

# Introduction to European and National Courts

**Prof. Dr. L. Lavrysen**

*Justice Constitutional Court of Belgium – Centre for Environmental & Energy Law Ghent University – President EU Forum of Judges for the Environment*



EU FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
UE FORUM DES JUGES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

# European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)



Strasbourg, France  
*Council of Europe*

**47 Member States**

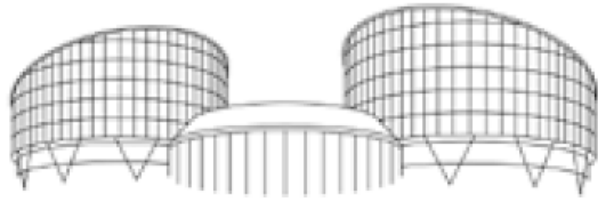
COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



# European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME



# European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

- **European Convention on Human Rights (1950) + Additional Protocols (16)**
  - **No Right to the Protection of the Environment**
- **Allegations of violations of the ECHR**
- **Exhaustion of national remedies**
- **40 - 60.000 new cases/ y**
- **EN & FR**
- **HUDOC** : <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/>

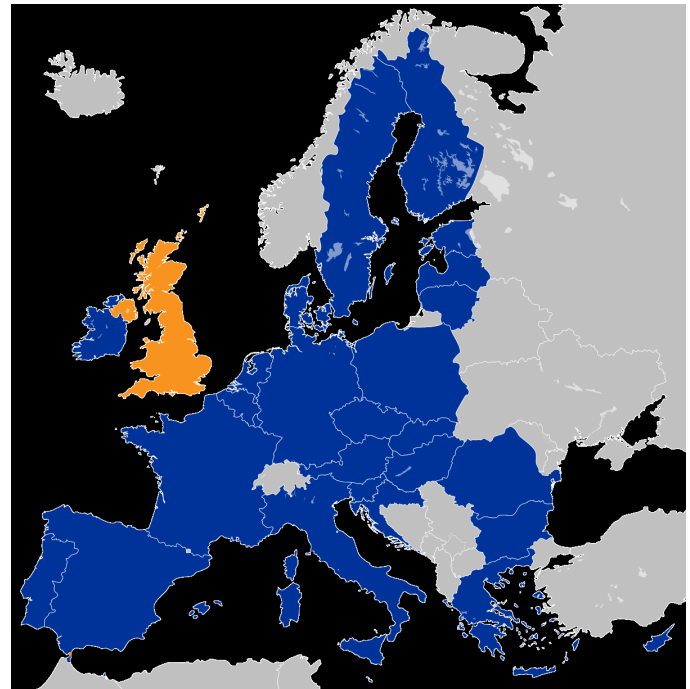
# COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (ECJ/CJEU)



**27 Member States (-1)**



**Luxembourg**  
*European Union*



# COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (ECJ/CJEU)



# **COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (ECJ/CJEU)**

- **Reviews the legality of the acts of the institutions of the European Union**
- **Ensures that the Member States comply with obligations under the Treaties**
- **Interprets European Union law at the request of the national courts and tribunals (preliminary rulings)**
- **Large body of EU Environmental Law**
- **24 Languages**
- **+ 1800 cases/y**

# Legal Systems in Europe

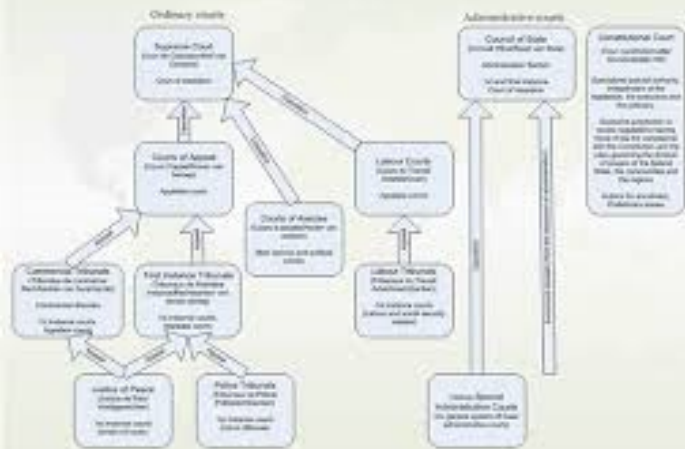
- **Civil Law**
  - **French:** France, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Romania, Spain..
  - **German:** Germany, Austria, Russia, Switzerland, Estonia, Latvia, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Greece, Portugal ...
  - **Scandinavian:** Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland
- **Common Law:**
  - England & Wales, Ireland...
- **Mixture:**
  - Scotland, Cyprus, Malta,





