

Foreword

For the Court of Justice of the European Union, 2010 was a year of consolidation of the reforms to the European Union's judicial system that were introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon. The procedure to implement the most important of those reforms, namely the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights, was embarked upon in 2010. The Court of Justice has followed and will continue to follow this procedure closely as it progresses.

The past year will also be remembered for the unflagging tempo of the institution's judicial activity. It may be noted, in this connection, that a total of 1 406 cases were brought before the three courts comprising the Court of Justice; this figure is the highest in the institution's history and reflects the constant increase in the volume of European Union litigation. In addition, the overall decrease in the duration of proceedings is worthy of mention, a decrease that is very significant especially in preliminary ruling proceedings.

The past year also saw the departure of two members and the registrar of the Court of Justice and of four members of the General Court, partly as a result of the renewal of the General Court's membership. The new members of the Court of Justice and the General Court are the first to have been appointed under the new procedure introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, that is to say, following an opinion of the panel provided for in Article 255 TFEU.

This report provides a full record of changes affecting the institution and of its work in 2010. As is the case every year, a substantial part of the report is devoted to succinct but exhaustive accounts of the main judicial activity of the Court of Justice, the General Court and the Civil Service Tribunal. Separate statistics for each court supplement and illustrate the analysis of the judicial activity during 2010.



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