

**Report of Chief Justice Vyacheslav Lebedev,  
presented at the meeting of judges of courts of general jurisdiction and  
commercial courts on 9 February 2022**

Esteemed President of the Russian Federation,  
Distinguished meeting participants,

In 2021, justice in the Russian Federation was generally administered at a high-quality level and within reasonable time.

More than 39 million cases of various categories were considered in first instance, herewith 99 % of cases were considered in compliance with procedural time limits.

The Supreme Court of Russia continued its work to ensure the uniformity of judicial practice.

Last year, 12 Rulings of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court were adopted, encompassing over 500 legal standings on issues of application of law.

The Presidium of the Supreme Court approved 11 Case Law Reviews, containing over 300 legal standings.

Exercising its right of legislative initiative, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court submitted 8 draft laws to the State Duma, aimed at improving justice and organizational support for the activities of the courts.

During the pandemic, the administration of justice has never stopped or been suspended, and all the procedures and technologies provided for by law were used in court proceedings.

In this regard, on 17 February last year, the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation approved another Review of Certain Issues of Judicial Practice pertaining to the Application of Legislation and Measures Aimed at Preventing the Pandemic, including 26 legal standings that were taken into account by the courts

in consideration of more than 500,000 cases and materials.

In addition, the Presidium of the Supreme Court twice addressed the issues of application of legislation due to establishment of non-working days in May and in October–November last year.

During the pandemic, the electronic resources of the judicial system enjoyed increased demand.

Last year, 5 million procedural documents were filed electronically with the courts, which is 2 million more than in 2020.

The number of hits within “Justice” State Automated System exceeded 3.7 billion.

The courts sent more than 20 million SMS notifications about the time and place of court sessions; 290,000 court sessions were held using videoconferencing, and 440,000 court sessions were held using video recording systems.

Since 1 January this year, citizens have been provided with the possibility to participate in court sessions via web conferencing, using a personal computer or another device, and more than 26,000 court sessions were held using this technology in January alone.

Measures have been implemented to further improve the activities of general jurisdiction courts of cassation and appeal, the Military Court of Cassation, the Appellate Military Court.

Since 24 February last year, the 6-month time limit for filing cassation appeals in continuous cassation in criminal cases has been enshrined in law, which ensures compliance with reasonable time limits for legal proceedings.

On 1 January this year, legislative amendments came into force, stipulating that appeals against interlocutory judgments in criminal cases will be considered by single judges at the general jurisdiction courts of appeal.

In order to identify judicial errors in the most effective way, on 14 December last year, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court submitted to the State Duma a draft federal law providing that continuous cassation appeals in criminal cases will only

be available against those court decisions that were challenged in the appellate manner.

In addition, last year the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation adopted rulings on court application of civil procedural legislation norms regulating proceedings in the courts of appeal and cassation.

23,403,000 cases were considered in civil proceedings in first instance – 1,984,000 or 9 % more than in 2020.

Of these, more than 8,875,000, or 38 %, are cases regarding loan debt collection from citizens, in which the Russian courts ensure that forfeits for delay in loan payments are preserved within reasonable limits.

Therefore, of RUB 1.5 trillion claimed for collection by credit institutions, only half of the claims, amounting to RUB 750 billion, have been satisfied.

The courts pay special attention to protecting the citizens' labour rights: in 2021, 200,000 cases of this category were considered, in which 96 % of claims for wages, 78 % of claims for compensation for damage caused in performance of labour duties, 83 % of claims for guarantees and compensations under labour law, and 53 % of claims for reinstatement were granted.

Taking into account the inadmissibility of forcing a citizen to submit a letter of resignation, the courts ascertain whether the resignation resulted from pressure on the employee, and also study the circumstances preceding the submission of the letter of resignation.

This year, the Supreme Court will prepare a Case Law Review regarding disputes pertaining to conclusion of employment contracts.

Judicial protection of consumer rights is of great social significance.

