



## **Statistics concerning Judicial Activity in 2009**

*The number of judgments delivered in 2009 is one of the highest in the Court of Justice's history*

### **The Court of Justice**

The statistics concerning the Court of Justice's activity in 2009 show, overall, increased productivity and the maintenance of a satisfactory level of efficiency as regards the duration of proceedings. The constant upward trend in the number of references for a preliminary ruling submitted to the Court should also be noted.

The Court completed 543 cases in 2009, a very appreciable increase compared with the previous year (495 cases completed in 2008). Of those cases, 377 were dealt with by judgments and 165 gave rise to orders. The number of judgments delivered in 2009 is one of the highest in the Court's history.

The Court had 561 new cases brought before it, representing a slight decrease compared with 2008 (592 new cases). It should, however, be pointed out that the number of references for a preliminary ruling submitted in 2009 is the highest ever reached (302 cases).

So far as concerns the duration of proceedings, the statistics are very positive. In the case of references for a preliminary ruling, the average duration amounted to 17.1 months, that is to say a duration practically identical to that in 2008 (16.8 months). The average time taken to deal with direct actions and appeals was 17.1 months and 15.4 months respectively (16.9 months and 18.4 months in 2008).

In addition to the reforms in its working methods that have been undertaken in recent years, the improvement in 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 accelerated or expedited procedure, the simplified procedure and the possibility of giving judgment without an Opinion of the Advocate General).

In this context, it may be mentioned that use of the urgent preliminary ruling procedure was requested in three cases and the designated chamber considered that the necessary conditions were met in two of them. Those cases were completed in an average period of 2.5 months.

The Court made more frequent use of the possibility of determining cases without an Opinion of the Advocate General. About 52% of the judgments delivered in 2009 were delivered without an Opinion, compared with 41% in 2008.

### **The General Court**

From a statistical point of view, the past year has been one of continuity. A large number of new cases were brought (568); although this figure shows a slight reduction compared with 2008 (629), it remains well above the figures recorded in previous years: 522 in 2007 and 432 in 2006. Consequently, although the significant improvement in the number of cases disposed of has also

been confirmed (555 cases completed, that is to say, an increase of 25 to 30% compared with 2006 and 2007), the number of cases pending (1 191) could not be reduced despite the sustained efforts made and reforms undertaken in order to achieve this.

The results are mixed so far as the duration of proceedings is concerned. In the case of appeals, the duration remained at the very satisfactory level recorded in 2008 (16.1 months). Furthermore, the duration of intellectual property proceedings decreased (from 20.4 months in 2008 to 20.1 months in 2009), in particular because of the implementation of Article 135a of the Rules of Procedure (which, under certain conditions, allows a decision to be made on the substance of intellectual property cases without a hearing). However, the duration increased so far as actions in other areas are concerned (from 26 months in 2008 to 33.1 months in 2009).

### **The Civil Service Tribunal**

Since in 2009, for the first time since the creation of the Civil Service Tribunal, the number of completed cases (155) was significantly higher than the number brought (113), there has been a discernible improvement as regards the accumulation of cases. The number of pending cases is now only 175, whereas it was 217 at the end of 2008.

The average duration of proceedings was 15.1 months, which represents a clear reduction in the average duration of proceedings compared with the previous year, when it was 17 months.

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