



COURT OF JUSTICE  
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

70  
1952 – 2022



---

# THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

ensuring the protection  
of EU law

---

# **THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

ensuring the protection of EU law

---

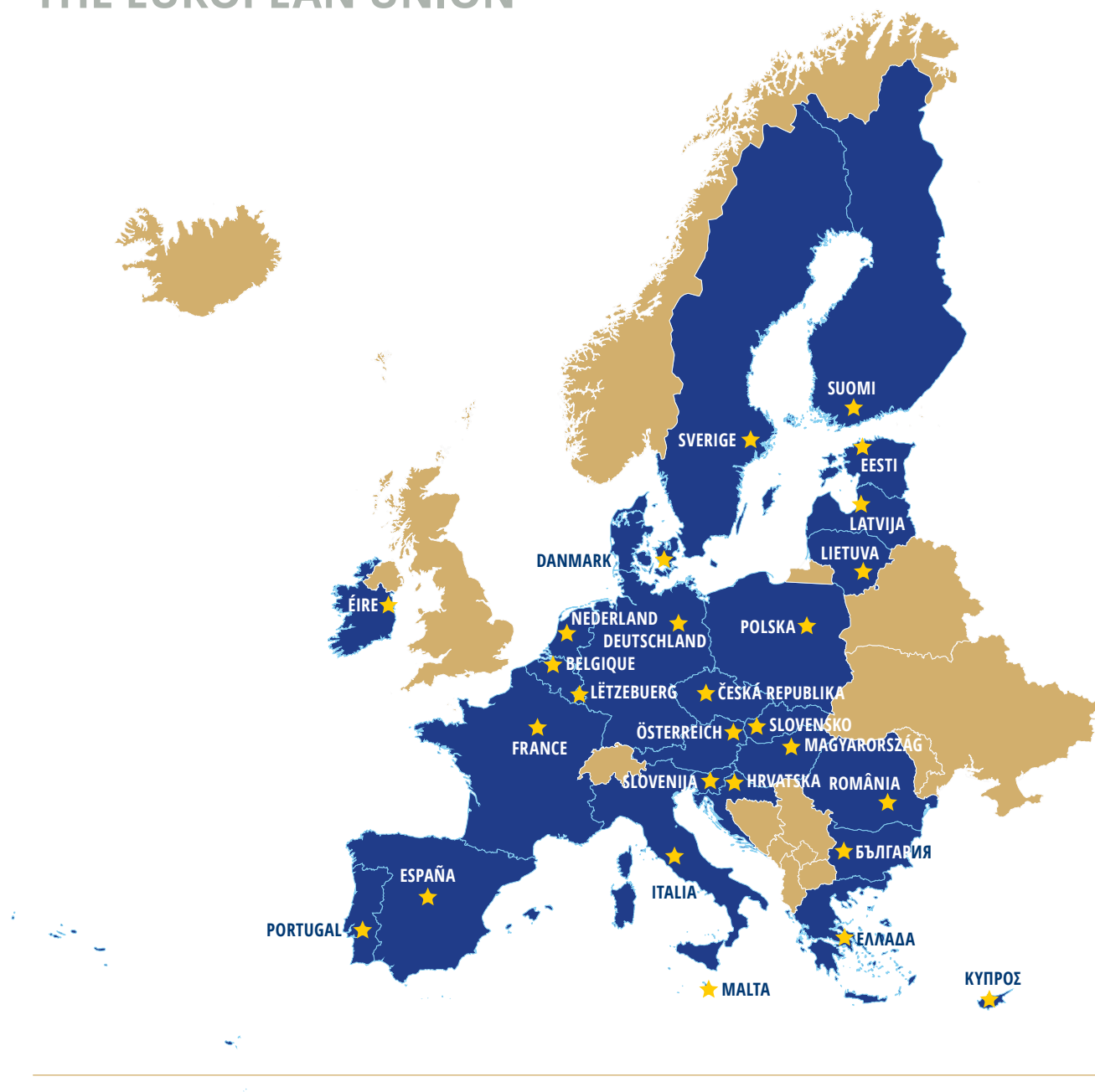
# WELCOME

ДОБРЕ ДОШЛИ  
BIENVENIDOS  
VÍTEJTE  
VELKOMMEN  
WILLKOMMEN  
TERE TULEMAST  
ΚΑΛΩΣ ΗΛΘΑΤΕ  
WELCOME

BIENVENUE  
DOBRO DOŠLI  
FÁILTE  
BENVENUTI  
LAIPNI LŪDZAM  
SVEIKI ATVYKĖ  
ÜDVÖZÖLJÜK  
MERĤBA

WELKOM  
WITAMY  
BEM-VINDOS  
BINE AȚI VENIT  
VITAJTE  
DOBRODOŠLI  
TERVETULOA  
VÄLKOMMEN

# THE EUROPEAN UNION



# THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Court of Justice of the European Union, the judicial authority of the European Union, ensures that EU law is interpreted and applied correctly.

