



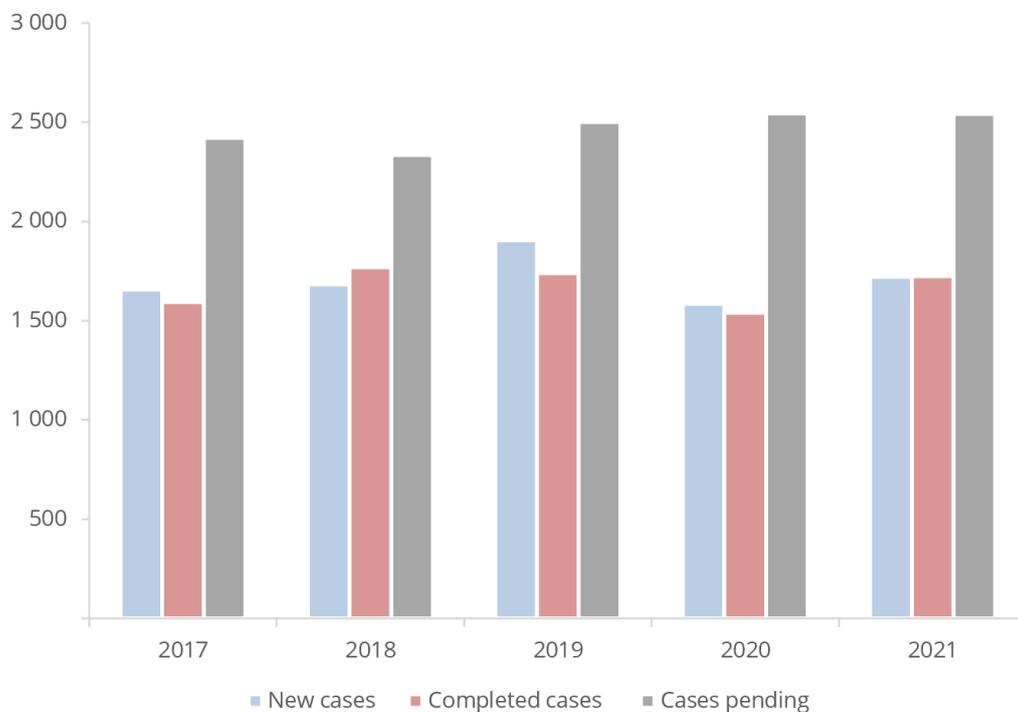
## **Judicial statistics 2021: despite the pandemic, the judicial institution of the European Union has been able to ensure the continuity of its activities in full**

*The figures demonstrate a remarkable level of performance by the institution, notwithstanding a new upward trend as regards the number of cases brought before the Court of Justice and the General Court*

Despite the persistence of the health crisis linked to Covid-19, the institution has been able to maintain its judicial activity at a very high level in 2021.

In terms of statistics, last year was marked by a new upward trend in the number of cases brought before the two Courts, after the temporary reduction in 2020. A comparable trend may be observed as regards the number of cases completed. That parallel trend in the overall number of cases brought and completed in 2021 explains why the number of cases pending has remained stable.

### **General trend in the judicial activity of the institution 2017-2021: new cases, completed cases and cases pending**

