# HUDOC INTERNET MANUAL



# User Guide

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE DATABASE	3
BASIC PRINCIPLES	3
CASE-LAW COLLECTIONS	4
HOW TO SORT YOUR RESULTS	5
SEARCHING	6
TEXT SEARCHING	6
SEARCH BY TITLE	9
HOW TO USE THE WORD WHEELS	10
SEARCH BY RESPONDENT STATE	11
SEARCH BY APPLICATION NUMBER	11
SEARCH BY ARTICLE NUMBER	11
SEARCH BY KEYWORD	12
SEARCH BY CONCLUSION	12
SEARCH BY DATE	13
VIEWING SEARCH RESULTS	14
THE RESULT LIST	15
CONSULTING THE DOCUMENTS AND SUMMARIES	16
THE DOCUMENT SUMMARIES	17
THE DOCUMENTS	18
FINDING OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS	19
TIPS FOR PRINTING	20
HOW TO COPY AND PASTE FROM THE SCREEN	20
HOW TO DOWNLOAD AN ORIGINAL VERSION OF A DOCUMENT	20
HOW TO VIEW AN ORIGINAL VERSION OF A DOCUMENT	21
FORMATTING SEARCH RESULTS	22

## **ABOUT THE DATABASE**

HUDOC (**Hu**man Rights **Doc**uments) is a powerful user-friendly information system which provides access to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, the European Commission of Human Rights and the Committee of Ministers. The judgments, decisions, resolutions and reports of these bodies are held in a database and can be consulted via a sophisticated search mechanism.

To ensure the most efficient use of the database as a research tool, HUDOC is updated regularly and may be searched at any time.

#### **BASIC PRINCIPLES**

HUDOC gives you access to a simple and an advanced search screen and will use either English or French as its working (interface) language<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> The default setting is the Advanced search screen.

## **CASE-LAW COLLECTIONS**

The case-law of the Convention organs has been split into separate sections, which can be searched in individually or together - Judgments, Admissibility decisions and Resolutions of the Committee of Ministers.

Certain documents (such as Screening Panel decisions) ceased to be generated with the advent of the single Court on 1 November 1998. Others will soon follow suit (Resolutions under former Article 32 of the Convention and, as from 31 October 1999, Commission Reports). However, these categories of documents remain available for searching<sup>2</sup>.

			Tick the boxes next to the case-law collections that you wish to be included in your search.	
Case-law collect	ion(s) search - Microsoft Inter	net Explorer	_ 8 ×	
<u><u> </u></u>	<u>G</u> o F <u>a</u> vorites <u>H</u> elp			
	ww.uncour.coe.n/hudoc/deradica	sp?canguage=enw4		
	Indicate which case-law	v collection(s) y	you would like to search	
To Court's page	Reports C Resolution	ns (merits)	Decisions (Screening Panel)	
<u>Simple search</u> Français	Text	for Text, search	h in Complete text Zone Search	
Los Off	Title	[	Help Options	
	Respondent		Sorted by	
To human rights page	Application number Article Keyword		Relevance V	
Powered by	Conclusion			
Tick here to choose the language of the documents you wish the database to search for. Both languages can be selected at the same time. If, however, you have ticked one language and the document you are searching for only exists in the other, HUDOC is intuitive enough to find it anyway. This ensures a more efficient use of the database.				

New documents are regularly added to HUDOC and work is currently under way on introducing the backlog of old cases to the system. Presently, the availability of documents within HUDOC is as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Admissibility decisions taken by committees of three Commission members/judges are not included in the database.

Court	Judgments / Admissibility decisions (November 1998?)	ALL
Court	Judgments / Screening Panel decisions (1959-October 1998)	ALL

Commission	Admissibility decisions (1986?)	ALL
Commission	Admissibility decisions (1955 - 1986)	some published decisions
Commission	Reports ( <i>public</i> only)	1986 ?

<b>Committee of Ministers</b>	Resolutions (execution)	1972 - October 1997
<b>Committee of Ministers</b>	Resolutions (merits)	1959 - March 1997

#### HOW TO SORT YOUR RESULTS

Having chosen the case-law collections in which you want to search and the language(s) of the documents you want to find, you must now decide how you want the database to sort your results.