Last year, the courts considered 200,000 cases of this category, in which 80 % of claims were granted.

The courts take into account that if a consumer publishes a negative review about the supplier of goods or services on the Internet, this constitutes exercise of the

right to freedom of expression and cannot give grounds for the supplier's repudiation of the contract.

In judicial practice, questions have arisen on whether it is possible to file consumer protection claims against foreign organizations acting as operators of social networks to Russian courts.

Therefore, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation drew the attention of the courts to the fact that disputes arising from a contract for the use of a social network executed on the territory of Russia are referred to the competence of the courts of the Russian Federation.

Due to the introduction of a pre-trial procedure for considering citizens' claims in the insurance sector by the Commissioner for Financial Services Consumers, there is a decreasing trend of insurance disputes in the courts: in 2021, their number went down by 11,000 cases or by 9 %; 82 % of citizens' claims were granted.

Since 1 January 2021, the Financial Commissioner also considers citizens' claims against credit institutions, which resulted in a decrease of cases in this category by 9,000 or 18 %; 73 % of consumer claims were granted.

Wide access to justice is promoted by the legal standing of the Supreme Court that, in case of unreasonable termination of consideration of a consumer's application to the Financial Commissioner, the pre-trial procedure for settlement of the dispute is regarded as observed.

The courts have considered over 1,000,000 family disputes – this is 163,000 cases or 19 % more than in 2020, while the number of divorce cases increased by 54,000 or 13 %, and the number of cases on recovery of alimony for underage children – by 90,000 or 38 %.

The support of the family in the Russian Federation is provided, among other things, by payment of child benefits, and the courts of the Russian Federation granted 76 % of claims for recovery of such payments last year.

In accordance with the legal standing of the Supreme Court of Russia, the bank's

forfeiture of the amount of child benefits during enforcement proceedings is illegal and gives rise to the right to claim damages.

9,400 adoption cases were considered in 2021, including 78 international adoption cases. In each of these, the courts studied the possibility of the child being adopted by citizens of the Russian Federation.

The number of housing disputes considered by the courts amounted to 10,200,000 cases – 1,112,000 or 12 % more than in 2020, while 94 % of them were cases on recovery of utility bills.

As it is inadmissible for housing management companies to increase tariffs arbitrarily, the Russian Supreme Court drew the attention of the courts to the fact that changing the amount of payment for the maintenance of residential premises belongs to the competence of the general meeting of owners of premises in an apartment building.

The number of disputes regarding provision of residential premises due to recognition of a house as unfit increased by 40 %. In these, 79 % of citizens' claims were granted by the courts.

Improved protection of housing rights of citizens with disabilities is implemented with regard to the legal standing of the Supreme Court that the housing provided due to demolition of a house should be equivalent to the previously occupied area not only in terms of the total surface area, but also in terms of its accessibility, taking into account the health status of the plaintiff.

Last year, the courts satisfied 82 % of claims for the protection of housing rights of orphans and children without parental care, 96 % of claims related to participation in shared-equity funding of construction of apartment buildings, and 95 % of citizens' claims for preservation of residential premises in a redesigned or rebuilt form.

The balance of private and public interests is ensured in cases regarding demolition of houses erected in pipeline protection zones and within the minimum distance

from main or industrial pipelines.

On 23 June last year, the Presidium of the Supreme Court approved a Case Law Review in this category of cases, indicating that a structure cannot be recognized as unauthorized if there was no public access to information about the zone with special conditions of use of the territory and about the boundaries of the zone.

In 2021, the courts considered 190,000 disputes related to land use, granting 92 % of claims for recognition of ownership of garden plots and real estate and 68 % of claims for removal of obstacles to the use of land plots.

Commercial courts considered 1,633,000 economic disputes – 129,000 or 9 % more than in 2020.

