



## **Judicial statistics 2018: the Court of Justice and the General Court establish record productivity with 1,769 cases completed**

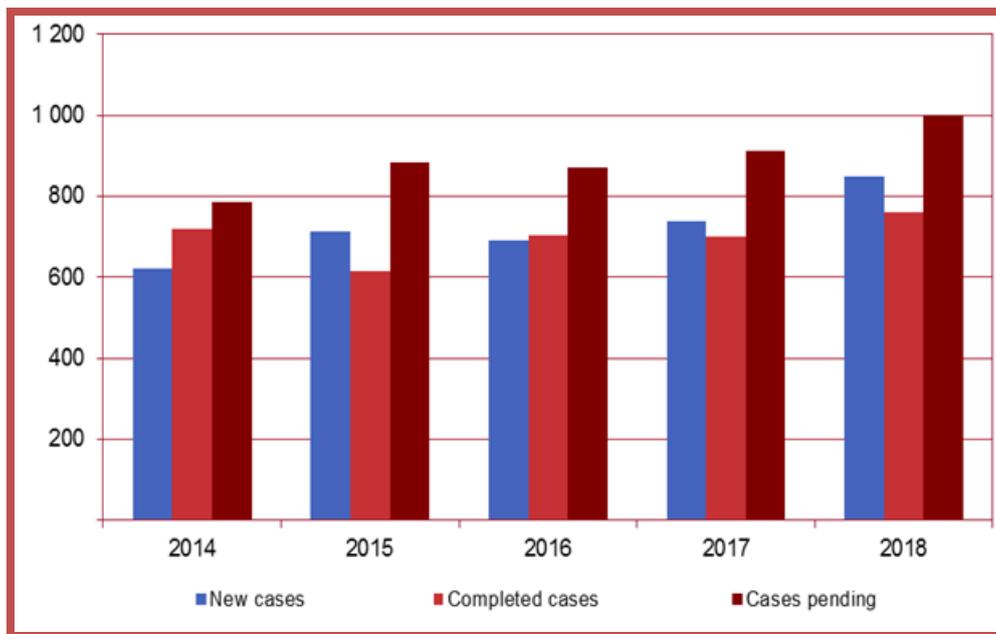
While in 2016 and 2017 the number of cases completed had risen to some 1,600, that number has been far exceeded, since, in 2018, 1,769 cases were completed. The total number of new cases brought before both courts was 1,683, which confirms the upward trend in recent years. The increase in productivity has led to an attendant decrease in the number of cases pending: 2,334 cases in 2018 compared with 2,420 cases and 2,358 cases in 2017 and 2016 respectively.

### **Court of Justice**

The Court of Justice has seen a considerable increase in the number of cases brought before it: **the 849 new cases represent an unprecedented level for that court with 110 more cases than in 2017, that is an almost 15% increase.** This is due in particular to the increase in the number of references for a preliminary ruling, which totalled 568 in 2018 compared with 533 the previous year. That number has almost doubled over ten years and requests for a preliminary ruling represent 70% of the cases pending before the Court of Justice. The number of appeals brought against decisions of the General Court has increased by 35%, from 147 to 199. Direct actions have also increased. Whilst the number of applications for interim measures is a lower figure, this is an exceptional procedure, nonetheless it has doubled (six applications in 2018 compared with three in 2017). As President Lenaerts emphasises, 'these statistics show how much the Court of Justice contributes to consolidating the founding values of the EU and strengthening the confidence of the national courts, but also that of all litigants, in European integration'.

The productivity of the Court of Justice was also exceptional in 2018. **The number of cases completed in 2018, has increased to 760 from 699 in 2017, constitutes a record number historically.** Since the efforts made to increase efficiency in the handling of cases are reaching their limits, it is important that the planned mechanism for the prior admission of certain appeals should be able to be implemented shortly.

**The Court of Justice also saw the average duration of proceedings fall in 2018.** If that average duration is analysed in terms of the type of action, it is apparent, however, that the duration of references for a preliminary ruling increased slightly, from 15.7 months to 16 months, whereas the duration of appeals fell significantly to 13.4 months, which represents an improvement of almost 4 months on 2017. The average duration of direct actions decreased considerably, from 20.3 months in 2017 to 18.3 months.



