European Court of Justice

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Structure

- General information
- History
- Structure of ECJ
  - Composition
- Tasks
- Expiry of a trial
- The ECJ and We
- Judgement
- Sources

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General information

- Judicial body of the EU
- Located in Luxembourg
- Founded in 1952 ==> 1953
- Highest court in Europe
- Judges over 28 member states
- 28.000 judgements
  - 1604 in 2016
- Multilingual
  - every official language

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Structure of the ECJ

- 2 courts
  - "European Court of Justice"
  - "General Court"
- Divided into chambers
  - responsible for specific topics
  - 3-5 judges
  - "Great Chamber"

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European Court of Justice

- 28 judges
  - unanimous confirmation after consultation
  - six years term
- Eleven Advocates General
  - proposal for judgement
    - independent and neutral
- President
  - 3 years
  - management, allocation of the cases

Koen Lenarts

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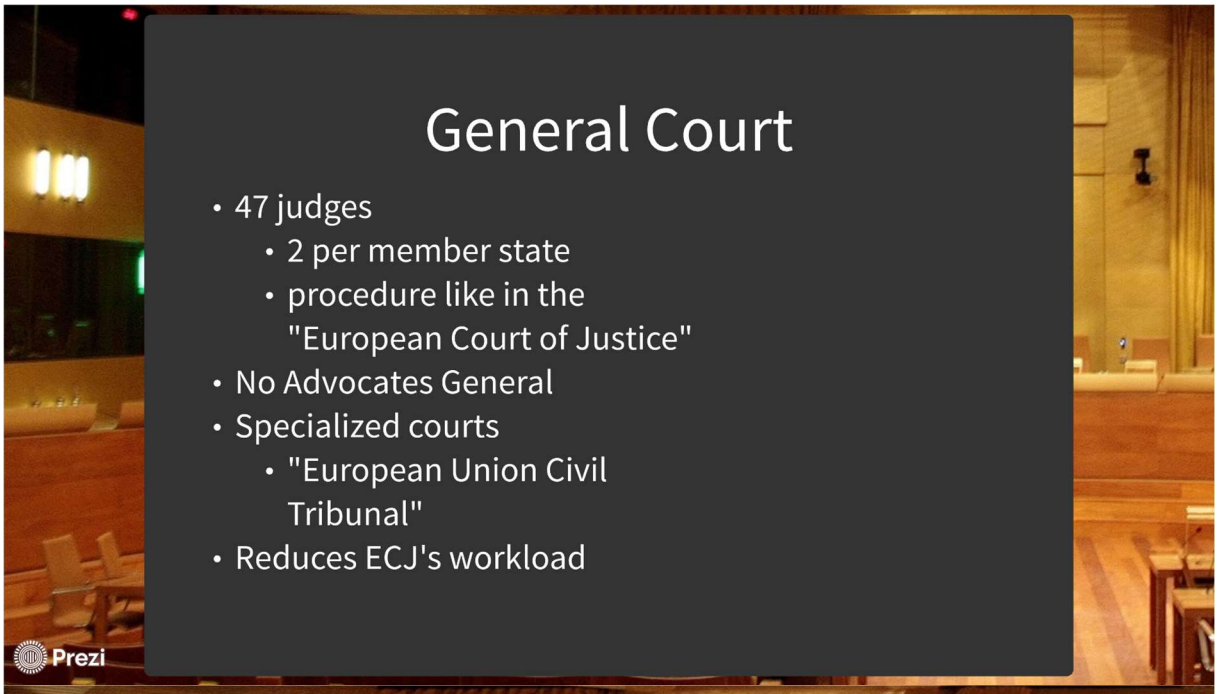
General Court
• 47 judges
• 2 per member state
• procedure like in the "European Court of Justice"
• No Advocates General
• Specialized courts
• "European Union Civil Tribunal"
• Reduces ECJ's workload
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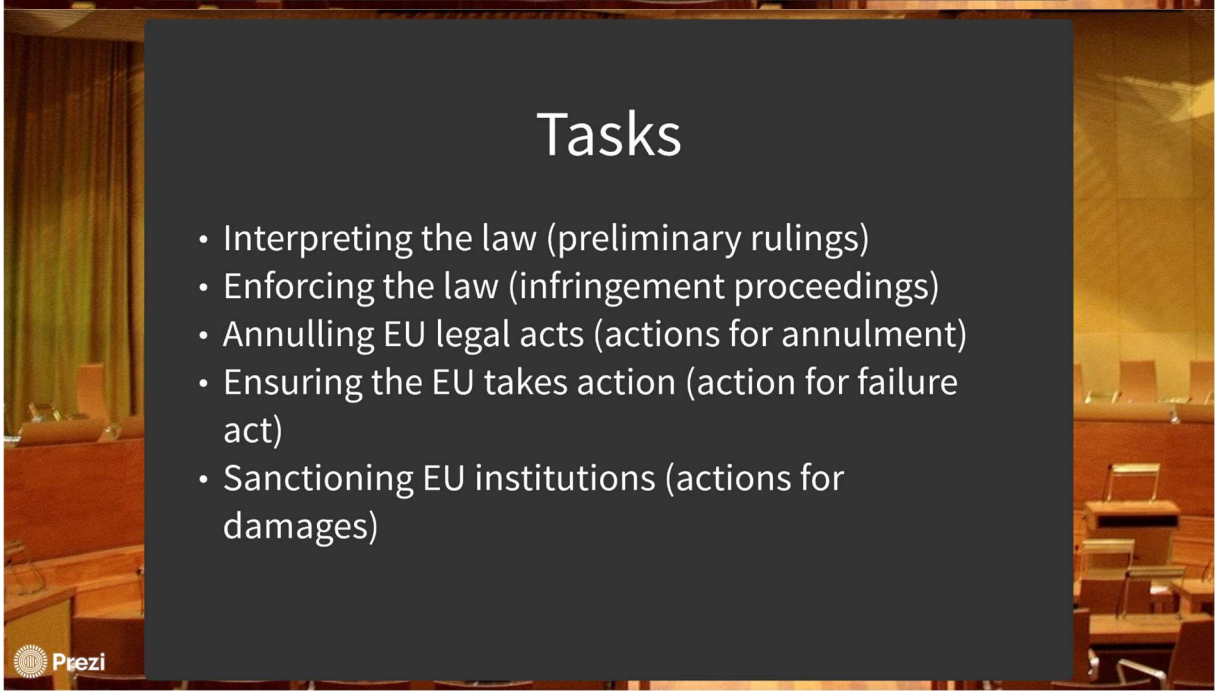
Tasks