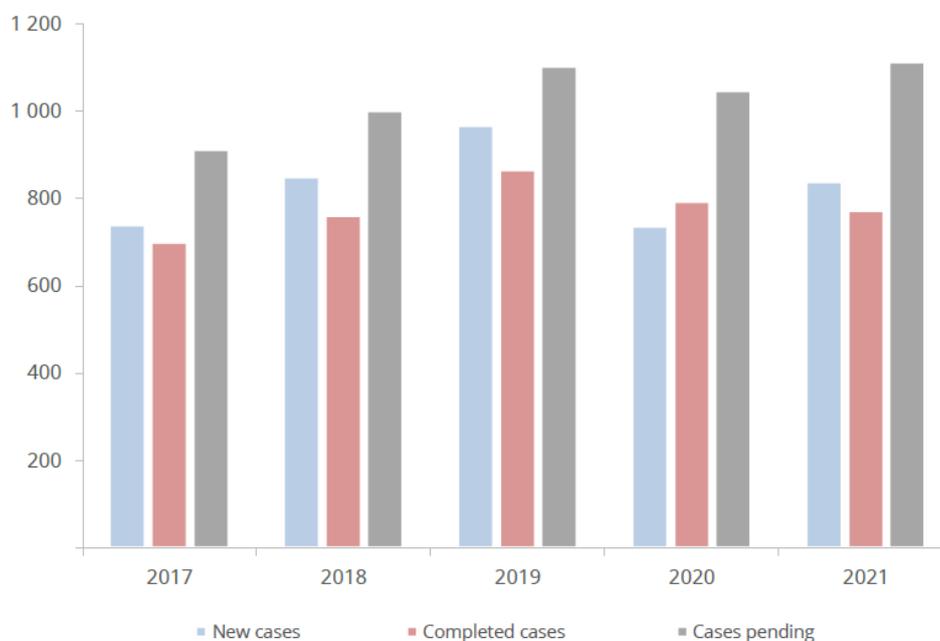


	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
New cases	1 656	1 683	1 905	1 584	1 720
Completed cases	1 594	1 769	1 739	1 540	1 723
Cases pending	2 420	2 334	2 500	2 544	2 541

## The Court of Justice

The increase in the number of cases brought before the Court of Justice is attributable, in essence, to an appreciable increase in the number of appeals lodged against the decisions of the General Court.<sup>1</sup> That upward trend stems from the increase in the General Court's activity.

### General activity of the Court of Justice — New cases, completed cases and cases pending (2017-2021)

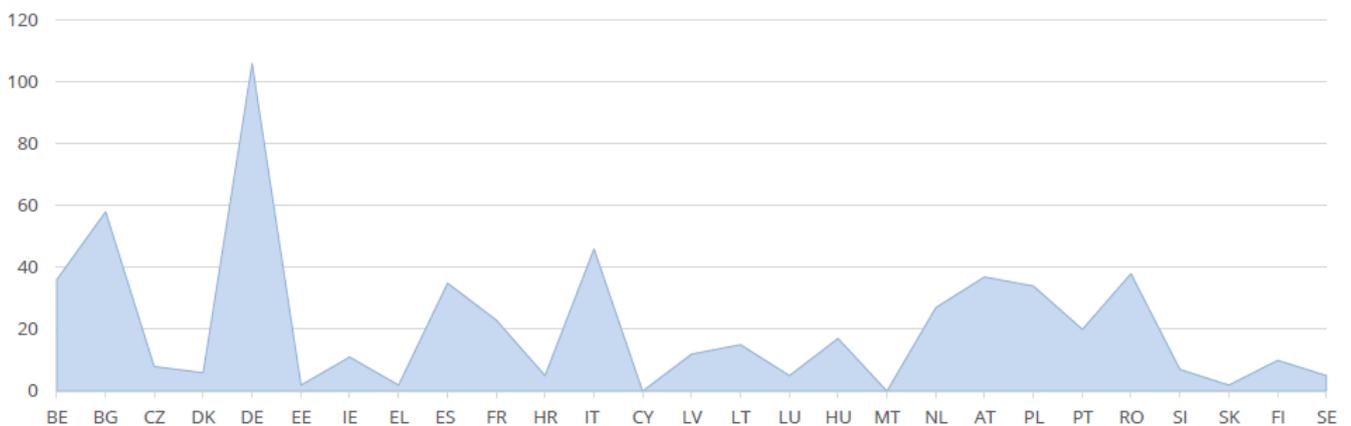


	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
New cases	739	849	966	737	838
Completed cases	699	760	865	792	772
Cases pending	912	1 001	1 102	1 047	1 113

<sup>1</sup> The annual average for the number of appeals (2017-2021) is 184.2: 210 (2021), 125 (2020), 255 (2019), 194 (2018) and 137 (2017).

