	8	4	75	75	80	0,67	1,07	0,50
Armenia/Arménie	110	98	614	3216	3216	3226	0,34	0,30	1,90
Austria/Autriche	298	344	329	8207	8266	8299	0,36	0,42	0,40
Azerbaijan/Azerbaïdjan	175	221	708	8388	8388	8533	0,21	0,26	0,83
Belgium/Belgique	173	107	124	10446	10511	10585	0,17	0,10	0,12
Bosnia and Herzegovina/Bosnie-Hezégovine	209	243	708	3842	3842	3884	0,54	0,63	1,82
Bulgaria/Bulgarie	820	748	821	7761	7719	7679	1,06	0,97	1,07
Croatia/Croatie	553	640	557	4444	4443	4441	1,24	1,44	1,25
Cyprus/Chypre	66	56	63	749	766	779	0,88	0,73	0,81
Czech Republic/République Tchèque	1267	2466	808	10221	10251	10287	1,24	2,41	0,79
Denmark/Danemark	72	68	45	5411	5427	5447	0,13	0,13	0,08
Estonia/Estonie	165	184	154	1348	1345	1342	1,22	1,37	1,15
Finland/Finlande	243	262	269	5237	5256	5277	0,46	0,50	0,51
France/France	1821	1831	1552	62519	62886	63392	0,29	0,29	0,24
Georgia/Georgie	72	105	162	4361	4361	4400	0,17	0,24	0,37
Germany/Allemagne	1592	1601	1485	82501	82438	82315	0,19	0,19	0,18
Greece/Grèce	365	371	384	11083	11125	11172	0,33	0,33	0,34
Hungary/Hongrie	644	423	528	10098	10077	10066	0,64	0,42	0,52
Iceland/Islande	6	12	9	294	300	308	0,20	0,40	0,29
Ireland/Irlande	45	40	45	4109	4209	4315	0,11	0,10	0,10
Italy/Italie	847	931	1350	58462	58752	59131	0,14	0,16	0,23
Latvia/Lettonie	233	268	235	2306	2295	2281	1,01	1,17	1,03
Liechtenstein/Liechtenstein	4	1	5	35	35	35	1,16	0,29	1,42
Lithuania/Lituanie	267	204	227	3425	3403	3385	0,78	0,60	0,67
Luxemburg/Luxembourg	28	32	32	455	460	476	0,62	0,70	0,67
Malta/Malte	13	16	17	403	404	408	0,32	0,40	0,42
Moldova/Moldovie	594	517	887	3604	3604	3581	1,65	1,43	2,48
Monaco/Monaco	1	4	10	32	32	32	0,31	1,25	3,13
Montenegro/Monténégro*	-	13	134	-	-	651			2,06
Netherlands/Pays-Bas	410	397	365	16306	16334	16358	0,25	0,24	0,22
Norway/Norvège	58	70	62	4606	4640	4681	0,13	0,15	0,13
Poland/Pologne	4563	3975	4211	38174	38157	38126	1,20	1,04	1,10
Portugal/Portugal	221	215	133	10529	10570	10599	0,21	0,20	0,13
Romania/Roumanie	3103	3310	3171	21659	21610	21565	1,43	1,53	1,47
Russia/Russie	8069	10132	9497	143821	143821	142221	0,56	0,70	0,67
San Marino/Saint-Marin	4	2	1	29	29	32	1,38	0,69	0,32
Serbia/Serbie*	660	595	1154	8118	8118	7398	0,81	0,75	1,56
Slovak Republic/Republique Slovaque	442	487	347	5385	5389	5394	0,82	0,90	0,64
Slovenia/Slovénie	343	1338	1012	1998	2003	2010	1,72	6,68	5,03
Spain/Espagne	495	361	309	43038	43758	44475	0,12	0,08	0,07
Sweden/Suède	449	371	360	9011	9048	9113	0,50	0,41	0,40
Switzerland/Suisse	230	282	236	7415	7459	7509	0,31	0,38	0,31
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia/ L' ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine	229	295	454	2032	2032	2042	1,13	1,45	2,22
Turkey/Turquie	2488	2328	2830	71610	72520	73423	0,35	0,32	0,39
Ukraine/Ukraine	1869	2482	4502	47075	47075	46466	0,40	0,53	0,97
United Kingdom/Royaume-Uni	1003	843	886	60060	60393	60853	0,17	0,14	0,15

SOURCES 2007: Internet sites of the Eurostat service ("Population and social conditions" ) for the population of all countries except the 5 countries in respect of which the figures are highlighted. For these countries the estimates or annual averages are from the United Nations Statistics Division ["Population and Vital Statistics Report: Series A; Population, latest available census and estimates, latest available data" (last updated on 12 March 2008)] or the country's official website (Montenegro) for want of available data. This does not, however, greatly affect the ratios per head cited.