• Interpreting the law (preliminary rulings)
• Enforcing the law (infringement proceedings)
• Annulling EU legal acts (actions for annulment)
• Ensuring the EU takes action (action for failure act)
• Sanctioning EU institutions (actions for damages)
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Expiry of a trial

Written Procedure:

- Written explanation of involved parties
- Judge summarizes report
- President allocates case to chamber

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The ECJ and We

- More freely movement of goods
- Generosity
- Freedom to provide services
- Transparency
  - App, Website, Hotline

Logo of App

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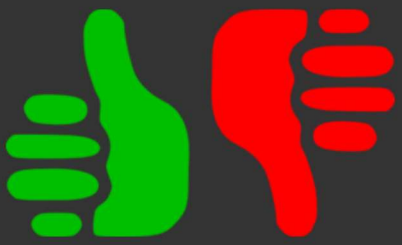
Judgement

Perspective: National Judge
Dimension: Legal
Category: Sovereignty and power
- European law above national law

Perspective: European politician
Dimension: Political
Category: European Integration
- ECJ: Motor of European Integration

Perspective: EU-citizen
Dimension: Social
Category: Transparency, Rights
- ECJ is very transparent
- ECJ protects Europe wide rights



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- https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/court-justice_de

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Documents:
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- Publications Office of the European Union; 2017

Pictures:
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