



Statistics concerning judicial activity in 2011: new record in the number of actions brought before and disposed of by the three judicial organs of the Court of Justice of the European Union

Increased efficiency and significant internal reforms have not, however, completely absorbed the increase in caseload

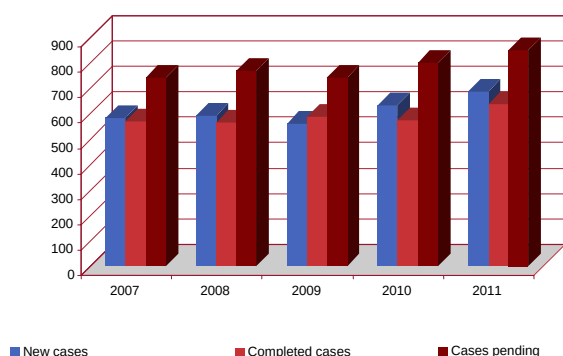
In 2011, the number of actions brought before and disposed of by the three judicial organs of the Court of Justice of the European Union continued to rise (1 569 new cases). The institution can only be gladdened by this trend which indicates the confidence of national courts and of litigants in the Courts of the European Union. However, that increase in the caseload has not been completely absorbed despite record productivity (1 518 cases completed in 2011).

The Court of Justice

The Court of Justice completed 638 cases in 2011, an increase of more than 10% compared with the previous year (574 cases completed in 2010).

In 2011 the Court had 688 new cases brought before it, which amounts to a significant increase compared with 2010 (631 new cases) and for the second year in succession is the highest number in the Court's history. The situation is the same as regards references for a preliminary ruling. In 2011 the number of references for a preliminary ruling submitted was, for the third year in succession, the highest ever reached, and it exceeded the number in 2009 by almost 41% (423 cases in 2011 compared with 302 cases in 2009).

So far as concerns the duration of proceedings, the statistics are, in broad terms, as positive as the previous year's. In the case of references for a preliminary ruling, the average duration amounted to 16.4 months (compared with 16 months in 2010). The average time taken in 2011 to deal with direct actions and appeals was 20.2 months and 15.4 months respectively (compared with 16.7 months and 14.3 months in 2010).

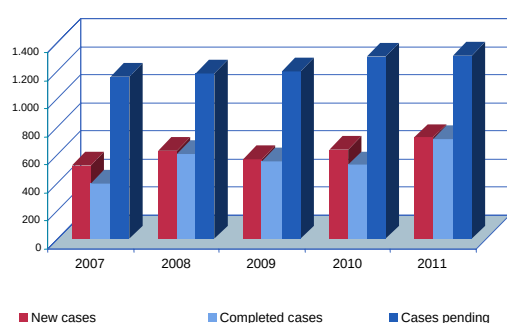


	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
New cases	581	593	562	631	688
Completed cases	570	567	588	574	638
Cases pending	742	768	742	799	849

The General Court

From a statistical point of view, 2011 can be classified as a record year. The total of 722 new cases registered amounts to an increase of nearly 15% compared with 2010 (636 cases brought), a year which likewise saw the number of new cases rise to a level not reached before. Also, the remarkable advance in the number of cases decided (+35%) – the fruit of the far-reaching reforms implemented by the General Court – indicates an unprecedented degree of activity for the Court; it completed 714 cases (as against 527 in 2010), to which 52 applications for interim measures should be added.

The existence of other factors, however, will from time to time mean that the pace kept to in 2011 cannot be guaranteed systematically from year to year. Reforms – structural and procedural – must therefore be continued, so that the Court can not only respond to the systemic growth of the caseload, but also reduce its backlog. It should thus be noted that, despite the results described above, the number of cases pending increased further in 2011, reaching 1 308 cases, and the average duration of proceedings was 26.7 months (as against 24.7 months in 2010).



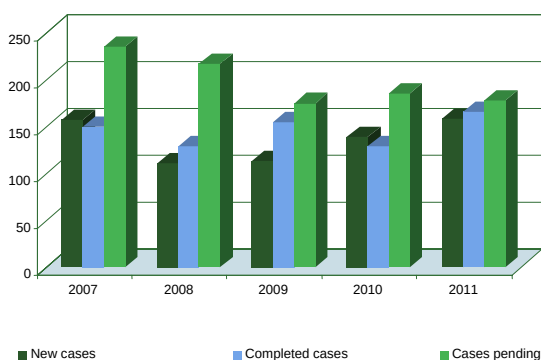
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
New cases	522	629	568	636	722
Completed cases	397	605	555	527	714
Cases pending	1 154	1 178	1 191	1 300	1 308

The Civil Service Tribunal

The statistics concerning the Civil Service Tribunal's judicial activity show a further significant increase in 2011 in the number of cases brought (159) compared with 2010 (139), a year which had already shown a marked increase in the number of cases brought (111 in 2008 and 113 in 2009).

The number of cases completed (166) is much higher than the number in the previous year (129) and constitutes the Civil Service Tribunal's best quantitative results since its creation.

It should also be noted that the average duration of proceedings decreased significantly (14.2 months in 2011 compared with 18.1 months in 2010).



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
New cases	157	111	113	139	159
Completed cases	150	129	155	129	166
Cases pending	235	217	175	185	178