On 23 December last year, the Supreme Court adopted a Ruling “On Application of the Commercial Procedure Code of the Russian Federation in Consideration of Cases in a Court of First Instance”, containing 48 legal standings, including the right of the court to draw a state prosecutor to participation in the case, so that he/she can provide a conclusion, and to reject the acknowledgment of the claim by the defendant if there are reasons to believe that the case participants are in fact intending to commit an illegal financial transaction.

The majority of economic disputes considered by the courts are cases of non-fulfilment or improper fulfilment of contractual obligations – these constitute 926,000 or 57 % of the total number of cases considered by commercial courts.

The institute of leasing contributes to the renewal of fixed assets, especially in the transport sector, and last year commercial courts considered more than 5,000 disputes related to the fulfilment of leasing obligations.

On 27 October last year, the Presidium of the Supreme Court approved a Case Law Review in this category of cases, recommending it to the courts to refuse forfeiture of the leased item in case of a minor breach of contract, if it may lead to significant property losses for the lessee.

This legal standing ensures stability and long duration of leasing relations.

Commercial courts considered more than 293,000 disputes in the sphere of electricity supply, in which 85 % of the claims were granted.

Difficulties arose in judicial practice when considering cases on payment for unaccounted energy consumption, and on 22 December last year the Presidium of the Supreme Court approved a Case Law Review of this category of cases.

The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation clarified that the difference between the value of the amount of unaccounted consumption calculated according to the established formula and the value of the amount of actual energy consumption proved by the subscriber is the subscriber's liability for violation of the rules of energy use, the amount of which can be reduced by the court in accordance with the rules of reduction of forfeits.

Judicial protection of the rights and lawful interests of foreign investors is provided in commercial proceedings.

The number of disputes with their participation amounted to 13,800 cases – 3,100 cases or 29 % more than in 2020, and the share of disputes won by them was 90 %.

For the purpose of the fullest implementation of the principle of freedom of contract, the courts take into account that as regards issues that are not resolved in international conventions, the applicable law is determined upon agreement of the parties.

Commercial courts considered 189,300 bankruptcy cases – 87,100 cases or 85 % more than in 2020, and 1,444,000 separate disputes regarding bankruptcy cases – 491,600 cases or 52 % more than the year before.

The number of cases regarding bankruptcy of legal persons increased by 13,000 or by 53 %.

The fulfilment of obligations in the bankruptcy procedure is ensured, inter alia, by holding the head of an organisation vicariously liable for the debts of the corresponding organisation.

When resolving whether there are grounds to apply this procedure, the court must

ascertain whether the head had a plan for overcoming the crisis, whether he/she followed this plan, and at what moment he/she must have become aware that the implementation of the plan would not restore the debtor's solvency.

Despite the introduction of out-of-court bankruptcy procedure for citizens with debts ranging from RUB 50,000 to RUB 500,000 starting from 1 September 2020, the number of personal bankruptcy cases has almost doubled – from 74,600 in 2020 to 146,000 in 2021.

In order to further simplify and accelerate the procedure for release of citizens from the debt burden, we propose to increase the amount of debt for out-of-court bankruptcy to RUB 1,500,000.

In case of bankruptcy of citizens, the courts ensure the observance of their rights in the social sphere. This is why the courts do not include the retirement benefit paid to the debtor citizen during the sale of her/his property into the bankruptcy estate.

Taking into account that a significant share of claims in the bankruptcy procedure is indisputable and does not require court consideration, it is proposed to empower insolvency officers to establish creditors' claims against the debtor and to consider whether they are reasonable, as well as to create an electronic system for registering creditors' claims.

Herewith, the creditor should have the right to apply to court with a statement of disagreement between the creditor and the insolvency officer.

The Supreme Court continues its work to ensure the uniform application of legislation by courts of general jurisdiction and commercial courts.

On 22 June last year, Ruling of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court “On Certain Issues of Pre-trial Settlement of Disputes Considered in Civil and Commercial Proceedings” was adopted.

