



Press and information

Court of Justice of the European Union

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Statistics concerning judicial activity in 2012: consolidation of the results achieved in recent years

The duration of proceedings before the Court of Justice and the General Court continues to decrease significantly

The statistics concerning the Court's activity in 2012 show, overall, sustained productivity and a very significant improvement in efficiency as regards the duration of proceedings. In addition, a slight decrease in the overall number of cases brought before the three courts may be noted (1 427 in 2012 compared with 1 569 in 2011), a fall which, having regard to the change in the caseload over the last five years, could however be rather short-term in nature.

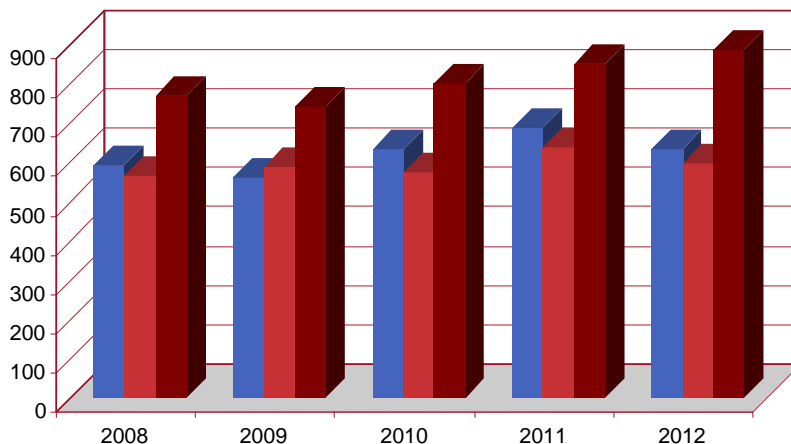
Court of Justice

In 2012, the Court of Justice completed 595 cases and had 632 new cases brought before it. The number of new cases remains very high and is the second highest annual number of new cases in the Court's history. Whilst the number decreased by approximately 8% compared with 2011 (688 new cases), this is explained principally by a slight decrease, compared with 2011, in the number of appeals brought against judgments of the General Court. The number of references for a preliminary ruling submitted in 2012 is the second highest reached in the Court's entire history.

So far as concerns the duration of proceedings, the statistics are very positive. More specifically, in the case of references for a preliminary ruling the average duration amounted to 15.7 months.

Thus, the average time taken to deal with references for a preliminary ruling reached its historically shortest level in 2012.

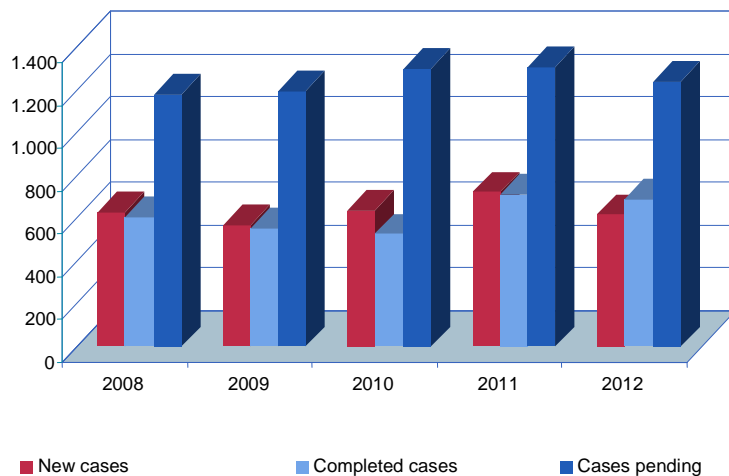
The average time taken to deal with direct actions and appeals was 19.7 months and 15.3 months respectively.



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
New cases	593	562	631	688	632
Completed cases	567	588	574	638	595
Cases pending	768	742	799	849	886

General Court

The General Court can be pleased to have succeeded in consolidating the real quantitative leap of 2011. 688 cases were completed in 2012 (which constitutes the highest figure since the Court's creation apart from the figure for 2011). The achieving of a new level of judicial productivity – which stems from the many internal reforms that have been implemented in recent years and are producing cumulative efficiency gains – has made a historic reduction in the number of pending cases possible (a reduction of 71 cases, that is to say, of more than 5%), thanks to a one-off fall in the number of new cases, of which there were 617 in 2012 (that is to say, a fall of nearly 15%). In addition, the duration of proceedings decreased appreciably, with an average duration of 24.8 months, that is to say, 1.9 months shorter than in 2011.



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
New cases	629	568	636	722	617
Completed cases	605	555	527	714	688
Cases pending	1 178	1 191	1 300	1 308	1 237

Civil Service Tribunal

In contrast to the other courts, the statistics concerning the judicial activity of the Civil Service Tribunal reveal a further increase in 2012 in the number of cases brought (178) compared with the previous year (159). This number has thus been consistently rising since 2008.

The number of cases brought to a close (121) fell markedly compared with that of the previous year (166), which, it must be said, represented the best result achieved by the Civil Service Tribunal in terms of quantity since its creation. This fall is explained by the change in the composition of the Tribunal at the end of 2011. The newly appointed judges could not reach their full productivity until they had been in office for several months because of the time required for the investigation and deciding of cases.

The average duration of proceedings did not, however, alter much (14.8 months in 2012 compared with 14.2 months in 2011).



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
New cases	111	113	139	159	178
Completed cases	129	155	129	166	121
Cases pending	217	175	185	178	235

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