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>New cases</b>	622	713	692	739	<b>849</b>
<b>Completed cases</b>	719	616	704	699	<b>760</b>
<b>Cases pending</b>	787	884	872	912	<b>1001</b>

## General Court

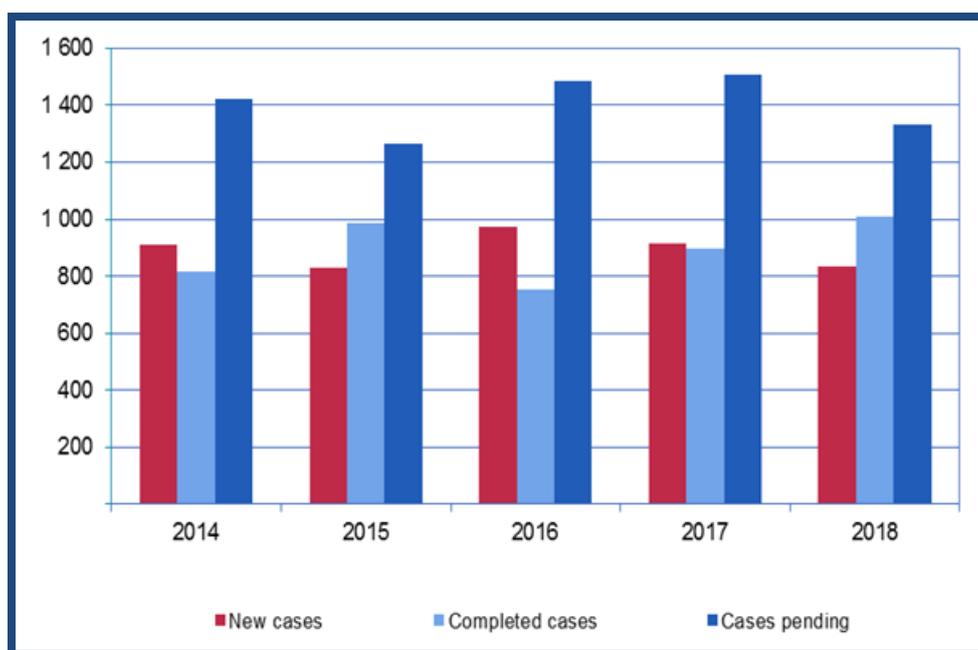
There has been a slight fall in the number of cases brought before the General Court compared with 2017, with 834 new cases that, is a reduction in the region of 9%. That number, to which 44 applications for interim measures must be added, is nonetheless equivalent to the number in 2015, the years 2016 and 2017 having been marked by exceptional circumstances.

At the same time, the General Court has confirmed the upward trend in productivity, achieving **the record number of 1,009 completed cases**, which represents an increase of nearly 13% compared with 2017.

The consequences of that increase in productivity were immediate for **the number of cases pending, since there were now 1,333 cases pending compared with 1 508 in 2017** (an almost 12% reduction).

The overall duration of proceedings (20 months for cases disposed of by way of judgment or order) increased somewhat from 2017, due to a significant number of competition cases which were disposed of, the volume and complexity of which required much lengthier proceedings than the average for other cases. Despite that short-term factor, the values remain at levels markedly below those observed before the reform of the EU's judicial architecture was implemented.

The success of the introduction of that new judicial architecture is, therefore, confirmed from a quantitative perspective. To this must be added the fact that, as President Jaeger observes, 'the General Court, with a strengthened judicial capacity, can now refer more cases (87 in 2018) to Chambers in extended composition of five judges in order to maintain the quality of the case-law and to deal with cases which raise very significant issues'.



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>New cases</b>	912	831	974	917	<b>834</b>
<b>Completed cases</b>	814	987	755	895	<b>1 009</b>
<b>Cases pending</b>	1 423	1 267	1 486	1 508	<b>1 333</b>

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