# National Courts - BELGIUM

Court System of the Kingdom of Belgium



Supreme Court



Constitutional Court



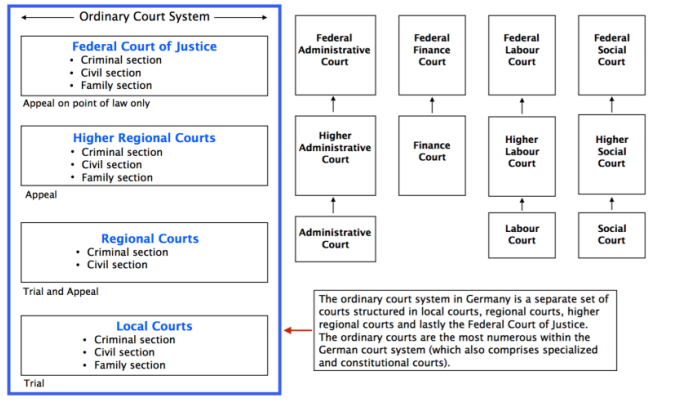
Council of State



# National Courts - GERMANY

## German Court System

Federal Constitutional Court



## Federal Constitutional Court



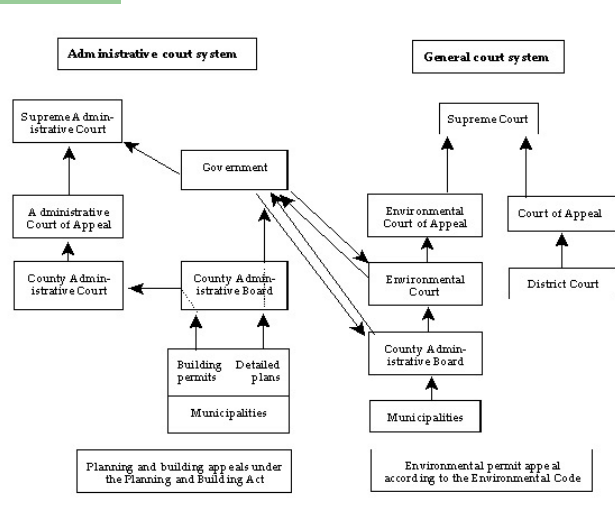
## Federal Court of Justice



## Federal Administrative Court



# National Courts - SWEDEN



## Supreme Court



## Land and Environmental Court of Appeal/ 5 Land and Environmental Courts



# National Courts - FRANCE

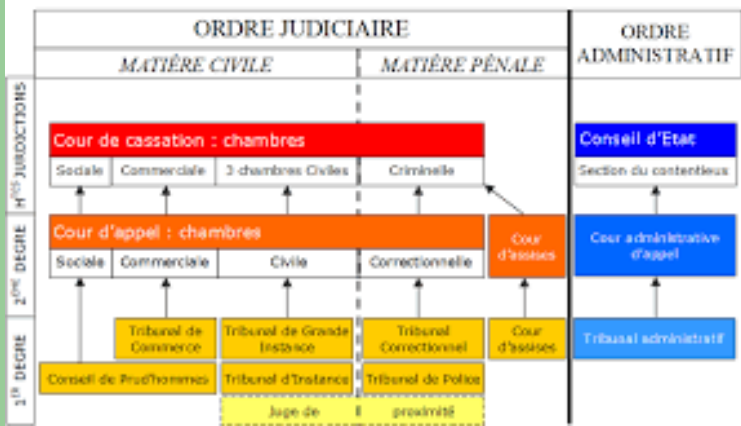
## Conseil Constitutionnel



## Conseil d'état



### ORGANISATION JURIDICTIONNELLE NATIONALE FRANCAISE

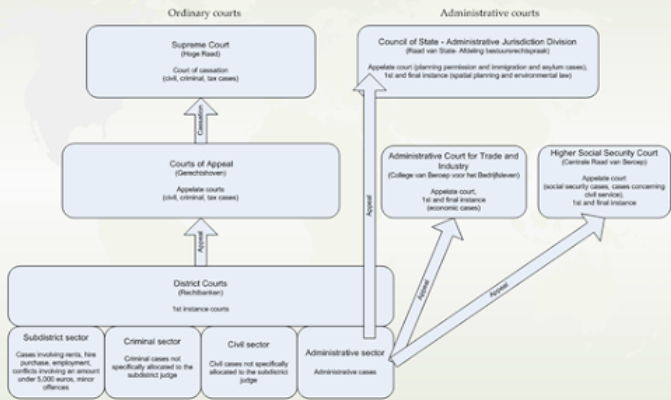


## Cour de cassation

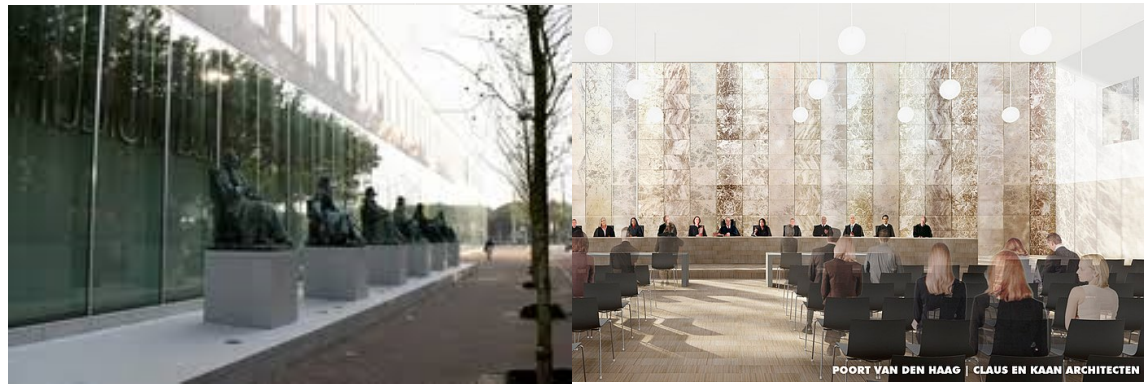


# National Courts - NETHERLANDS

Court System of the Netherlands



## Supreme Court (Hoge Raad)



## Supr. Adm. Court (Raad van State)



## Court of Appeal