As part of that mission, the Court of Justice of the European Union:

**REVIEWS THE LEGALITY OF THE ACTS**  
OF THE EU'S INSTITUTIONS,

**ENSURES THAT THE MEMBER STATES COMPLY**  
WITH OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TREATIES,

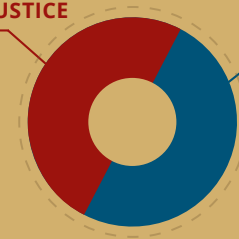
**INTERPRETS EU LAW AT THE REQUEST OF**  
NATIONAL COURTS AND TRIBUNALS.

IT COMPRISES

2 COURTS

THE COURT OF JUSTICE

THE GENERAL  
COURT



# THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION & CITIZENS

Many rules of national law stem from EU law and affect the daily lives of citizens: employment, environment, consumer protection, free movement of goods, freedom to provide services, etc. The Court of Justice, together with national courts, which refer questions to the Court, ensures the uniform interpretation of and respect for European Union law.



# 40 580

## JUDGMENTS AND ORDERS DELIVERED

More than 40 580 judgments and orders have been delivered by the two courts since 1952.



---

## COMPOSITION OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE



# 1 JUDGE

FOR EACH MEMBER STATE  
FOR A RENEWABLE  
TERM OF SIX YEARS



**PRESIDENT**



**VICE-  
PRESIDENT**



## 3 YEARS

---

**THE JUDGES ELECT THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT FROM AMONG THEIR NUMBER  
FOR A RENEWABLE TERM OF THREE YEARS**

---

# 11



## ADVOCATES GENERAL

---

**FOR A RENEWABLE TERM OF SIX YEARS**

The Court of Justice is composed of 27 Judges (one per Member State) and 11 Advocates General. The Judges and the Advocates General are appointed by common accord of the Member States for a renewable term of six years.

The Judges elect the President and Vice-President from among their number for a renewable term of three years. They act entirely impartially and independently.

---

## THE GENERAL COURT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



# 2 JUDGES

**FOR EACH MEMBER STATE  
FOR A RENEWABLE TERM OF  
SIX YEARS**



**PRESIDENT**



**VICE-  
PRESIDENT**



## 3 YEARS

**THE JUDGES ELECT THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT FROM AMONG THEIR NUMBER  
FOR A RENEWABLE TERM OF THREE YEARS**

---

**THE GENERAL COURT HAS JURISDICTION TO HEAR ACTIONS BROUGHT BY NATURAL OR LEGAL  
PERSONS AGAINST ACTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS**

---

Since 1 September 2019, the General Court has 2 Judges per Member State. The Judges are appointed by common accord of the Member States for a renewable term of six years. The Judges elect the President and Vice-President from among their number for a renewable term of three years. They carry out their tasks with complete impartiality.

Over time, the General Court has become competent to hear cases at first instance brought by natural or legal persons and some cases brought by EU institutions (with the exception of those specifically reserved for the Court of Justice) in more than 40 subject areas (competition, intellectual property, environment, health, agriculture, external relations, EU staff cases, public procurement, access to documents, institutional law, and banking and finance). The judgments of the General Court can be appealed, on points of law only, before the Court of Justice.



---

# PUBLIC HEARINGS

## CASES ARE HEARD IN OPEN COURT



**JUDGES**



**ADVOCATE GENERAL**

(IN CASES BEFORE THE COURT OF JUSTICE)



**MAY PUT  
QUESTIONS**



**TO THE  
PARTIES**

---

**VISITORS MAY ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARINGS  
WHICH ARE HELD DURING COURT TERMS**

---



---

Cases are heard in open court, before the Judges and Advocate General who may put questions to the parties.

As a general rule, they take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and start at 9.30. The length of hearings can vary depending on the case.

