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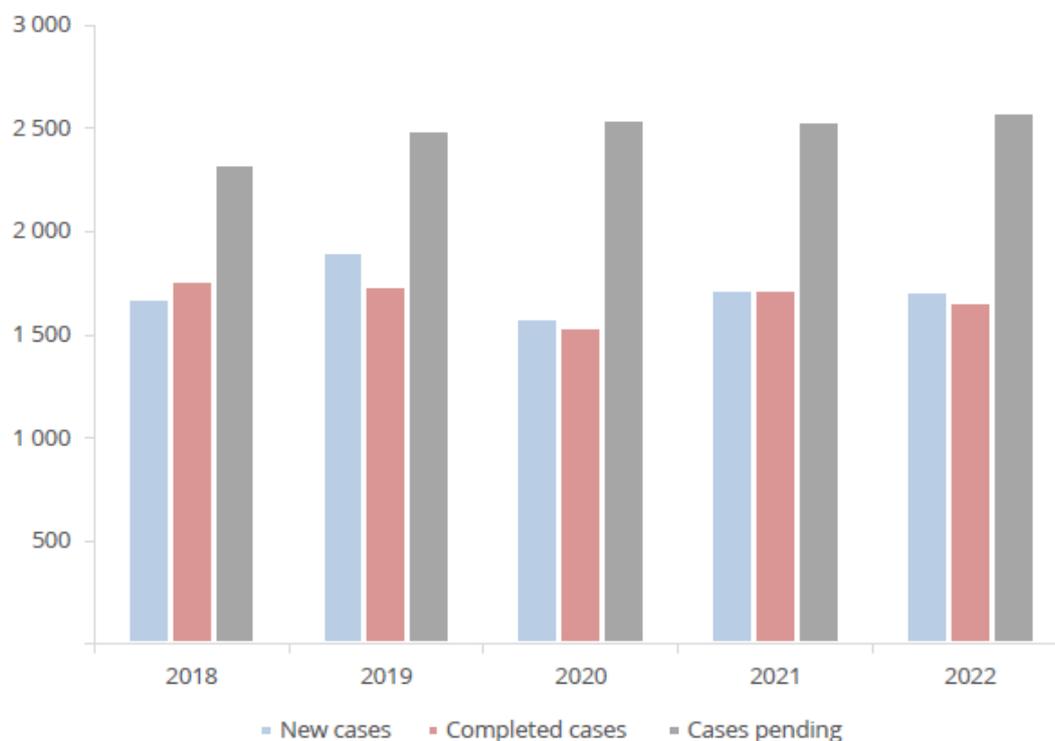
Judicial statistics 2022: proceedings marked by the major issues facing today's world (the rule of law, the environment, the protection of privacy in the digital era and so forth) and by the restrictive measures adopted by the European Union in the context of the war in Ukraine

The high number of cases brought before the Court of Justice and the General Court of the European Union is confirmed for the fifth consecutive year

The number of cases brought before the two courts in 2022 is comparable to that of the previous year (1 710 cases in 2022, as against 1 720 in 2021) and remains, therefore, at a very high level. Indeed, **a significant and structural increase in the number of cases brought may be observed over the last five years, in particular before the Court of Justice (+21%)**. Between 2013 and 2017, the Court of Justice received on average 693 cases per year, whereas that average stood at 839 between 2018 and 2022, representing an increase of 146 cases per year. The number of cases brought before the General Court has stabilised, with an average of 883 cases brought per year.

As regards the number of cases dealt with, taken together the Court of Justice and the General Court were able to complete 1 666 cases in 2022, which corresponds to the average in recent years (1 692 cases per year between 2018 and 2021).

