

EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

Social Rights Monitoring 2017: Health, Social Security and Social Protection

2017 Conclusions of the European Committee of Social Rights

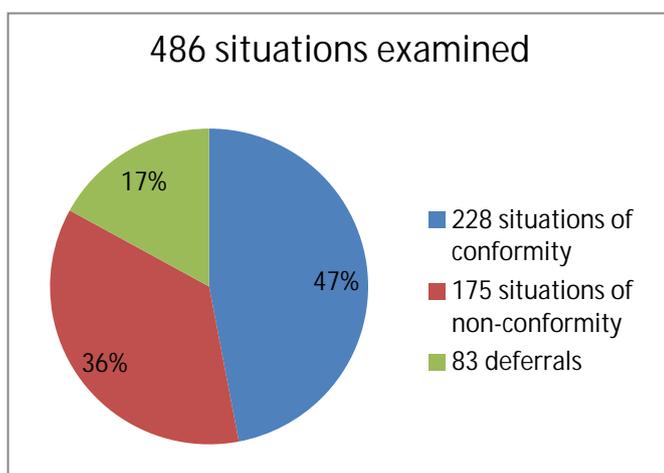
RIGHTS EXAMINED IN 2017

In 2017, the European Committee of Social Rights examined 33 states reports on rights relating to health, social security and social protection¹: the right to health and safety at work (Article 3); the right to health (Article 11); the right to social security (Article 12); the right to social and medical assistance (Article 13); the right to social services (Article 14); the rights of the elderly to social protection (Article 23, Article 4 of the 1988 Additional Protocol); the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion (Article 30) .

KEY FIGURES

In 2017, the Committee has adopted 486 conclusions on the articles of the Charter relating to health, social security and social protection in respect of 33 States Parties:

- 175 conclusions of non-conformity with the Charter
- 228 conclusions of conformity
- 83 deferrals for lack of information



¹ Each year, the European Committee of Social Rights examines one of the four groups of provisions covered by the Charter.

MAIN FINDINGS

Non-conformity

- Insufficient measures to reduce the high number of fatal accidents at the workplace;
- Insufficient measures taken to address persistently high levels of infant and maternal mortality;
- Inadequate level of social security benefits (notably unemployment and old age);
- Inadequate level of social assistance paid to persons without resources;
- Inadequate measures taken against poverty and social exclusion.