Taking into account the development of electronic means of communication, the Ruling states that sending a pre-trial petition by e-mail, social networks and via messenger software is admissible, if such a manner is established by a normative

legal act or contract, or if this method of communication constitutes a normal established business practice between the parties.

In addition, in connection with issues arising in the practice of courts of general and commercial jurisdictions, a Plenary Ruling on the use of pledge will be adopted this year.

Mediation and court conciliation have not gained popularity: last year, only 700 civil cases and 1 economic dispute were settled using these procedures.

Considering that 19 % of economic disputes related to the conclusion of contracts and 16 % of cases on protection of intellectual property rights were terminated by commercial courts due to conclusion of a settlement agreement or renunciation of the claim, the possibility of mandatory application of court conciliation or mediation procedures in these categories of cases should be discussed.

Courts of general jurisdiction considered 4,526,000 cases in administrative proceedings.

72 % of claims on challenge of normative legal acts and 32 % of claims on challenge of decisions, actions and failure to act of public authorities and officials were granted.

In administrative proceedings, the protection of social rights of citizens is ensured: 60 % of claims in the housing sector, 44 % of claims in the healthcare sphere, 67 % of social security claims, and 90 % of the claims in the sphere of education were granted.

The proper condition of the road infrastructure is an important premise of social well-being, and if the owner of a road fails to fulfil its obligations to repair and maintain it, citizens have the right to demand recognition of such failure to act as illegal in the course of administrative proceedings.

At the same time, the administrative defendant is obliged to prove the proper and complete fulfilment of its obligations regarding the maintenance of the road.

The number of cases on challenge of decisions, actions and failure to act of bailiffs

almost doubled – from 111,000 cases in 2020 to 214,000 in 2021.

Taking into account the recommendations of the Russian Supreme Court, when ordering recovery from the funds of a disability insurance pension that is the only source of income for the debtor, the necessary conditions for normal existence must be ensured for that citizen.

Last year, 4,300 compensation applications for violation of the right to trial within a reasonable time and the right to execution of a judicial act within a reasonable time were considered, of which 1,000 cases or 23 % were cases of violation of reasonable time of proceedings, and 3,300 cases or 77 % were cases of violation of reasonable time limits for the execution of judicial acts.

86 % of compensation applications were granted.

In order to exercise the right to compensation to the fullest extent, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation clarified that the total duration of legal proceedings or of the execution of a judicial act is established based on the day on which the decision to award compensation is made, and not on the day the relevant application was filed with the court.

Commercial courts considered 236,500 disputes arising from administrative and other public legal relations, in which 40 % of claims in the tax sphere, 55 % of claims in the customs sphere and 32 % of claims in the sphere of antimonopoly regulation were granted.

On 4 March last year, Ruling of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation “On Certain Issues Arising due to Court Application of Antimonopoly Legislation” was adopted.

A meaningful approach to court consideration of this category of cases is facilitated by the legal standing that the list of forms of unfair competition provided in the law is not exhaustive, and the courts need to take into account the general signs of unfair competition, as defined by the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and by national legislation.

Taking into account the positive results of introduction of a mandatory pre-trial procedure for the settlement of disputes in cases of challenge of decisions, actions and failure to act of tax authorities, it is proposed to extend this procedure to disputes involving customs authorities, antimonopoly authorities and state non-budgetary funds.

Minimization of court expenses and reduction of time limits for consideration of cases are promoted by the institutes of court order proceedings and simplified proceedings. Last year, 84 % of civil cases, 84 % of administrative cases and 17 % of economic disputes were considered by in court order proceedings, and less than 1 % of civil cases, less than 1 % of administrative cases, and 33 % of economic disputes were considered in simplified proceedings.

This year, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation plans to elaborate a draft federal law to increase the amount of claims subject to recovery in court order and simplified proceedings; amendments will also be made to the current Plenary Rulings on court order and simplified proceedings.

The number of cases on administrative offenses considered by courts of general jurisdiction increased by 1,336,000 cases or by 18 % – from 7,544,000 cases in 2020 to 8,880,000 cases in 2021.