Sites internet du service Eurostat ("Population et conditions sociales") pour la population de tous les pays sauf pour les 5 pays dont les chiffres sont surlignés. Pour ces pays les estimations ou moyennes annuelles proviennent de la Division Statistique des Nations Unies "Population and Vital Statistics Report: Series A; Population latest available census and estimates (last updated 12 March 2008) ou du site officiel du pays (Monténégro) faute d'informations disponibles. Cela n'a toutefois pas une grande incidence sur les ratios par tête cités.

The Council of Europe member States had a combined population of about 811 million inhabitants on 1 January 2007. The average number of applications allocated per one million inhabitants was 51 in 2007.

**Table 3 The Court's total caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body**

Workload position Classement charge de travail	State Etat	Committee Comité	Chamber - awaiting first examination Chambre - attente premier examen	Chamber - communicated Chambre - communiquée	Chamber - admissible Chambre - recevable	TOTAL
1	Russia/Russie	17078	2109	935	178	20300
2	Turkey/Turquie	3737	4340	887	192	9156
3	Romania/Roumanie	5983	1535	693	62	8273
4	Ukraine/Ukraine	3943	1345	339	180	5807
5	Poland/Pologne	1574	1032	449	61	3116
6	Czech Republic / République Tchèque	1674	1125	169	6	2974
7	Italy/Italie	848	1153	778	125	2904
8	Slovenia/Slovénie	483	2042	162	11	2698
9	Germany/Allemagne	2275	163	50	8	2496
10	France/France	1895	260	171	21	2347
11	Bulgaria/Bulgarie	863	712	180	75	1830
12	Moldova/Moldovie	1213	423	144	46	1826
13	Serbia/Serbie	1024	306	45	15	1390
14	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	770	254	308	30	1362
15	Slovak Republic / Republique Slovaque	952	135	67	20	1174
16	Hungary/Hongrie	914	194	46	15	1169
17	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia/ L' ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine	719	204	50	7	980
18	Azerbaijan/Azerbaïdjan	348	588	33	10	979
19	Croatia/Croatie	783	115	50	9	957
20	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Hezégovine	228	586	18	6	838
21	Armenia/Arménie	105	581	46	5	737
22	Latvia/Lettonie	396	174	69	10	649
23	Spain/Espagne	533	73	15	9	630
24	Austria/Autriche	357	145	47	18	567
25	Greece/Grèce	296	123	101	32	552
26	Finland/Finlande	312	134	26	9	481
27	Switzerland/Suisse	401	28	20	5	454
28	Lithuania/Lituanie	312	60	35	13	420
29	Estonia/Estonie	376	17	10	1	404
30	Sweden/Suède	262	47	27	1	337
31	Netherlands/Pays-Bas	178	73	38	5	294
32	Georgia/Georgie	90	122	65	9	286
33	Portugal/Portugal	20	128	37	29	214
34	Belgium/Belgique	87	44	10	17	158
35	Montenegro/Monténégro	133	9	1	0	143
36	Cyprus/Chypre	52	36	24	4	116
37	Albania/Albanie	26	45	30	6	107
38	Norway/Norvège	70	4	4	6	84
39	Luxemburg/Luxembourg	23	12	12	2	49
40	Ireland/Irlande	25	4	6	0	35
41	Malta/Malte	12	3	5	4	24
42	Denmark/Danemark	10	0	7	1	18
43	Iceland/Islande	11	2	2	1	16
44	Monaco/Monaco	8	3	1	0	12
45	Andorra/Andorre	3	1	1	0	5
46	Liechtenstein / Liechtenstein	5	0	0	0	5
47	San Marino/Saint-Marin	1	1	2	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>51408</b>	<b>20490</b>	<b>6215</b>	<b>1264</b>	<b>79377</b>