Click on the arrow next to the **Sorted by** box on the right of the screen to select an item from the menu<sup>3</sup>.

🎒 Cas	se-law collecti	on(s) search - Microsoft Inte	rnet Explorer					. 8 ×
<u> </u>	<u>E</u> dit ⊻iew	<u>G</u> o F <u>a</u> vorites <u>H</u> elp						8
⇔	• = • •	060000	8 8 A 8	0				
Addre	ss 🛃 http://ww	ww.dhcour.coe.fr/hudoc/default.a	sp?Language=en&4	Advanced=1				-
<u>To I</u>	Court's page	Indicate which case-lay Judgments 🗹 Admissibi Reports 🗌 Resolution	v collection(s) y lity decisions	you would like to se Resolutions (execution Decisions (Screening I o in Complete text	earch	English Texts no longe Convention pr	French r adopted under the stection system	*
<u>França</u> Log Ot	<u>tis</u>	Text					Search New Search <u>Help</u> Options	]
Tot	numan rights page Knowledge Network	Respondent Application number Article Keyword Conclusion					Sorted by Relevance Date (new first) Date (old first) Title Respondent Application	
e)	Relevan text, thi occurre Date (n Date (o Title - a Respon Applica	nce - when searchin is option will give t nces of this term finew first) - reverse old first) - chronolo alphabetical order to adent - alphabetical ation - numerical o	ng for a par he docume rst chronologi ogical order oy title l order by r rder of app	rticular term in ent with the mo ical order r respondent stat plication numb	n the ost te ers	st zone		-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The default setting is Relevance.

# **SEARCHING**

Having told HUDOC where to search, in which language(s) and how to sort the results, you are now ready to tell the database what to search for.

Search criteria can be entered into one or several of the fields in the centre of the screen, depending on the complexity of the request and the precision of the desired result. As HUDOC is highly intuitive, you do not need to worry about capital letters and foreign accents. For example, the database will find the **Söderbäck** case whether you type with the accents or without, i.e. **Soderback**.

## TEXT SEARCHING

Entering terms in the Text box carries out a search for a particular "item" in the main text of a document, whether that item be a single word, a phrase, a sentence etc.



Searching for more than one word at a time is also possible. Not only can HUDOC search within the text for whole sentences, but various parameters can be specified from the keyboard to narrow down the search even further.

The following table outlines the wide range of searching syntax that HUDOC understands.

Search for	Function	Parameter	Keyboard shortcut	Examples, i.e. what to type in the Text box
Phrase/ Sentence/ Paragraph 	Groups together words in the order you wish to find them	"word word"	Double quotation marks	"prison sentence" "Court of Cassation" "Law no. 65-543"
AND	Finds documents containing both words in any order	word & word	& symbol	police & violence infringement & rights
OR	Finds documents containing either of the two words	word   word	symbol (Shift \)	violence   cruelty police   army
NOT	Finds documents containing the first word but not the second	word ^ word	<ul><li>symbol</li><li>(Shift 6)</li></ul>	press ^ television trial ^ hearing
proximity	Finds documents containing words which are within 80 words of each other in a document	[word word]	square brackets	[violence unnecessary] [violation damage]
precedence	Finds documents containing words which, although not necessarily together, must appear in the specified order	{word word}	curly brackets	{radio television} {hearing conviction}
multiple character wildcard	Replaces any number of missing letters	*	* symbol	<b>violat*</b> (violation, violate, violates, violated, violator, violating etc.)
single character wildcard	Replaces any single letter	?	question mark	violate? (violated, violates)

Combinations of the above search criteria are also possible.

["court of appeal" impartial]	searches for the chain 'court of appeal' within 80 words of the word 'impartial'
prejudice   discrim*	searches for documents containing either the word 'prejudice' or all words beginning with 'discrim'
{democratic vote} & "free elections"	searches for documents which contain the word 'democratic' before the word 'vote', as well as the words 'free elections' together.

