

Foreword

While 2004 was a historic year because of the enlargement of the European Union and the arrival at the Court of judges and staff from the 10 new Member States, 2005 was marked above all by an important change in the structure of the European Union's judicial system. The European Union Civil Service Tribunal, whose members entered into office in October 2005, is the first specialised judicial panel created in pursuance of the amendments introduced by the Treaty of Nice.

The past year may also be described as a year of consolidation. First, the Court had to adapt to the new reality of 25 Member States and 20 official languages. Also, the various internal measures adopted by the Court in 2004 in order to improve the effectiveness of its working methods began to display their full effect in 2005. The substantial shortening of the periods for taking steps in proceedings, particularly in the case of references for a preliminary ruling, is particularly revealing in this regard. Finally, the very appreciable increase in the number of cases completed by the Court of First Instance in 2005 compared with 2004 is worthy of note.

The following pages contain an account of changes for the institution in 2005, a record of the main judicial activity of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance, accompanied by statistics, and details of the organisational measures adopted by the Civil Service Tribunal in the three months following the entry into office of its members.



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