



President Spielmann highlights the Court's very good results in 2012

Speaking at the annual press conference of the European Court of Human Rights on 24 January 2013, President Spielmann looked back over 2012, which he described as an exceptional year for the Court.

At the beginning of 2012 more than 150,000 applications had been pending before the Court. By the end of the year, for the first time since the single full-time Court came into operation in 1998, the stock of pending cases had been reduced, by some 16%. It now stood at 128,000. This was a remarkable achievement, largely due to the adoption of new working methods accompanying the optimum exploitation of the Single Judge procedure introduced by Protocol No. 14. The overall number of applications disposed of increased by 68%. This opened up the perspective of bringing the inflow and backlog of inadmissible cases under control within two to three years.

Another very positive signal from 2012 was the report of the Council of Europe's External Auditors, the French Cour des comptes, which endorsed the strategic choices made by the Court.

Finally the High-level Conference held at Brighton provided an opportunity for the member States of the Council of Europe to reaffirm their commitment to the human rights protection system set up by the Convention and their recognition of the importance of the Court's place in this system. Two new Protocols were now under discussion in the Committee of Ministers and the reform process launched at the Interlaken conference was being actively pursued. Once again Brighton stressed the need for an effective implementation of Convention standards at national level and also for full implementation of the Court's judgments.

The Court also issued its [annual activity report](#) and [statistics for 2012](#) at the press conference. The table of violations by country showed that the State with the highest number of judgments finding at least one violation of the Convention delivered against it had been Russia (122 judgments), followed by Turkey (117), Romania (70), Ukraine (69), Bulgaria (58), Poland (56) and Greece (52). In addition, at 31 December 2012 the majority of pending cases were against Russia (22.3%), Turkey (13.2%), Italy (11.1%) and Ukraine (8.2%).

[Webcast of the press conference.](#)

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe Member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.