# VISITORS MAY ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARINGS



## ADVOCATES GENERAL'S OPINIONS

THE ADVOCATE GENERAL IS A  
MEMBER OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE  
BUT IS NOT A PARTY TO THE DELIBERATION

ADVOCATE  
GENERAL



THE COURT  
OF JUSTICE

DELIVERS AN OPINION

---

The Advocate General is a Member of the Court of Justice but does not take part in the deliberations.

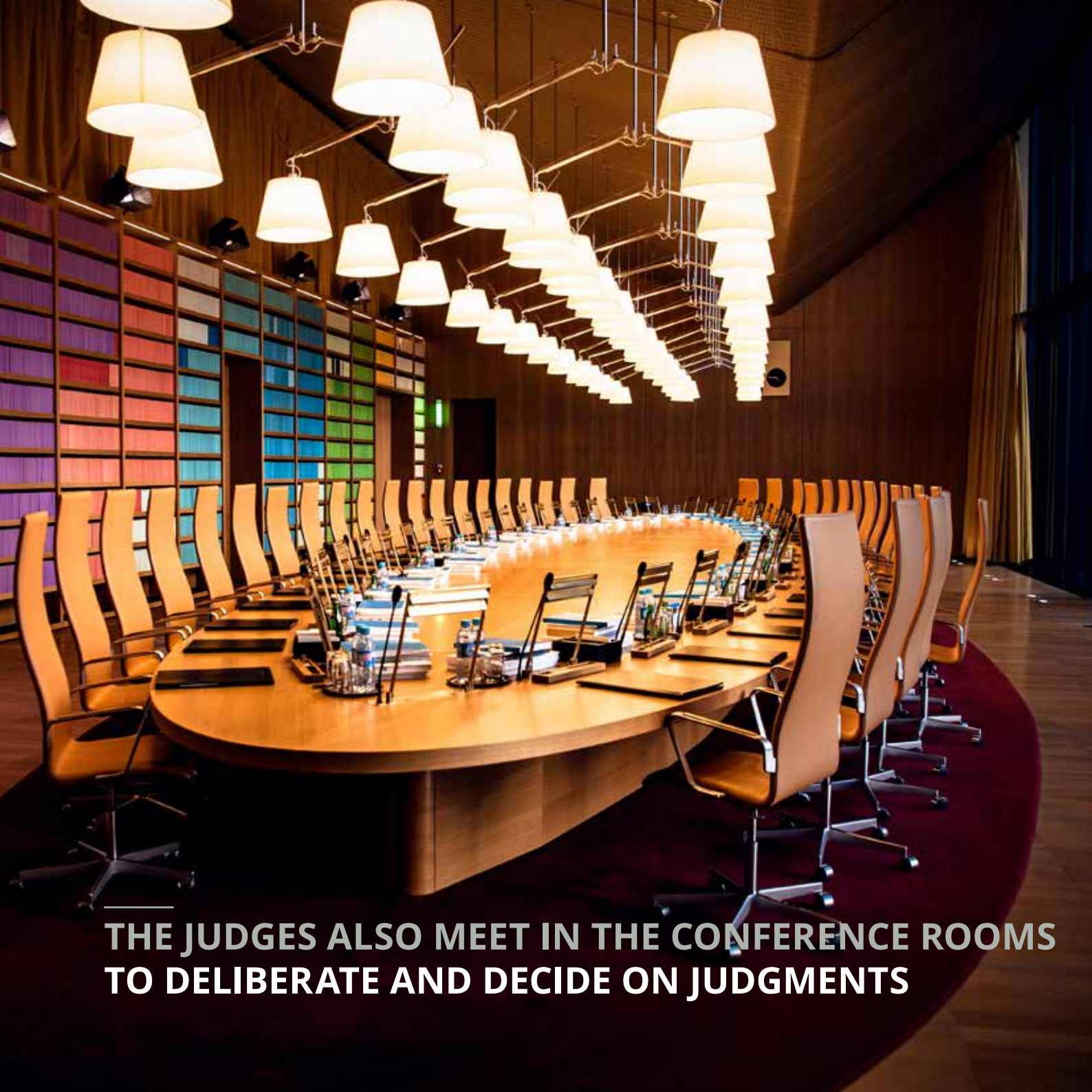
The Advocate General participates in the hearing and some weeks later delivers an Opinion. In that Opinion, the Advocate General suggests to the Court, entirely independently, a solution to the dispute.

