



Court of Justice of the European Union

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Press and Information

Review by the Court of Auditors of the management system of cases brought before the Court of Justice and General Court of the European Union

The recommendations of the Court of Auditors will be included by both Courts in the studies made of their organisation and working methods

The Court of Justice of the European Union is a judicial institution with unique characteristics due to the tasks conferred by the Treaties on the Courts which comprise it and the requirement for multilingualism which applies to its activities. The fundamental consideration for the Court of Justice and the General Court is to ensure that all of their decisions are of a very high quality. That quality means, in particular, a need for rapidity but also requires observance of the rights of the parties to disputes, a coherent body of case-law, and careful legal reasoning for the decisions.

The European Court of Auditors was requested by the European Parliament to carry out a review of the management system of cases before the Court of Justice and the General Court. The two EU Courts have cooperated actively with the Court of Auditors for the last two years so that that review can be carried out successfully under optimal conditions and in compliance with the fundamental principle of the Treaty¹ that the deliberations of the Court of Justice and the General Court are, and remain, confidential. The conclusions of that review, which are published today, are based on an analysis of the various stages of the procedure made of a sample of 60 cases (30 cases of the Court of Justice and 30 of the General Court) from a total of approximately 2800 cases closed in 2014 and 2015.

The Court of Justice is pleased to note the recognition by the Court of Auditors of the constant efforts made over recent years by the Courts which comprise it to improve the efficiency of case handling. Those efforts have enabled a significant reduction in the time taken to deal with cases. In fact, over ten years (2006-2016), the average handling time of a case before the Court of Justice has been reduced from 19.6 to 14.7 months, while before the General Court it has been reduced from 25.8 to 18.7 months, despite a great increase in the number of cases during that same period.²

In addition, the review by the Court of Auditors sets out conclusions and gives various recommendations concerning the development of some methods of handling cases and the organisation of the resources devoted to this. The Court of Justice and the General Court will include those recommendations in the on-going studies of the optimisation of their working methods. Finally, both Courts welcome the recommendations made by the Court of Auditors regarding the publication of more detailed statistics, the putting into place of an integrated IT system and the drawing of the Member States' attention to the need to nominate the Members of the institution as soon as possible where a Member's mandate comes to an end.

Unofficial document for media use, not binding on the Court of Justice.

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¹ Article 35 of the Protocol (No 3) on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union

² See Press Release No [17/17](#): 'Statistics concerning judicial activity in 2016: the duration of proceedings continues its downward trend, to the benefit of citizens'.