The commercial courts considered 97,300 cases of this category – 13,600 cases or 16 % more than the year before.

Administrative punishments were imposed on 7,384,000 persons. Herewith, administrative punishments in the form of a fine were imposed on 4,720,000 persons or 64 % for a total amount of RUB 56.8 billion, and only RUB 9.2 billion or 16 % were recovered.

As before, the principle of inevitability of punishment is not fully implemented in this category of cases, which is one of the reasons why new administrative offenses, and sometimes crimes, are perpetrated.

115,000 persons were held administratively liable for failure to pay funds for the

maintenance of children or disabled parents without valid reasons – 22,400 persons or 24 % more than in 2020.

On 27 April last year, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation adopted a ruling on the practice of court consideration of this category of cases, according to which circumstances beyond the debtor's control, including disability, non-payment of wages, delay or incorrect transfer of the accrued amounts by the bank, can be recognized as valid reasons for non-payment of alimony.

The administrative and legal protection of citizens' labour rights is of great social importance. Therefore, on 23 December last year, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court adopted a corresponding ruling, in which it drew the attention of the courts to the need to ascertain the circumstances confirming the existence of actual labour relations in a remote form, which has now become widespread due to the pandemic.

The Russian Federation continues to implement systemic measures aimed at humanizing criminal legislation and law enforcement practice.

The number of persons held in institutions of the penitentiary system decreased from 1,060,000 persons as of 1 January 1999 to 466,000 persons as of 1 January 2022, i.e. more than twice; over the past year, their number has decreased by 16,936 persons.

In 2021, the courts of the Russian Federation considered 769,000 criminal cases against 783,000 persons, 601,000 persons or 77 % were convicted, criminal prosecution against 174,000 persons or 22 % of the accused was terminated by the court. Compulsory medical measures were applied to 8,000 persons or 1 %.

Over the past 10 years, the total number of convicted persons has decreased by 181,000 persons or by 23 % (from 782,000 persons in 2011 to 601,000 persons in 2021).

304,700 criminal cases against 321,000 persons were considered in a special

manner of judicial proceedings. Even within the framework of these proceedings, which, in accordance with the law, do not provide for examination of evidence, the courts terminated criminal cases against 60,000 persons or 19 % of the accused.

Taking into account the recommendations of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, when considering the motion of an accused for the application of a special manner of judicial proceedings, the courts ascertain whether the accused understands the essence of the accusation and completely agrees with it, and whether the motion was filed voluntarily and after consulting with the defence lawyer.

In the general manner of judicial proceedings, the courts terminated criminal prosecution against 112,200 persons or 24 % of the accused.

In cassation and appeal, sentences of conviction against 11,000 persons were struck down, and against 19,000 persons – changed by commutation of punishment.

The Supreme Court of Russia pays special attention to the issues of social adaptation of persons with a criminal record.

In 2021, 5,200 motions for removal of criminal records were considered, 64 % of motions were granted.

This year, it is planned to adopt Ruling of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court “On the Practice of Court Application of Criminal Law Norms on the Manner of Calculating, Cancelling and Removing Criminal Records”.

The number of motions submitted to the courts by investigative bodies for the termination of criminal cases with the imposition of a court fine decreased twofold, therefore the number of persons whose criminal prosecution was terminated on these grounds decreased from 57,000 in 2020 to 36,600 in 2021; of these, 18,900 cases or 52 % were terminated on the initiative of the court.

The Supreme Court monitors the court application of legal provisions on circumstances excluding the criminal nature of an act, in particular where harm is

inflicted in the state of necessary defence.

In 2019, the Supreme Court analyzed the judicial practice of application of provisions of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation on the limits of necessary defence, and the Presidium of the Supreme Court approved the corresponding case law review.

In 2021, criminal cases against 1,092 persons were considered for crimes related to exceeding the limits of necessary defence, of which 694 persons or 64 % were convicted, and in respect of 398 persons – 36 % – criminal prosecution was terminated by the court.

