President Spielmann presents the results for 2014

Speaking at the annual press conference of the European Court of Human Rights on 29 January 2015, President Spielmann took stock of the year 2014 and said that the Court had continued to build on the progress made in 2013.

By the end of 2014 the number of pending cases stood at 69,900, a decrease of 30% compared with the end of 2013 (100,000 applications pending). The working methods adopted since the entry into force of Protocol No. 14 have proved effective, in particular the single-judge system and the introduction of a new section with responsibility for filtering.

At the press conference the Court also issued its annual activity report and its statistics for 2014. The annual table of violations by country shows that the States with the highest number of judgments finding at least one violation of the Convention were Russia (122 judgments), Turkey (94), Romania (74), Greece (50) and Hungary (49). At 31 December 2014 the majority of pending cases were against Ukraine (19.5%), Italy (14.4%), Russia (14.3%) and Turkey (13.6%). Half the priority cases concerned Russia or Romania.

The President reiterated his concern at the volume of repetitive cases, which account for more than half of all pending cases despite a significant decrease in 2014.

President Spielmann stressed the need for each member State to ensure that endemic problems were resolved at domestic level rather than being brought before the Court.

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe Member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.