

## Foreword

In 2007, the European Community completed the 50th year of its existence. To mark this, a series of events was organised by the Community institutions throughout the course of the year. The Court of Justice celebrated Europe's 50th anniversary by organising a symposium for the presidents of the supreme courts of the 27 Member States and its own current and former members. At this symposium, which testifies to the close working ties fostered by the Court of Justice with the national courts, the presidents of the supreme courts of the Member States were the principal speakers.

The year 2007 will doubtless also remain engraved on the memory as the year in which the Treaty of Lisbon was signed, an instrument which is designed to endow the European Union with more effective legislative and administrative structures enhancing its ability to meet the challenges of the beginning of the 21st century. So far as concerns the Court of Justice, the provisions relating to its jurisdiction in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, currently scattered because they are divided between Title IV of the EC Treaty and Title VI of the Treaty on European Union, are brought together in one title of the future Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Most of the current restrictions on its jurisdiction in this field will disappear.

Cases falling within the scope of the area of freedom, security and justice constitute without any doubt a major challenge for the Court of Justice, both because of their sensitivity and because they must be dealt with particularly expeditiously. The adoption by the Council in 2007 of amendments to the Statute and to the Rules of Procedure in order to introduce an urgent preliminary ruling procedure for dealing with this type of case constitutes a decisive step enabling the Court to meet this challenge.

Also, 2007 has been marked by the partial renewal of the membership of the Court of First Instance and the departure of four of its members. The institution cannot but welcome the fact that, as in the case of the partial renewal of the membership of the Court of Justice in 2006, the governments of the Member States were concerned when appointing the judges to safeguard the stability of the institution, thereby enabling the Court of First Instance to continue smoothly in the performance of its task.

Finally, it is to be noted that in the past year 1 259 cases were brought before the three courts comprising the Court of Justice — the highest figure in the institution's history and demonstrating the increase in the amount of Community litigation.



This report contains a full record of changes affecting the institution and of its work in 2007. As in previous years, a substantial part of the report is devoted to succinct but exhaustive accounts of the main judicial activity of the Court of Justice, the Court of First Instance and the Civil Service Tribunal. The record of the judicial activity is supported by statistics.



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