The Court is not required to follow that Opinion.

If the case raises no new question of law, the Court may decide to give judgment without an Opinion.



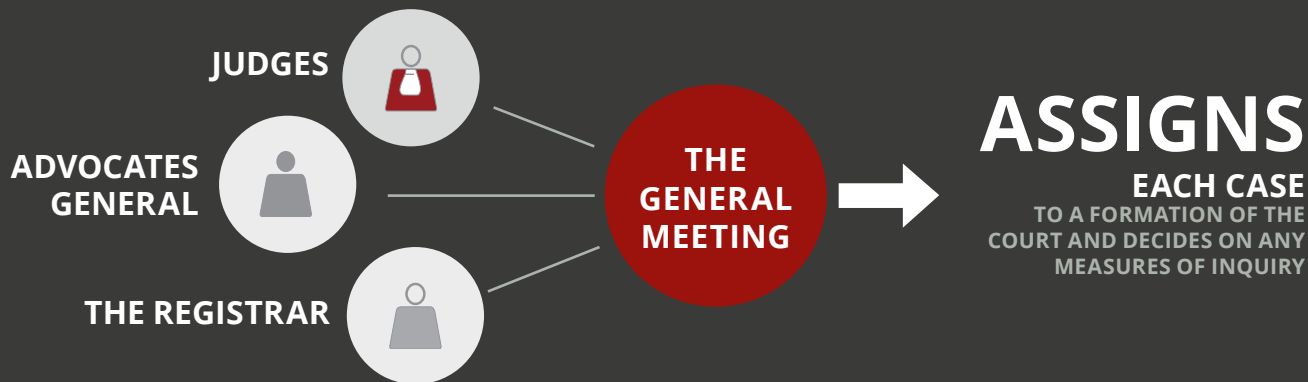




**THE JUDGES ALSO MEET IN THE CONFERENCE ROOMS  
TO DELIBERATE AND DECIDE ON JUDGMENTS**

# GRAND CONFERENCE ROOM

## THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE TAKES PLACE IN THE GRAND CONFERENCE ROOM



Every week, the General Meeting of the Court of Justice (including Judges, Advocates General and the Registrar) takes place in the Grande Salle des délibérés (Grand Conference Room). The General Meeting decides the formation of the Court to which each case will be assigned and decides on any measures of inquiry.

The Judges also meet in the conference rooms to deliberate and decide on judgments. Since those deliberations are secret, the Judges meet on those occasions without interpreters or other colleagues.

## DELIVERY



**JUDGMENTS ARE  
DELIVERED IN**

**OPEN  
COURT**

---

**THEY ARE AVAILABLE  
IN ALL OFFICIAL EU LANGUAGES**  
ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE  
ON THE DAY OF DELIVERY



**curia.europa.eu**

---

Judgments and Advocate Generals' opinions are available on the Curia website on the day of their delivery. They are, in the majority of cases, subsequently published in the Reports of cases. More than 29 000 documents, all language versions included, were accordingly published in the Reports in 2021.



## THE COURT REGISTRIES

The registries are responsible for pending case files and the register in which all procedural acts are noted.

The registries are the starting point at their respective courts for any case and the contact point for parties during the case.

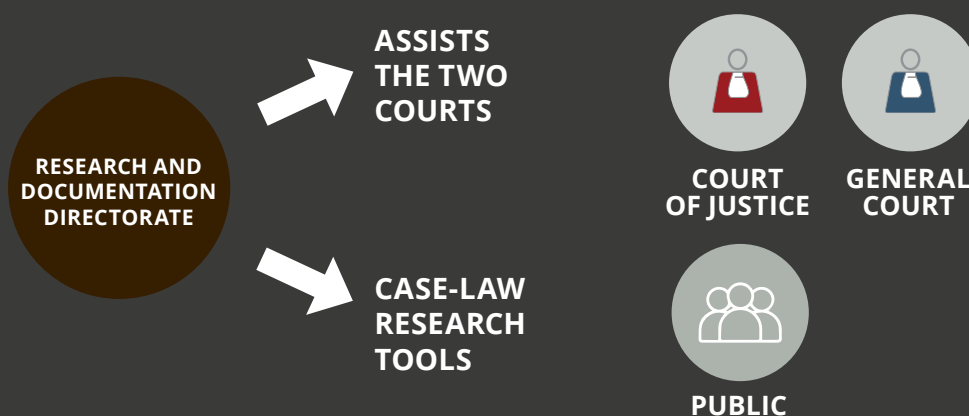
The registries help the Judges in the daily administration of EU law.

