

European Court of Human Rights Portal

HUDOC User Guide

Beginner



This guide will assist you in carrying out your first searches of the case-law of the European Court, the former European Commission of Human Rights and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Documents available in the HUDOC database

The following documents can be found in the HUDOC database:

Court	Judgments Admissibility decisions	From November 1998
Court	Judgments Screening Panel decisions	From 1959

Commission	Admissibility decisions	From 1986
Commission	Admissibility decisions	Between 1955 and 1986
Commission	Reports (<i>public</i> only)	From 1986

Committee of Ministers	Resolutions (execution)	From 1972
Committee of Ministers	Resolutions (merits)	From 1959 to July 2004

When you connect to the portal at <http://www.echr.coe.int/hudoc>, click on HUDOC and the following search screen will appear:

The screenshot shows the HUDOC search interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the text "PORTAIL DE LA COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME" and "EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PORTAL" on the left, and "HUDOC COLLECTION" on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with buttons for "Search", "Results", "Help", and "Log off".

The main search area is titled "ECHR Document Collections" and includes a sidebar on the left with a tree view of document types: "HUDOC Collection" (expanded), "Decisions", "Judgments" (checked), "Reports*", and "Resolutions". Below this is a "Press Collection" link. A note at the bottom left states: "* Texts no longer adopted under the Convention protection system".

The search form itself has several sections:

- Text:** A dropdown menu set to "Complete Text" and a "Zone" dropdown. A large text input field is below.
- Language:** Checkboxes for "English" (checked) and "French".
- Importance Level:** Checkboxes for "1", "2", and "3", all checked. A link for "Explanation" is next to "3".
- Case Title, Respondent State, Application Number, Article, Keyword, Strasbourg Case Law, Conclusion, Date:** Each has a text input field with a "..." button to the right.
- Date:** A range selector with "from" and "to" fields. The "to" field contains "27/03/2007" and "dd/mm/yyyy" is shown below.
- Modify Options:** Includes a "French Interface" section with a "Sorted by" dropdown menu set to "Relevance (descending)".
- Buttons:** "Search", "Count", and "New Search" are on the right side.
- Footer:** "Compatible Browsers" is mentioned at the bottom right.

Start your search

1. Choose the case-law collection in which you wish to search for a document:

- Decisions
- Judgments

By default, select the “Decisions” and “Judgments” collections on the left-hand side of the screen.

2. Select both languages

“English” and “French”, as not all documents are available in both languages.

3. Select importance levels 1 and 2

Click “Explanation” for a definition of the different importance levels.

To limit a search to texts of high and average importance, tick “1” and “2”.

The following search screen will appear:

The screenshot shows the search interface of the European Court of Human Rights Portal. The page title is "EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PORTAL" and "HUDOC COLLECTION". The navigation menu includes "Search", "Results", "Help", and "Log off".

On the left, under "ECHR Document Collections", there is a tree view with "HUDOC Collection" expanded, showing sub-items: "Decisions", "Judgments", "Reports*", and "Resolutions". A callout box labeled "HUDOC Collection" points to this tree.

The main search area contains a search bar with "text, search in" and "Complete Text" selected. Below it, there are fields for "Text", "Language" (with checkboxes for "English" and "French"), and "Importance Level" (with checkboxes for "1", "2", and "3"). A callout box labeled "Languages" points to the language checkboxes, and another callout box labeled "Importance Level" points to the importance level checkboxes.

Below the importance level checkboxes, there is a link labeled "Explanation" with a callout box pointing to it. The search interface also includes a "Search" button, a "Count" button, and a "New Search" button. There are also options for "French Interface" and "Compatible Browsers".

At the bottom, there are fields for "Case Title", "Respondent State", "Application Number", "Article", "Keyword", "Strasbourg Case Law", "Conclusion", and "Date" (with a date range from "from" to "27/03/2007" and a format "dd/mm/yyyy").

Search fields

A number of different search fields are available.

We would strongly recommend that you use the lookup to the right of the search fields as it contains the only terms that are valid for a search in each field:

When you click on the lookup button, a window will appear with all the terms available in the relevant search field.

The data in the lookups are listed in alphabetical order (numerical order in the case of Application Number and Articles).

All you need to do is select the word or number you are looking for and it will appear in the field.