General trend in the judicial activity of the Institution 2018-2022: new cases, completed cases and cases pending



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New cases	1 683	1 905	1 584	1 720	1 710
Completed cases	1 769	1 739	1 540	1 723	1 666
Cases pending	2 334	2 500	2 544	2 541	2 585

As regards the subjects covered by the cases brought before the two courts, Mr Koen Lenaerts, President of the Court of Justice of the European Union, observes that *'the Institution is being called upon more than ever before to adopt judicial decisions on sensitive matters. Whether on preserving the values intrinsic to the rule of law, protection of the environment, combating discrimination, protection of privacy and personal data, enforcing competition rules against digital giants, or protection for consumers, the decisions of the Court of Justice and of the General Court are directly affecting the major issues of today's world.'*

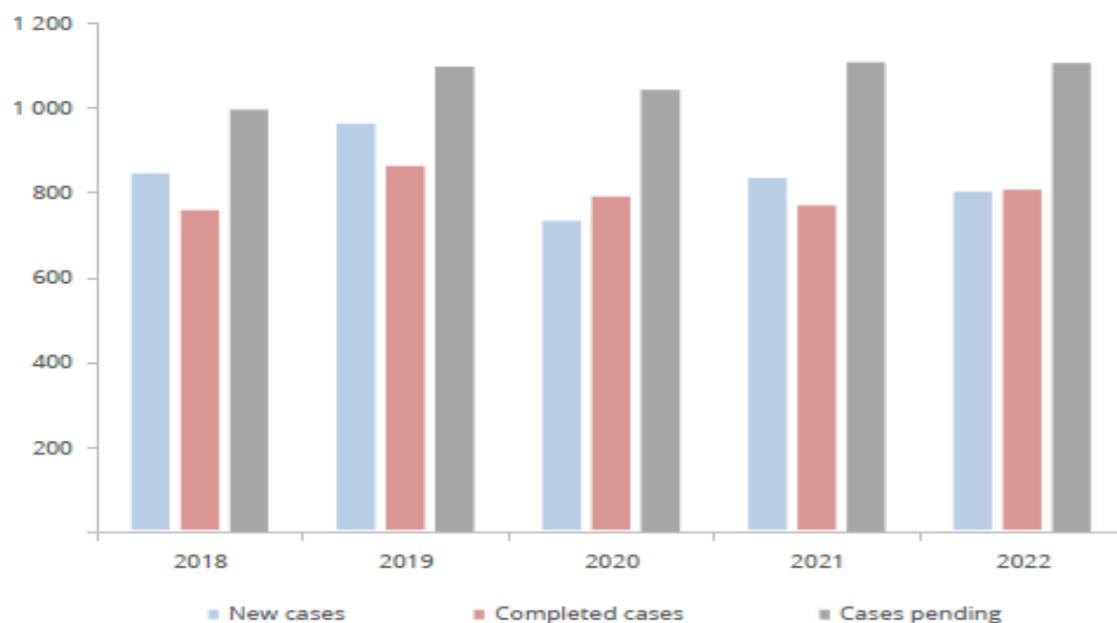
In order to preserve its capacity to deliver high-quality decisions within a reasonable time, the Court of Justice, making use of the option afforded by the Treaties, submitted [a request](#) to the EU legislature on 30 November 2022, seeking a transfer of jurisdiction to the General Court to give preliminary rulings in certain specific areas, as well as an extension of the mechanism for the determination of whether an appeal is allowed to proceed against decisions of the General Court.

The Court of Justice

This year a high number of cases was brought before the Court of Justice, in particular in terms of requests for a preliminary ruling.

The number of cases pending before the Court of Justice was stable (1 111 cases in 2022 as against 1 113 cases in 2021). The number of completed cases in 2022 slightly exceeded the number of new cases brought that year.