The registries of the Court and the parties correspond via a computer application, e-Curia, which enables the secure electronic filing and transmission of procedural documents, providing litigants and the EU's courts with an effective and efficient service.





# RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION



The Research and Documentation Directorate provides the two courts with information about the national law of the Member States.

It carries out research and legal analysis to assist the two courts in their judicial work.

It also contributes in making case-law and European Union law public through research tools available on the CVRIA website ([curia.europa.eu](https://curia.europa.eu))

---

## LANGUAGE ARRANGEMENTS – LEGAL TRANSLATION

**24** LANGUAGE  
UNITS

**3** SUPPORT  
UNITS

MULTILINGUALISM  
IN PRACTICE



**552** LANGUAGE  
COMBINATIONS

**1 257 000** PAGES TRANSLATED  
IN 2021

---

24 language units are divided into 2 directorates for legal translation. The language units, supported by 3 units that provide support across the entire service, along with the Interpretation Directorate, contribute to the implementation of multilingualism, a fundamental value of the European Union.

The lawyer-linguists of the units mainly translate procedural documents, Opinions and judgments. The translation of these documents into all of the EU's official languages reflects the principle of equal access to justice for all EU citizens.

## LANGUAGE ARRANGEMENTS – INTERPRETING

TO ENSURE THAT ALL CITIZENS HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE



THE PUBLIC HEARING IS HELD IN THIS  
LANGUAGE OF PROCEDURE AND THOSE OF THE  
INTERVENING MEMBER STATES. SIMULTANEOUS  
INTERPRETATION IS PROVIDED INTO ANY OFFICIAL  
LANGUAGE AS REQUIRED.



To ensure that all citizens have equal access to justice, any one of the EU's 24 official languages can be used as the language of the case.

Simultaneous interpretation is provided into several languages to ensure that the parties, lawyers, Judges and the Advocate General can communicate during the hearing.

**COMMUNICATION IN THE VARIOUS LANGUAGES  
USED AT THE HEARING IS MADE POSSIBLE BY  
SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION**





---

## THE LIBRARY: A HUB FOR DOCUMENTARY EXPERTISE

# 290 000



---

## 100+ LEGAL DATABASES


---

.....

Judges can be assured that the documents and archives held (290 000 volumes, the majority of which relate to EU law, and more than a hundred databases) will be managed, recovered, disseminated and conserved.

Citizens have access to the Court's administrative documents and the Court's historical archives (110 requests in total in 2021).

## PERSONNEL

2 247  ← 27 MEMBER STATES

↓  24 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

More than 2 200 persons, all EU citizens, work at the Court. They work in the Chambers of the Judges and Advocates General, and in the linguistic and administrative services. They have a variety of professional profiles, some specific to the Court of Justice (such as lawyer-linguists) and others not (lawyers, IT specialists, assistants, managers, etc.).

Called upon to work in a multicultural and multilingual environment, they all speak several of the 24 official languages. They are specialists in their own fields, working to serve EU law and the European project.



---

## THE COURT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### EMAS ECO-MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SCHEME