HUDOC is also capable of searching in one particular part of the text, rather than in the whole document  $(zoning)^4$ .

Case-law colle       File     Edit     Vie       ← +     → +        Address     Attp:/	Click and choose fr down menu to carry search in a more pr the documents.	rom this drop y out a Text recise zone w	vithin	_	
To Court's page	Indicate which case-law Judgments ☑ Admissibi Reports ☑ Resolution	w collection(s) you lity decisions ns (merits)	u would like to search Resolutions (execution)	English 🔽 French 🗔 Texts no longer adopted under the Convention protection system	*
<u>Simple search</u> Français	Text	for Text, search in	Complete text	zone Search New Search	
	Title Respondent Application number		Commission procedure The law Reasons Separate opinions Opinion Recapitulation	Help Options Sorted by Relevance	
<u>To human rights</u> <u>page</u> Knowledge Network	Article Keyword Conclusion Date	from	Appendix		
		"''''']	No search performed	<u>v</u>	-
<b>e</b> ]			intern	net zone	

In this way, a user can narrow down the results given by a Text search. Tracing a certain theme in judges' separate opinions or tracking down a particular statute of national law thus become much more manageable tasks.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> As a default setting, Text searches are initially programmed to be carried out in the whole document.

# SEARCH BY TITLE

The title is the official name of the document, e.g. AFFAIRE DUPONT, CASE OF SMITH v. FRANCE etc. Any word from the title can be entered in the Title search box.

Remembering that capitals and accents are not necessary for HUDOC to understand what you are looking for, just type in lower case. The multiple and single character wildcards can also be used here.



#### HOW TO USE THE WORD WHEELS

Word Wheels are available for the vast majority of the search boxes and will enable you to choose a search term more precisely. The lists are generated by the database and only contain valid terms. So if, for example, you are not quite sure how to spell a particular word, you can look it up here.



Once you have found the Word Wheel term that you wish to search for, click on it once. The Word Wheel window will then close and the chosen term will appear in the relevant search box. All you have to do now is click on the **Search** button.

If you wish to search for two terms from the Word Wheel, open the screen again and choose a second term. HUDOC will automatically add the & symbol between the two terms.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Remember that the Word Wheel is sensitive to the choices you have made in the upper section of the search screen, that is the case-law collections and the language.

If you have chosen to search in both English and French at the same time, the Word Wheel will contain the appropriate terms in both languages. If you have only checked Judgments at the top of the search screen, you will not find entries in the Word Wheel relevant to Decisions or Reports.

# SEARCH BY RESPONDENT STATE

If you want to search for all cases against a particular country, enter the name of the state in the Respondent box and click on **Search**. Remember that a search for **Suède** or **Pays-Bas** will give a zero result if you have only checked English at the top of the search screen.

Click on the  $\boxed{}$  button to see a list of all the terms contained in the Respondent field of the documents in the case-law collection(s) you have selected. For more information about this function, see the "<u>How to use the Word Wheels</u>" rubric above.

## SEARCH BY APPLICATION NUMBER

If you know the application number of a case, you can search for it by entering that number in the Application number box. Type the complete number and click on **Search**. Do not be concerned if the database adds initial zeros to the number you have typed, as this has no relevance to the search.

e.g. type **39843/98** then click on **Search**. Do not forget the last two figures.

Click on the *initial* button to see a list of all the numbers contained in the Application field of the documents in the case-law collection(s) you have selected. For more information about this function, see the "<u>How to use the Word Wheels</u>" rubric above.

# SEARCH BY ARTICLE NUMBER

The article numbers that can be searched for in this field are those set out in the European Convention on Human Rights as it stands today.

Simply follow the format in the table below for HUDOC to be able to process your search. You will see that you do not need to type the words **Article**, **Art.**, **paragraph** or § in the Article box.

To search for	Туре
Article 8	8
Article 5 § 2	5-2
Article 6 §. 3 d)	6-3-d
Article 2 of Protocol no. 1	P1-2
Article 14 in conjunction with Article 3	14+3
Article 6 in general and/or any paragraph of Article 6	6*

Where article numbers have changed since the entry into force of Protocol No. 11 on 1 November 1998, the database will automatically widen the search to include the relevant article numbers which were used up until that date.

eg. by entering **35-1** in the Article box, HUDOC will find all the cases relevant to Article 35 § 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights as it stands today.

