



## **Statistics concerning judicial activity in 2014**

*The institution brought 1 685 cases to a close: an increase in productivity of 36.9% in five years*

### **Court of Justice**

The statistics concerning the Court's activity in 2014 reveal unprecedented figures overall. The past year was the most productive year in the Court's history.

Thus, the Court brought 719 cases to a close in 2014, an increase compared with the previous year (701 cases brought to a close in 2013), which was itself an all-time record for the Court.

The Court had 622 new cases brought before it, which amounts to a decrease of 11%. This relative decrease essentially concerns appeals and references for a preliminary ruling. There were 428 references for a preliminary ruling in 2014.

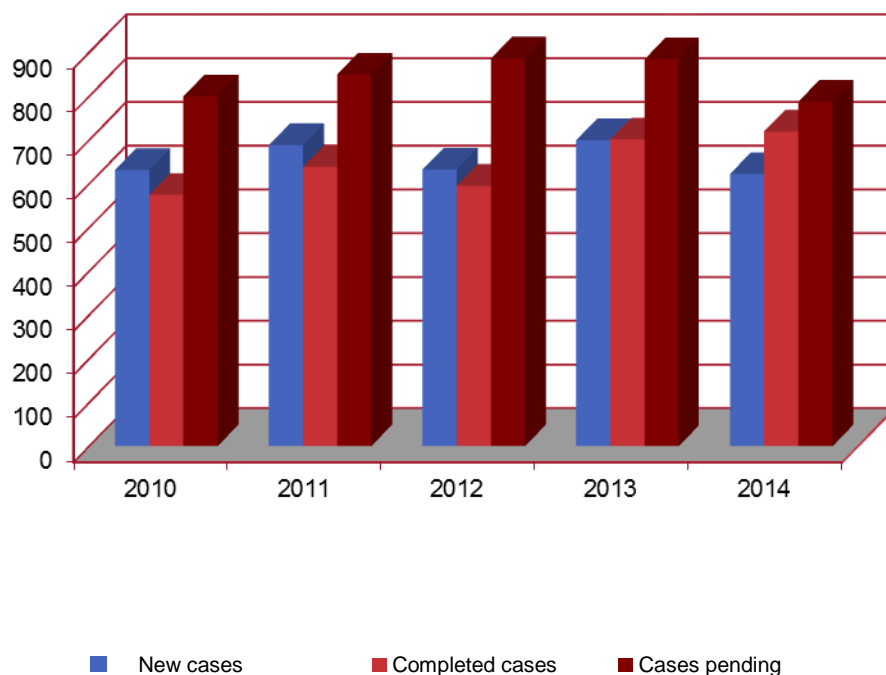
So far as concerns the duration of proceedings, the statistics are also very positive.

In the case of references for a preliminary ruling, the average duration amounted to 15 months, which is a record. Having regard to the entire period for which the Court possesses reliable statistical data, the average time taken to deal with references for a preliminary ruling reached its shortest in 2014. The decrease compared with 2013 (16.3 months) confirms moreover a clear trend since 2005.

The average time taken to deal with direct actions and appeals was 20 months and 14.5 months respectively, again a decrease compared with 2013.

These data are the fruit of the constant watch kept by the Court over its workload. In addition to the reforms in its working methods that have been undertaken in recent years, the improvement of the Court's efficiency in dealing with cases is also due to the increased use of the various procedural instruments at its disposal to expedite the handling of certain cases (the urgent preliminary ruling procedure, priority treatment, the expedited procedure, the simplified procedure and the possibility of giving judgment without an Opinion of the Advocate General).

Use of the urgent preliminary ruling procedure was granted in four cases, and those cases were completed in an average period of 2.2 months as in 2013.



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
New cases	631	688	632	699	622
Completed cases	574	638	595	701	719
Cases pending	799	849	886	884	787

## General Court

2014 was an exceptional year for the General Court statistically, in every respect.

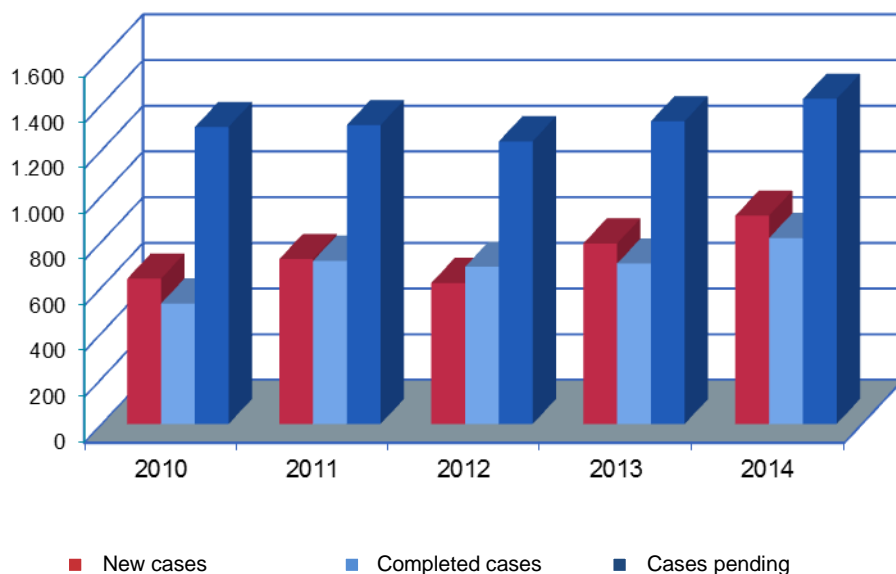
The Court's composition remained entirely unchanged, an unusual occurrence which is not unrelated to the unprecedented results recorded in 2014.