Example:

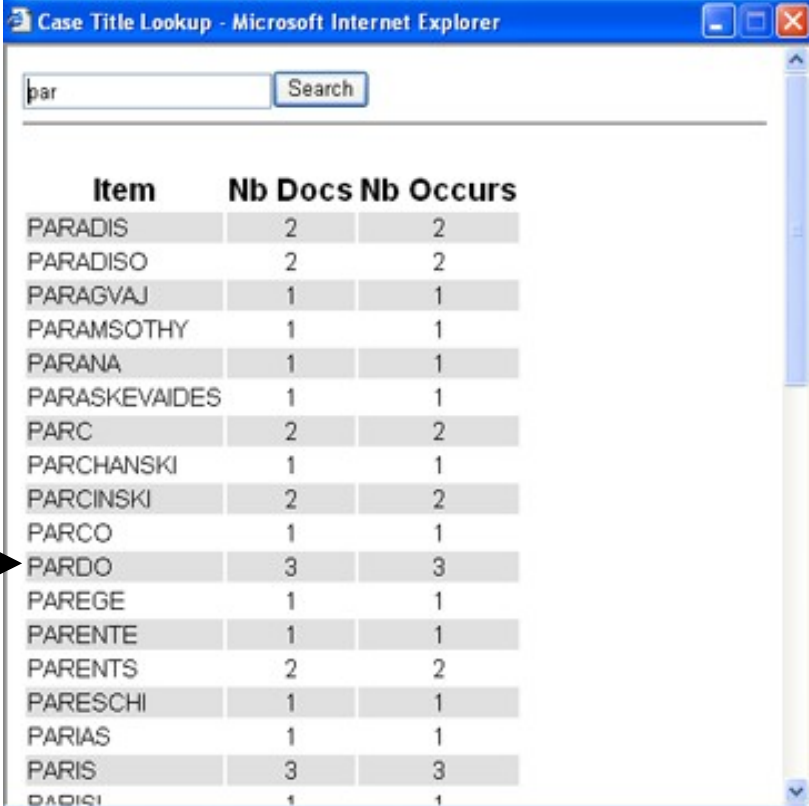
You are searching for the *Pardo v. France* judgment.

Click on the lookup button to the right of the “Case Title” field.

The lookup will open.

For example, if I type Par in the search field, then click Search, the list of all words beginning with Par will appear.

Click on the word Pardo, which will automatically be inserted into the search field on the search screen.



Item	Nb Docs	Nb Occurs
PARADIS	2	2
PARADISO	2	2
PARAGVAJ	1	1
PARAMSOTHY	1	1
PARANA	1	1
PARASKEVAIDES	1	1
PARC	2	2
PARCHANSKI	1	1
PARCINSKI	2	2
PARCO	1	1
PARDO	3	3
PAREGE	1	1
PARENTE	1	1
PARENTS	2	2
PARESCHI	1	1
PARIAS	1	1
PARIS	3	3
PADISI	1	1

If you know:

the Case Title and/or
the Application Number and/or
the Respondent State and/or
the Article and/or
the Keyword

enter what you are searching for, using the lookups:

You can use one **or** more search fields at a time:

- Case Title
- and/or
- Respondent State
- and/or
- Application Number
- and/or
- Article
- and/or
- Keyword

For the other search fields, such as “Strasbourg Case Law”, “Conclusion” and “Date”, please refer to the full User Guide available on the HUDOC site:

<http://www.echr.coe.int/hudoc>.

Note on the “Keyword” field:

Keywords are predefined and are part of an exhaustive list. You cannot create new keywords.

If you wish to use your own keywords, please enter them in the “Text” field.

Note on the “Text” field:

Entering terms in the **Text** field allows you to carry out a search in the text of a document for a single word, a phrase, a sentence etc.

You can search for:

Search Parameters	Meaning	Examples, i.e. what to type in the “Text” field
Word	A sequence of one or more adjacent letters or numbers, and including specific punctuation characters.	→ Burglary → Constitution
Phrase / sentence / paragraph	Groups together words in the order you wish to find them – phrase searching – “word word”	→ “prison sentence” → “Court of Cassation” → “Law no. 65-543”
AND	Finds documents containing both words in any order - word AND word	→ police AND violence → infringement AND rights
OR	Finds documents containing either of the two words - word OR word	→ violence OR cruelty → police OR army

Sorting your search results

Your search results can be sorted according to the following criteria:

Relevance (ascending) - when searching for a particular term in the text, this option will give the document with the fewest occurrences of the term first

Relevance (descending) - this option will give the document with the most occurrences of the term first