However, it will also widen the search to include the equivalent article number in the Convention as it stood before the entry into force of Protocol No. 11 (in this instance, Article 26).

Click on the button to see a list of all the terms contained in the Article field of the documents in the case-law collection(s) you have selected. For more information about this function, see the "How to use the Word Wheels" rubric above.

## SEARCH BY KEYWORD

The legal issues dealt with in each case are summarised in a list of keywords, chosen from a thesaurus of terms taken (in most cases) directly from the text of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Searching with these keywords will enable you to find a group of documents with similar legal content.

#### e.g. freedom to impart information necessary in a democratic society obtain attendance of witnesses

You can consult the full alphabetical list of these terms within the Word Wheel. It is best to choose the desired term from the Word Wheel window, rather than typing it into the Keyword box manually, as it must be remembered that typing an incomplete keyword will give a zero result.

e.g. **unsound mind** gives a zero result, as opposed to the full keyword "persons of unsound mind".

Click on the  $\boxed{}$  button to see a list of all the terms contained in the Keyword field of the documents in the case-law collection(s) you have selected. For more information about this function, see the "<u>How to use the Word Wheels</u>" rubric above.

#### SEARCH BY CONCLUSION

The Conclusion field contains a brief summary of the outcome of each case, for example whether there has been a violation of the Convention and whether any damage has been awarded.

Among the many possible entries, one can find:

Violation of Art. 6-1Pecuniary damage - financial awardNo violation of Art. 14+8Struck out of the list (friendly settlement)

As with the keywords, it is best to choose the desired term from the Word Wheel window, rather than typing it manually, as any mistakes in the typing can lead to false results.

For a complete alphabetical list of the Conclusion entries, click on the <u>use</u> button. For more information about this function, see the "<u>How to use the Word Wheels</u>" rubric above.

# SEARCH BY DATE

By default, a search carried out in the database carries no date restriction (today's date is in the right-hand box). However, settings can be changed to restrict the search to a particular period, by entering a date in the 'from' box and/or changing the date in the 'to' box.



There are two things to remember:

dates must always be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY dates are inclusive.

e.g. from **01/01/1996** to **31/12/1996** from **01/09/1994** to **30/09/1994**  all 1996 documents all documents from September 1994

## VIEWING SEARCH RESULTS

By clicking on the **Search** button, HUDOC will analyse the search criteria you have entered and produce a list of results in the order that you have specified. This may take a few seconds depending on the complexity of the request.



If more than 10 records have been retrieved, click on [**Next**] at the bottom of the Result list to view the next ten. To go back up in the list, click [**Previous**].

HUDOC is programmed to retrieve the first one hundred matching results and to display them on pages of ten at a time. If you want to take off the search restriction (to see just how many results there are in total for any given search), redefine it (to render the database even more selective, for example) or change the number of results shown on each Result page (handy for printing out a lengthy result list), see the rubric on "Formatting Search Results".

# THE RESULT LIST

The list of results provides a certain amount of information about each record, including the title (on a blue background), the application number and the date. It also allows you to access these documents in various ways.



Directly below the title is a relevance indicator, showing the relative number of occurrences of your search item in the document. This is particularly useful when searching in the Text, as it will give you an indication of how pertinent your search item is in the given document.

# **CONSULTING THE DOCUMENTS AND SUMMARIES**

There are various different ways of consulting the documents contained in the Result list, each adapted to different purposes.