Making the most of the reforms of its working methods and of a moderate increase in its resources, the Court was able to complete 814 cases. This is not only a record, but above all a considerable increase (16%) compared with the average of the previous three years, which were, however, themselves the most productive in the Court's history. More broadly, analysis of this three-year average from 2008 shows productivity gains of more than 50% (an increase from 479 in 2008 to 735 in 2014).

The major increase in the volume of the Court's activity is also reflected in the number of cases pleaded in 2014 (a significant proportion of which will be completed in 2015), which reached 390, that is to say, an increase of more than 40% compared with 2013.

The number of new cases brought also increased significantly (on account, in particular, of large sets of connected cases concerning State aid and restrictive measures), reaching an unprecedented level (912 cases). Thus, notwithstanding exceptional performance, the number of cases pending before the Court (1 423 cases) increased by nearly 100 compared with 2013. On the other hand, the ratio of the number of cases pending to the number of completed cases (a ratio which constitutes an indication of the theoretical prospective duration of proceedings) is the lowest recorded for almost ten years.

This positive trend is reflected in the average duration of cases completed in 2014. The average decreased by 3.5 months (from 26.9 months in 2013 to 23.4 months in 2014), that is to say; a change of more than 10%, returning to the figures recorded a decade ago.



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
New cases	636	722	617	790	912
Completed cases	527	714	688	702	814
Cases pending	1300	1308	1237	1325	1423

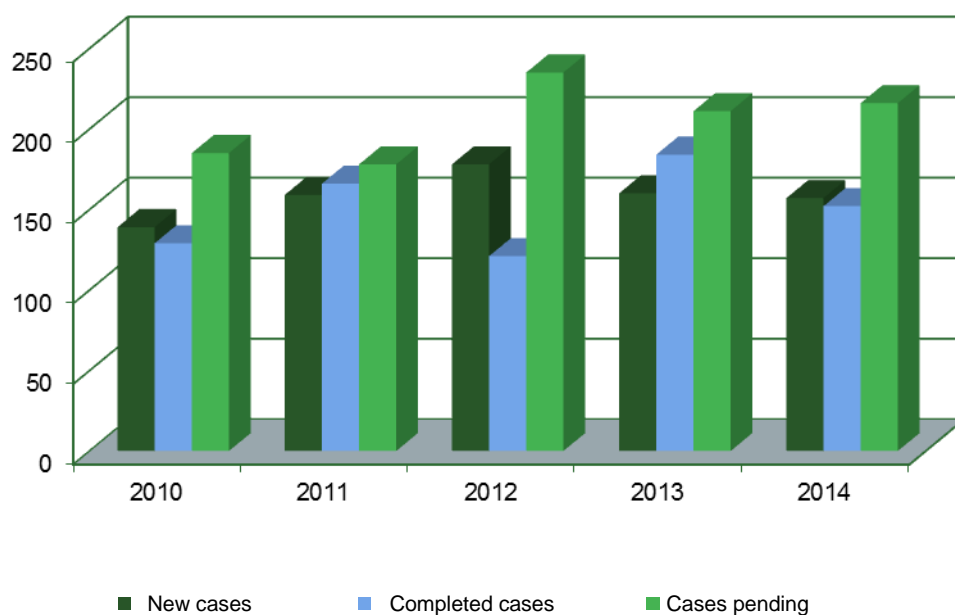
### Civil Service Tribunal

The statistics concerning the Tribunal's activity show that the number of cases brought (157) appears to be stabilising, in the light of the statistics for 2011 (159) and 2013 (160). In 2012 the Tribunal registered 178 new applications but that year now appears to be the exception to the rule.

The number of cases brought to a close in 2014 (152) is lower than that of the previous year (184), when the Tribunal admittedly achieved the best result in terms of quantity since its creation. That lower figure is explained by the fact that the term of office of two judges came to an end on 30 September 2014, which led them to finalise the cases amenable to being brought to a close before their departure and not to deal with others. When it became apparent, in September 2014, that the Council of the European Union would not manage to reach unanimous agreement on the appointments to be made, the two judges concerned, who now perform their duties pursuant to the third paragraph of Article 5 of the Statute of the Court of Justice, resumed the examination of new cases, but it was not possible to bring those cases to a close by the end of the year.

Notwithstanding the above, the average duration of proceedings fell from 14.7 months in 2013 to 12.7 months in 2014.

Furthermore, 12 cases were brought to a close by amicable settlement, compared with nine the year before, which, together with the 2010 figure, represents the best result achieved in that respect by the Tribunal.



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
New cases	139	159	178	160	157
Completed cases	129	166	121	184	152
Cases pending	185	178	235	211	216

<sup>1</sup> Including 99 cases in which proceedings were stayed.

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