As regards references for a preliminary ruling, the number of cases brought in 2021 increased slightly (567 in 2021 compared to 556 in 2020). Those questions, which are referred from national courts of all the Member States of the European Union, show the excellent cooperation between those courts and the Court of Justice so that the Court of Justice may ensure, in particular, the uniform interpretation and consistent application of EU law throughout the European Union. In 2021, the highest number of requests for a preliminary ruling to the Court of Justice were made, respectively, by the German (106), Bulgarian (58), Italian (46), Romanian (38), Austrian (37), Belgian (36), Spanish (35) and Polish (34) courts. In particular, the increase in the number of references for a preliminary ruling from the courts and tribunals of Bulgaria (58 in 2021 compared to 28 in 2020) and of Romania (38 in 2021 compared to 20 in 2020) was particularly significant.

### References for a preliminary ruling to the Court of Justice from the courts of the Member States (2021)



BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	Total
36	58	8	6	106	2	11	2	35	23	5	46	12	15	5	17		27	37	34	20	38	7	2	10	5	567	

As regards the subjects addressed in the case-law, the decisions handed down throughout the last year, in particular, in the area of the rule of law, the environment, the protection of personal data, social protection, the fight against violence against women, or consumer protection show how much the institution's activities closely reflect contemporary concerns and challenges and have a real impact on the life of the citizens and undertakings of the European Union.

In that context, the President of the Court of Justice, Mr Koen Lenaerts, points out that, **'at a time when it is possible to observe a widespread tendency to challenge the authority of judicial decisions, and even in certain Member States a more fundamental calling into question of the project of European integration and the founding values and principles of that project, the legitimacy of the decisions handed down by the institution lies above all in a constant vigilance as regards the quality and persuasiveness of those decisions'**.

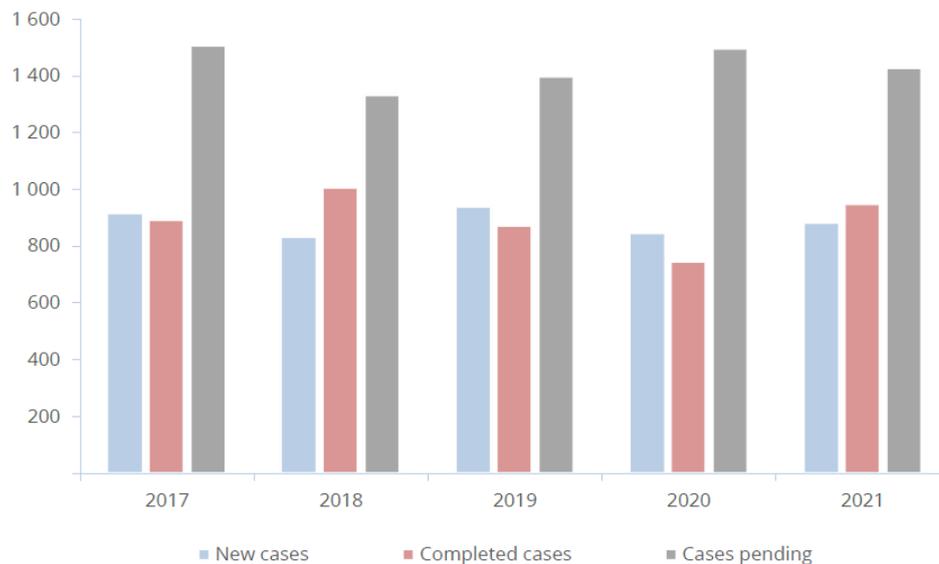
### The General Court

The number of cases completed is particularly significant as regards the General Court, which thereby takes full advantage of the benefits of the reform of the European Union's institutional architecture, completed since September 2019.

The increase in the number of cases completed has led to the reduction in the number of cases pending, notwithstanding the increase in the number of cases brought.

Thus, Mr Marc van der Woude, President of the General Court, observes that **‘with 951 cases completed in 2021 and an appreciable reduction in the number of cases pending before it, the General Court has achieved excellent results despite the context of the pandemic’**.

**General activity of the General Court —  
New cases, completed cases and cases pending (2017-2021)**



	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
New cases	917	834	939	847	882
Completed cases	895	1 009	874	748	951
Cases pending	1 508	1 333	1 398	1 497	1 428

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