Click on the title of the case to see document in Internet format (HTM as well as a short summary (see the rubric entitled " <u>The Documents</u> ").	the L),	to look at a su ont (see the ru ment Summar	immary of bric entitled <u>ies</u> ").	
Judgment (Merits and Art. 🗄	<u>▼</u> Violation of Art. 10 - No ⊞ 24348/94	25/11/1997	Reports 1997-VII	
12 CASE OF DADIO ADC AUSTRIA			Notico	
Judgment (Merits and Art. 10 118K	Violation of Art. 10 - Pe ⊞ 19736/92	20/10/1997	Reports 1997-VI	
14 CASE OF WORM AUSTRIA			Notice	
Judgment (Merits)	Preliminary objection rej ⊞ 22714/03	29/08/1997	Reports 1997-V	
	22/14/30			
15. CASE OF OBERSCHLICK V. AUSTE	RIA (No. 2)		Notice	
Judgment (Merits and Art. ⊞ ■ →K	Violation of Art. 10 - Pe ⊞ 20834/92	01/07/1997	Reports 1997-IV	
16 CASE OF DE HAES AND GLISELS V	RELGIUM		Notice	
Judgment (Merits and Art. 🗉	Violation of Art. 10 - Vi ⊞ 19983/92	24/02/1997	Reports 1997-I	
17 CASE DE WINGROVE V THE UNITI			Notice	
Judgment (Merits)	No violation of Art. 10 17419/90	25/11/1996	Reports 1996-V	
Click on the icons to download an original version of this document onto your computer or to open an original version within your browser (see the rubrics on " <u>How to</u> <u>view an original version of a document</u> " and " <u>How to</u> <u>download an original version of a document</u> " below). Amongst other things, these functions will enable you to quote the correct page numbers when making reference to Court documents in your own written work.				

# THE DOCUMENT SUMMARIES

To view a detailed summary of the document, which has been specifically prepared for the database, click on <u>Notice</u> on the blue background to the right-hand side of the Result list. This will open a new window, the Notice display screen, containing the summary of the chosen document.

This information is useful if you want to gain a brief idea of the scope of the case.



Called a "Fixed Field" or "Notice", the summary includes basic data such as *Title*, *Date*, *Respondent* etc., as well as more legal data, such as *Keywords*, the national *Law at Issue*, who the case was *Referred by*, the *Strasbourg Case-Law* (jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights referred to in the document) etc.

# THE DOCUMENTS

To view one of the documents from the Result list, click on the Title (underlined on a blue background). This will bring up a new window, the Document display screen, which contains a short version of the summary (Notice) in blue at the top and the body of the text below.



If you have carried out a search in the Text, click here to go straight to the next (or previous) occurrence of that term in the document.

Unfortunately, at present, this function can only be used in documents contained in text format and not in documents in Word format. The new version of HUDOC will enable a wider use of this command. If the buttons do not work, click your mouse somewhere in the document section of the screen, then use the manual Find command (Ctrl + F) to locate the word or other item you have searched for.

# FINDING OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS

If you want to find other documents which are specifically related to this record, regardless of the initial search you have carried out, this can be done using the Go button at the top of the screen.

TASE DE STEEL AND OTHERS y. THE UNITED KINGDOM 23/09/1498 - Microsoft Internet Ex	Click here to see the drop down menu, choose which other documents you want HUDOC to look for,
	then click <b>GO</b> .
│ ← · ⇒ · ◎ ಔ ℰ ◎ ® ® ■ ℬ ۸ <i>≞ ≢</i>	
Address 🕘 http://www.dhcour.coe.fr/hudoc/ViewRoot.asp?Item=3&Action=Html&X=511151059&Notice=0&Notice	mode=&RelatedMode=0
Image: Image	Close
Hudoc reference       To related French Judgments         Document type       To all related French documents         Title       CASE OF STEEL AND OTHERS v. THE UNITED KINGDOM	<u> </u>
Application number 00024838/94	
Date 23/09/1998 Respondent United Kingdom	
*** * * * * * *	
EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS	
CASE OF STEEL AND OTHERS v. THE UNITED KING	DOM
((5/1005951/2050)	
(67/128/)	▼
e New New New New New New New New New Ne	at zone

The database will open a new window with another list of results for you to choose from (N.B. to close this particular window, click on the X in the top right-hand corner.)

Possible uses of this function include the following:

- you are looking at a judgment in English and you want to see the equivalent French translation
- you are looking at a decision in French and want to see the subsequent judgment and Council of Minister's report.