Date (Oldest first) - reverse chronological order

Date (Newest first) - chronological order

Title (A-Z) - alphabetical order by title

Title (Z-A) - reverse alphabetical order by title

Respondent State (A-Z) - alphabetical order by respondent State

Respondent State (Z-A) - reverse alphabetical order by respondent State

Application Number (A-Z) - numerical order by application number

Application Number (Z-A) - reverse numerical order by application number

Select one of these criteria from the drop-down menu on the right-hand side of the screen using the blue arrow:

The screenshot shows the search interface of the European Court of Human Rights Portal. The header includes the text 'PORTAL DE LA COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME' and 'EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PORTAL' on the left, and 'HUDOC COLLECTION' on the right. Below the header are navigation buttons for 'Search', 'Results', 'Help', and 'Log off'. The main content area is titled 'ECHR Document Collections' and features a sidebar with a tree view of document types: 'HUDOC Collection' (expanded), 'Decisions', 'Judgments', 'Reports *', 'Resolutions', and 'Press Collection'. The search criteria section includes fields for 'Text' (set to 'Complete Text'), 'Language' (English checked, French unchecked), 'Importance Level' (1 and 2 checked), 'Case Title' ('PARDO'), 'Respondent State' ('FRANCE'), 'Application Number' ('13416/87'), 'Article' ('6-1'), 'Keyword' ('FAIR HEARING'), 'Strasbourg Case Law', 'Conclusion', and 'Date' (from to 27/03/2007). On the right side, there are buttons for 'Search', 'Count', and 'New Search', along with 'Modify Options' and 'French Interface'. The 'Sorted by' dropdown menu is currently set to 'Relevance (descending)', and a blue arrow points to it from a callout box labeled 'Criteria for sorting results'.

Results

When you have completed the search fields and selected how you want your results to be sorted, click on the “Search” button.

Here we are searching for documents concerning Article 3 sorted by date (most recent first):

The Results screen will appear:

100+ Results Found		Result Page: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
1. CASE OF TYSTAC v. POLAND			
		Preliminary objectio...	20/03/2007
Judgment (Merits and Just Satisfaction)	255 Kb	5410/03	Poland
			Court (Fourth Section)
2. CASE OF CIOGLU AND OTHERS v. TURKEY			
		Violation of Art. 3 ...	06/03/2007
Judgment (Merits)	In French only. Click here	73333/01	Turkey
			Court (Second Section)
3. CASE OF ERDOGAN YAGIZ v. TURKEY			
		Preliminary objectio...	06/03/2007
Judgment (Merits and Just Satisfaction)	In French only. Click here	27473/02	Turkey
			Court (Second Section)
4. CASE OF BELEVITSKIY v. RUSSIA			
		Preliminary objectio...	01/03/2007
Judgment (Merits and Just Satisfaction)	156 Kb	72967/01	Russia
			Court (Fifth Section)
5. CASE OF AKPINAR AND ALTUN v. TURKEY			
		No violation of Art....	27/02/2007
Judgment (Merits and Just Satisfaction)	160 Kb	56760/00	Turkey
			Court (Second Section)
6. CASE OF WIESER v. AUSTRIA			
		Violation of Art. 3 ...	22/02/2007

For example, you may wish to consult the *Tysiack v. Poland* judgment, which was delivered on 20 March 2007 and concerns Article 3.

Click on the title of the case to see the **Content** of the document

Double-click on the icon to open the Word version of the document

Click here to see the document's **Notice** page

Notice

We would advise you first to consult the “Notice”, which contains an analytical summary of the document you are searching for, providing you with a brief idea of the scope of the case. It is available in both English and French.

Please note that from 2007 full analytical summaries are no longer provided for category 3 documents.

The notice can be accessed from the *Results* page (see above) or the *Content* page (see the “Content” section below).

The notice is set out as follows:

Content

Originating Body Court (Fourth Section)
 Document Type Judgment (Merits and Just Satisfaction)
 Language ENGLISH
 Title CASE OF TYSIAC v. POLAND
 Application Number 5410/03
 Importance Level 1
 Represented by GASIOROWSKA, M. ; WILKOWSKA-LANDOWSKA, A.
 Respondent State Poland
 Date of Introduction 15/01/2003
 Date of Judgment 20/03/2007
 Conclusion Preliminary objection dismissed (non-exhaustion of domestic remedies) ; No violation of Art. 3 ; Violation of Art. 8 ; No separate issue under Art. 13 ; Not necessary to examine Art. 8+14 ; Pecuniary damage - claim dismissed ; Non-pecuniary damage - financial award ; Costs and expenses partial award - Convention proceedings
 Articles 3 ; 8 ; 13 ; 14 ; 35-1 ; 41
 Separate Opinions Yes
 Law at Issue Constitution, Articles 38 & 47 ; Family Planning (Protection of the Human Foetus and Conditions Permitting Pregnancy Termination) Act (1993) & related statutes ; Medical Profession Act (1996), Section 37 ; Criminal Code (1997) ; Civil Code, Articles 444 and 415 et seq.
 Strasbourg Case Law AGOSI v. the United Kingdom, judgment of 24 October 1986, Series A no. 108, p. 19, § 55 ; Airey v. Ireland, judgment of 9 October 1979, Series A no. 32, p. 12-13, § 24 ; Boyle and Rice v. the United Kingdom judgment of 27 April 1988, Series A no. 131, § 54 ; Capital Bank AD v. Bulgaria, no. 49429/99, § 133, ECHR 2005 ... ; Carbonara and Venturs v. Italy, no. 24638/94, § 63, ECHR 2000-VI ; Eur. Comm. HR, Bruggeman and Scheuten v. Germany ; Glass v. the United Kingdom, no. 51827/00, §§ 74-83, 87, ECHR 2004 II ; Hasan and Chaush v. Bulgaria [GC], no. 30985/96, § 94, ECHR 2000-XI ; Hatton and Others v. the United Kingdom [GC], no. 36022/97, § 99, ECHR 2003-VIII ; Iatridis v. Greece [GC], no. 31107/96, § 58, ECHR 1999-II ; Ihan v. Turkey [GC], no. 22277/93, § 87, ECHR 2000-VII ; Jokela v. Finland, no. 28856/95, § 45, ECHR 2002-IV ; Keegan v. Ireland, judgment of 26 May 1994, Series A no. 290, p.19, § 49 ; Malone v. the United Kingdom, judgment of 2 August 1984, Series A no. 82, p. 32, § 67 ; Nikolov

You can click on “View” to go into the text of the document.

Content



In the text of the document, each occurrence of the terms entered in the search field can be viewed, in bold red type, when you click on the “Click here for next term” icon.

You now have the basic knowledge to carry out searches of the HUDOC database.

For information on how to carry out more complex searches, please refer to the **full User Guide** available on the HUDOC site: <http://www.echr.coe.int/hudoc>.

You can also search for “**Press releases**” on the European Court of Human Rights Portal (<http://www.echr.coe.int/hudoc/press/en>). These provide an overview of the facts of the case, information on the procedure and the composition of the Court as well as a summary of the case (complaints and decision of the Court).

The screenshot shows the search interface for the Press Collection on the European Court of Human Rights Portal. The header includes the text 'PORTAIL DE LA COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME' and 'EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PORTAL' on the left, and 'Council of Europe' and 'PRESS COLLECTION' on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with buttons for 'Search', 'Results', 'Help', and 'Log off'. The main content area is titled 'ECHR Document Collections' and features a tree view on the left with checkboxes for various document types: Press Release Collection, Admissibility Decisions, Forthcoming Hearings, Forthcoming Judgments, Hearings, Chamber Judgments, Grand Chamber Judgments, Referrals, Referrals to Grand Chamber, and General. Below this is a search form with a 'Text' input field, a 'Language' section with 'English' checked and 'French' unchecked, and a 'Date' section with 'from' and 'to' fields (the 'to' field contains '20/11/2006'). To the right of the form are buttons for 'Search', 'Count', and 'New Search'. Below the buttons are links for 'Modify Options' and 'French Interface', and a 'Sorted by' dropdown menu set to 'Date (Newest first)'. At the bottom right, there is a link for 'Compatible Browsers'.

In addition, you can consult the “**Case-Law Information Notes**” available on the Court’s Internet site (<http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/NoteInformation/en>).

The Information Notes have been published on a monthly basis since November 1998. They include:

- analytical summaries of judgments, decisions and communicated cases of particular interest;
- a recapitulation of these important cases according to the case-law issues raised;
- a list of significant judgments and decisions classified according to relevant Articles and keywords;
- a list of all the judgments delivered during the month;
- a list of cases in which a request for referral to the Grand Chamber has been accepted;
- a list of cases in which jurisdiction has been relinquished in favour of the Grand Chamber;
- a list of judgments from previous months that have become final; and
- statistics on all judicial activities.

The above-mentioned link also contains annual indexes which provide an overview of the cases summarised in the Case-Law Information Notes.