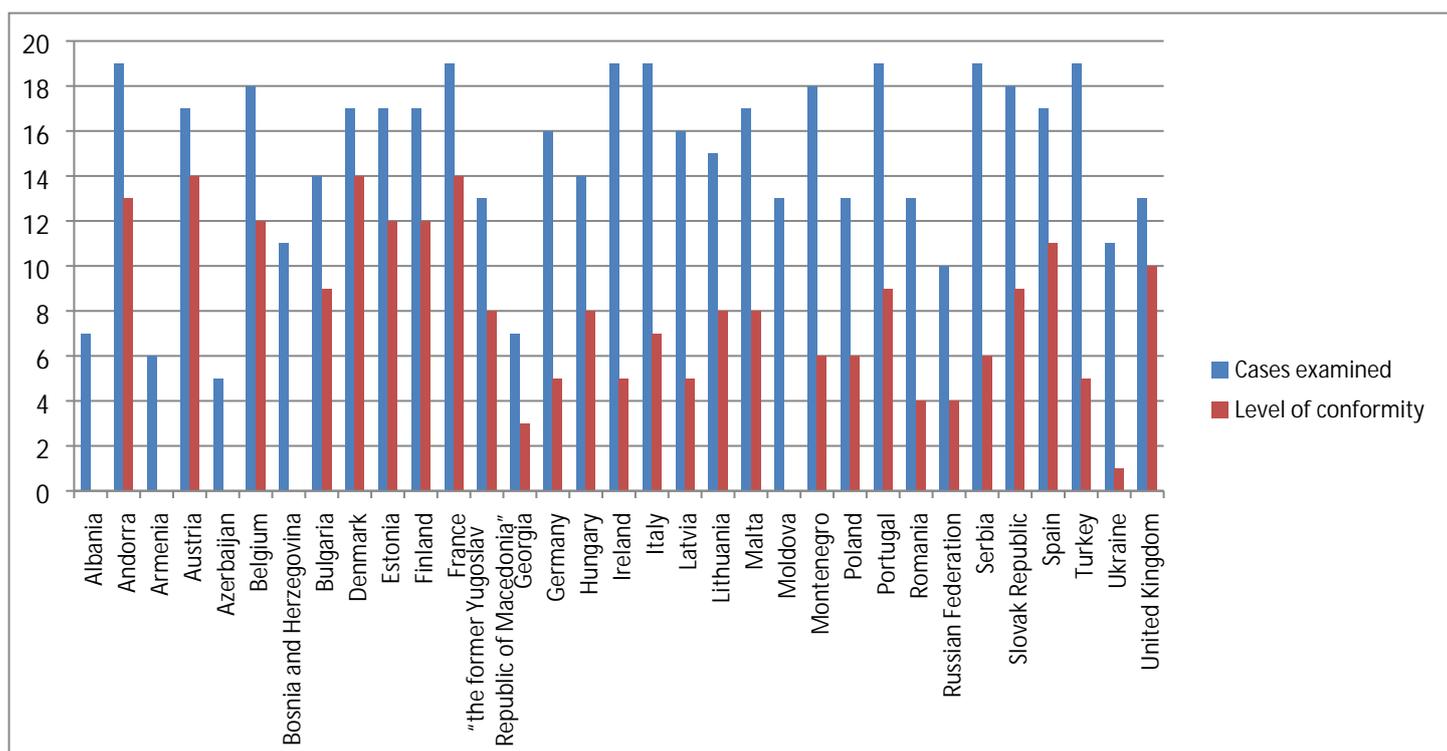
Positive developments

- Improved legal framework and adoption of measures in respect of health and safety at work;
- Extension of social security benefits (in particular in relation to healthcare and disability).

REPORTING

- 33 states reports on rights relating to health, social security and social protection were examined by the European Committee of Social Rights in 2017.
- State reports of Greece, Iceland and Luxembourg could not be examined because they were not submitted on time. The conclusions in respect of these countries will be published in the course of the year.
- The Committee also re-examined, in the light of new reports, certain situations of non-conformity resulting from Conclusions 2015 ("Children, families and migrants").
- 7 States bound by the Collective Complaints procedure were exempted from reporting in 2017 and provided information on the follow-up given to decisions on the merits of collective complaints in which the Committee found a violation.
- The national reports covered the period from 2012 until the end of 2015.

DEGREE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER ON RIGHTS RELATING TO HEALTH, SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION



BACKGROUND

The European Social Charter

The European Social Charter is a Council of Europe treaty that guarantees fundamental social and economic rights as a counterpart to the European Convention on Human Rights, which refers to civil and political rights. It guarantees a broad range of everyday human rights related to employment, housing, health, education, social protection and welfare.

The European Committee of Social Rights

Council of Europe monitoring body composed of 15 independent & impartial experts which rules on the conformity of national situations with the Charter.

Reports and Conclusions

The monitoring carried out by the Committee in 2017 consists of three components:

- Examination of national reports on the thematic group of provisions related to health, social security and social protection;
- Examination of reports on conclusions of non-conformity 2015 due to lack of information;
- Examination of information on follow-up to Collective Complaints.

In the framework of the reporting procedure the Committee's monitoring is based on reports submitted by the States Parties, but the Committee also takes into account comments made by trade unions and employers' organisations, and any other source of

information which it deems relevant to the examination of national situations.

The contribution of civil society is also important. Non-governmental organisations frequently provide information which allows the Committee to gain a better and more comprehensive understanding of national law and practice.

Statements of interpretation

The Committee also, when necessary, issues statements of interpretation developing and clarifying the meaning and scope of the Charter as regards specific issues.

RESOURCES

Web: www.coe.int/socialcharter

Twitter: @social_charter

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