# TIPS FOR PRINTING

Use the print button on the toolbar of your internet browser to print hard copies of the various screens in HUDOC.

## Special tip for printing Summaries and Documents

Given that what you see as one page on the screen of your computer is often composed of several frames, it is a good idea to click somewhere in the Summary or the Document before printing. You won't see that this has changed anything, but it will tell the computer which part of the screen you want to print.

For example, if you want to print the Summary that you have on the screen in front of you, just click once somewhere on the blue background before clicking on the print button.

When printing a document, remember that the format (including page breaks) may be different to the original. If you want to print a document with the original layout intact, see the rubrics "How to view an original version of a document" and "How to download an original version of a document".

# HOW TO COPY AND PASTE FROM THE SCREEN

Basic copying and pasting functions are available in HUDOC, either by using the browser menu (Edit, Copy/Paste) or the keyboard shortcuts (Ctrl + C, Ctrl + V) after selecting the text to be copied.

However, depending on the word processor, some formatting styles may be different and the copied section may not look exactly the same as the original version.

For more information on how to get around this problem, see the rubrics on "How to view an original version of a document" and "How to download an original version of a document".

# HOW TO DOWNLOAD AN ORIGINAL VERSION OF A DOCUMENT

HUDOC gives you the opportunity of downloading a copy of the original document. What does this mean? What difference does it make? This enables you to save the document on your own computer's directory structure or on a diskette.

# Why would I want to do this?

You might want to do this if you are doing a lot of work on one or two particular cases, as you then won't have to find them in HUDOC each time you log on. Copies of them will be stocked on your computer's hard disk.

To download a particular document, click on the icon (see the rubric entitled "<u>Consulting the</u> <u>Documents and Summaries</u>") with the *right-hand button* of your mouse and choose **Save Target As...** from the menu. A screen similar to the following will appear.

Save As Save jn: 🔄 Hudoc 💌	
<ul> <li>fixfield WORD</li> <li>Hudocprint</li> <li>misc</li> <li>siffinal</li> <li>SIFT templates</li> <li>temp</li> </ul>	Choose which directory you want to save this document in on your computer, give it the name you want in this box, then click <b>Save</b> .
File name:     study case no. 1       Save as type:     Text Document	Save Cancel

A message will confirm the completion of the download shortly afterwards. You can now access this document from your word processing package.

# HOW TO VIEW AN ORIGINAL VERSION OF A DOCUMENT

As the formatting of a document can often be different when viewed on an internet browser, this function is particularly interesting for those who want to peruse a document in its original layout (particularly valid for more recent cases). Not only will the database open up an original version of the case file for you, but this will enable you to cut/copy and paste more easily.

To open the original version, click on the icon underneath and to the left of the title of the case in the Result list.



Do not worry that there are different icons. This simply reflects the word processing system used in the initial preparation of the document.

If you have the original software installed on your PC (Microsoft WORD in general), a new screen will open within Word containing the original version of the document<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> This function may present difficulties if you do not have compatible software. If this is the case, download the document and attempt to open it from your word processing package instead.



# FORMATTING SEARCH RESULTS

By default, HUDOC only retrieves up to one hundred results at a time. If your initial search indicates that there might be more than 100 possible results, by showing the following:



and you need to retrieve every document responding to a certain set of search criteria, rather than just the first one hundred, there is a simple way of telling the database to take off this restriction. By clicking on **Options** on the right-hand side of the search screen, the window below will appear.



If you now run the search again, simply by hitting the **Search** button (you don't need to enter the search criteria again), you will discover the true number of cases corresponding to your chosen search criteria.

Other changes of configuration can also be made in this window, depending on the required complexity of the searches you wish to undertake.

# <u>Very useful tip</u>

If you want to print out the entire Result list of your search and are frustrated that you have to print it out 10 items at a time, change the figure in the **# of items per page** box in the Query Options menu. For example, try putting 100 items instead of 10.

Now, when you run your search, the results will be displayed on one very long Result list screen, which can be printed in one go, rather than in sections. Just click on the print button on your browser.