**ECO-  
FRIENDLY  
INSTITUTION**

---

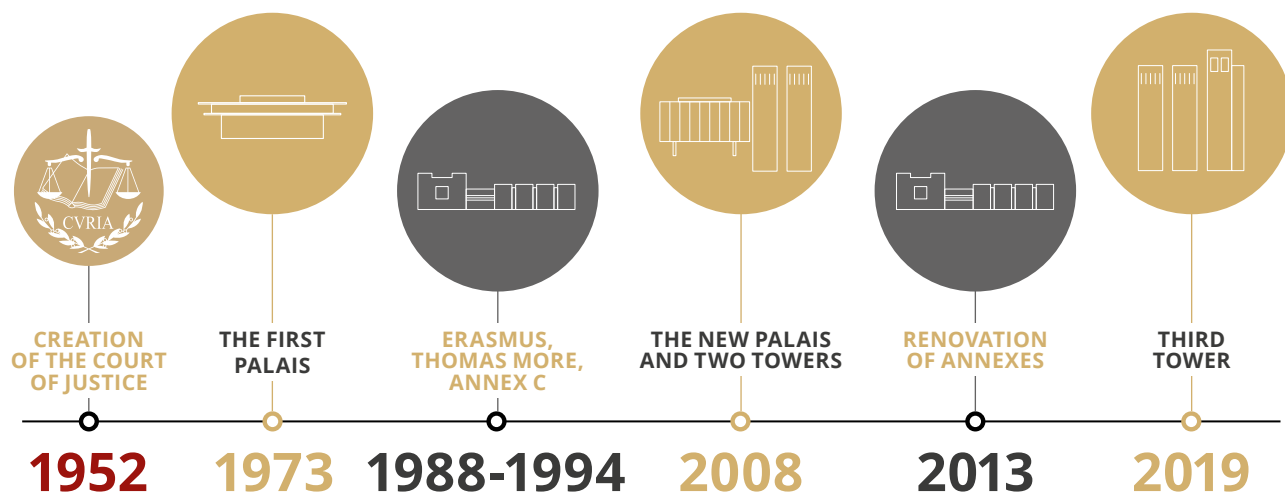
The Court of Justice of the European Union has put in place an Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in line with Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 in order to reduce its environmental impact in a structured way.

On 15 December 2016, the Court was awarded its EMAS certificate by the State of Luxembourg.

The EMAS system allows organisations to take voluntary measures to lessen their impact on the environment.



## THE BUILDINGS



The seat of the Court of Justice of the European Union has been in Luxembourg since its creation in 1952. The first Palais (courthouse) of the Court was opened in 1973 on the Kirchberg Plateau and various extensions have since been added.

In 2008, the new Palais, designed by the architect Dominique Perrault, was opened. It is made up of the renovated original Palais, the Anneau, two towers and the Gallery. In 2019, the fifth extension of the Court was opened. This new third tower is the tallest building in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

THE THIRD TOWER HAS 29 FLOORS AND  
STANDS 115 M HIGH



## THE COURT IN NUMBERS \*

NUMBER OF CASES COMPLETED  
BY JUDGMENTS OR ORDERS

COURT OF JUSTICE

24 132 SINCE 1952

JUDGMENTS AND ORDERS

GENERAL COURT

16 448 SINCE 1989

JUDGMENTS & ORDERS

THE BUDGET

465 MILLION EURO  
FOR 2022

24

BULGARIAN, SPANISH, CZECH, DANISH, GERMAN,  
ESTONIAN, GREEK, ENGLISH, FRENCH, IRISH,  
CROATIAN, ITALIAN, LATVIAN, LITHUANIAN,  
HUNGARIAN, MALTESE, DUTCH, POLISH,  
PORTUGUESE, ROMANIAN, SLOVAK, SLOVENIAN,  
FINNISH AND SWEDISH.

LANGUAGES OF PROCEDURE

552

LANGUAGE  
COMBINATIONS

STAFF

2 247

OFFICIALS &  
OTHER STAFF

♀ 1 355 = 60 %

♂ 892 = 40 %

\* Figures as of 31.12.2021

# MAP



L-2925 Luxembourg  
[curia.europa.eu](http://curia.europa.eu)



[mobilit.eit.lu](http://mobilit.eit.lu)



COURT OF JUSTICE  
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

COURT OF JUSTICE  
L-2925 LUXEMBOURG  
LUXEMBOURG  
TEL. +352 4303-1

GENERAL COURT  
L-2925 LUXEMBOURG  
LUXEMBOURG  
TEL. +352 4303-1

The Court on the internet: [curia.europa.eu](http://curia.europa.eu)

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged. Photographs may be reproduced only in the context of this publication. For any other use, authorisation must be sought from the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Further information on the European Union is available on the Europa website (<http://europa.eu>).

Luxembourg: Court of Justice of the European Union / Communications Directorate /  
Electronic Publications and Media Unit

Print	978-92-829-3961-1	doi: 10.2862/613	QD-06-22-103-EN-C
PDF	978-92-829-3967-3	doi: 10.2862/591962	QD-06-22-103-EN-N

© European Union, 2022 / Photos © Georges Fessy / Photos © European Union

*Printed in Luxembourg*



COURT OF JUSTICE  
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Communications Directorate  
Publications and Electronic Media Unit

February 2022

EN



*Printed on eco-friendly paper*