General activity of the Court of Justice — New cases, completed cases and cases pending (2018-2022)

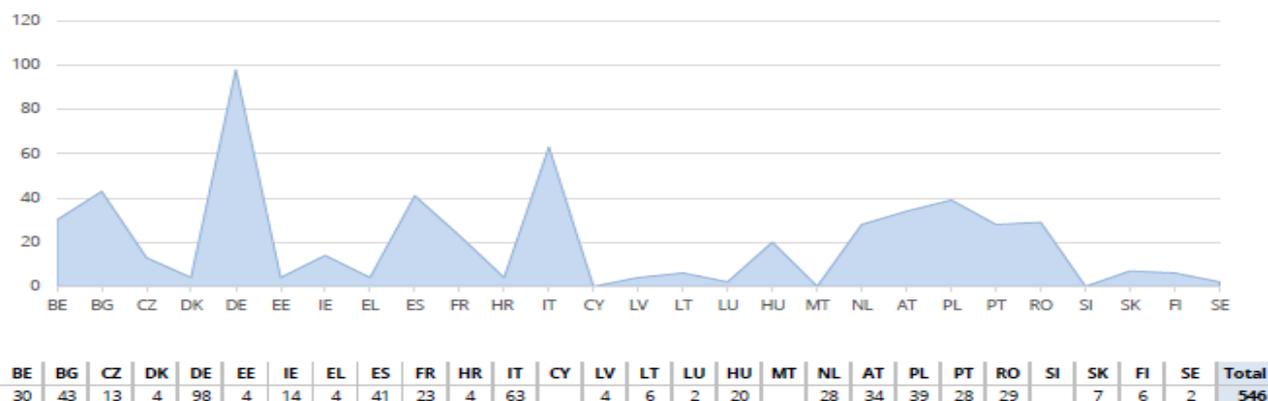


	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New cases	849	966	737	838	806
Completed cases	760	865	792	772	808
Cases pending	1 001	1 102	1 047	1 113	1 111

As regards the duration of proceedings, it may be seen that **an increasing number of cases brought before the Court of Justice raise sensitive and complex issues, calling for greater reflection and time**. However, as a result of the increased use of orders, particularly in the matter of appeals, the overall duration of proceedings (16.4 months) remained similar to that of the previous year (16.6 months). That said, as a sign of the greater complexity of the questions submitted to the Court of Justice, a slight increase in the average duration of preliminary ruling proceedings may be observed (17.3 months, as against 16.7 months in 2021).

As regards the origin of the references for a preliminary ruling, it may be noted that, in 2022, the German (98), Italian (63), Bulgarian (43), Spanish (41) and Polish (39) courts made the highest number of requests for a preliminary ruling to the Court of Justice.

References for a preliminary ruling to the Court of Justice from the courts of the Member States (2022)



The General Court

After the cases linked to the health crisis (State aid, public procurement, commercial policy, public health, access to documents and staff cases) which marked 2021, **one of the major developments in 2022 was the emergence of cases involving the restrictive measures adopted by the European Union in the context of the war in Ukraine. More generally, cases involving restrictive measures, totalling 103 new cases, represented 11.4% of all new cases brought in 2022** (as against 4.8% in 2021 and 3% in 2020).

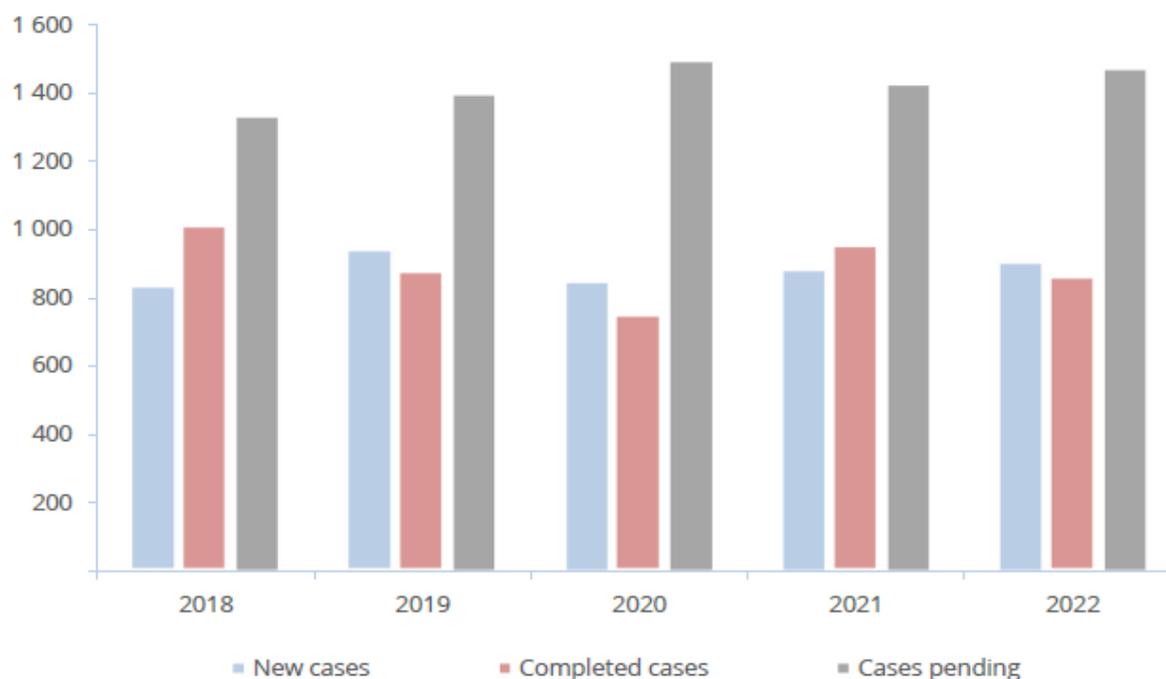
Thus, the President of the General Court, Mr Marc Van der Woude observes that *'in view of the war in Ukraine and [of] the international context which continues to be shaped by greater pressures, and of recent legislative developments (the regulation of digital giants, the rules governing State aid, in particular in the field of taxation and in the energy and environmental sectors, the protection of personal data,...), we could see greater scrutiny of the legality of the acts of the EU institutions. Make no mistake: the General Court is fully aware of its responsibilities and will organise itself in order to meet them.'*

In the area of State aid, no fewer than 68 new cases were brought (as against 46 in 2021 and 42 in 2020).¹ By contrast, a reduction in the number of new actions was recorded in the areas of intellectual property (270 as against 308 in 2021 and 282 in 2020) and staff cases (66 as against 81 in 2021 and 120 in 2020).

As regards the number of cases pending, it may be observed that, with 904 new cases brought and 858 cases completed, cases pending increased slightly to 1 474 (as against 1 428 in 2021). The number of new cases brought exceeds that of the two preceding years (882 in 2021 and 847 in 2020), but remains lower than that of certain previous years (939 in 2019, 917 in 2017, 974 in 2016, and 912 in 2014). With 858 cases brought to a conclusion, the General Court completed fewer cases than in 2021 (951). That 9.8% reduction is temporary in nature and stems primarily from the bringing of a considerable number of cases in December 2022 and from the numerous changes in judicial composition resulting, first, from new judges taking up their duties during the first half of the year and, secondly, the departures and arrivals of judges in September 2022 in the context of the three-yearly partial renewal of the General Court.

¹ Including 50 cases brought by legal and natural persons challenging the Commission decision relating to the State aid scheme implemented by Portugal in favour of the Madeira Free Zone.

General activity of the General Court — New cases, completed cases and cases pending (2018-2022)



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New cases	834	939	847	882	904
Completed cases	1 009	874	748	951	858
Cases pending	1 333	1 398	1 497	1 428	1 474

As regards the average duration of proceedings, this is very satisfactory. It stood at 16.2 months for cases brought to a close by judgment or by order (as against 17.3 months in 2021 and 15.4 months in 2020) and at 20.4 months for cases brought to a close by judgment only.

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