This year, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation will again examine the issues related to application of provisions of the Criminal Code regarding necessary defence.

In order to improve the legal protection of victims, on 6 April last year, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court submitted to the State Duma a draft federal law providing for the attribution of criminal cases of battery, intentional infliction of minor harm to health and slander to cases of private-public prosecution, for which an inquiry procedure will need to be conducted.

The implementation of this legislative initiative will allow the victims to be relieved of the burden of collecting evidence and supporting the prosecution in court.

Draft federal law “On Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation due to Introduction of the Concept of Misdemeanour” remains relevant, the adoption of this law will eliminate the negative social consequences of having a criminal record for citizens who have for the first time committed a crime that does not pose a great public danger.

In order to retribute damages resulting from crimes, the courts of the Russian Federation considered 88,600 civil suits in criminal proceedings last year, in which

78 % of claims were satisfied.

Adherence to the principle of legality is facilitated by the institution of resuming criminal proceedings due to new or newly discovered circumstances based on the opinion of the prosecutor, and on 14 December last year the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court adopted a ruling on the implementation of this procedure.

The attention of the courts is drawn to the fact that the newly discovered circumstances may include, among other things, the actions of persons who are not participants in the criminal proceedings, who forced a witness or victim to give deliberately false testimony.

Jury trials were held in 1,019 cases against 1,150 persons; 778 persons or 68 % of them were convicted, 372 persons or 32 % of the accused were acquitted.

Convictions against 93 persons and acquittals against 235 persons were later overturned.

This year, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court will adopt a ruling on the selection of jurors, the secrecy of the jury meeting and the grounds for overturning a sentence adopted on the basis of a jury verdict.

The main categories of crimes remain crimes against property – 39 %, against the person – 22 %, and against public safety and public order – 28 %.

Crimes against property and against the person have social causes: 68 % of those convicted of such crimes are able-bodied persons without a steady source of income, half of the convicted had previous criminal records.

682 persons were convicted of terrorist crimes and 606 persons were convicted of extremist crimes.

The increased standards of protection of constitutional rights of citizens are ensured by the clarification of the Supreme Court that actions that do not contain elements of extremism and consist only in the exercise of the right to freedom of conscience and freedom of religion, including such exercise through performance of religious rites and ceremonies, do not constitute a crime.

The number of persons convicted of crimes related to drug trafficking increased by 6,500 persons or by 9 %.

The Supreme Court pays special attention to consideration of this category of cases, and over the past 3 years, the Presidium of the Supreme Court has addressed the issues of criminal liability for these crimes in 6 Case Law Reviews.

9,600 persons were convicted of corruption-related crimes – 2,500 more than in 2020.

Taking into account the provisions of the National Anti-Corruption Plan for 2021–2024, on 29 June last year, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court adopted a ruling in which special attention was paid to criminal liability for abuse of authority in the execution of state defence contracts.

The issues of application of legislation on criminal liability for crimes against justice, for which 11,000 persons were convicted in 2021, remain relevant.

This year, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation will adopt a ruling on court consideration of criminal cases of crimes against justice and will address the issue of consideration of complaints against decrees on refusal to initiate a criminal case and the issue of termination of a criminal case based on an application about the use of illegal investigative methods.

The courts take into account the legal standing of the Russian Supreme Court that the testimony of the defendant given under the influence of illegal investigative methods cannot be accepted by the court as evidence in the case.

Last year, 28 % of convicted persons were sentenced to actual deprivation of liberty, of which 72 % of convicts had previous outstanding convictions, while 42 % had two or more outstanding convictions.

44 % of those sentenced to imprisonment committed crimes with various forms of recidivism, 30 % committed crimes under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and 18 % committed crimes as a group of persons.

28 % of convicts were conditionally sentenced to deprivation of liberty, 12 % to

finer, 16 % to compulsory labour, 8 % to corrective works.

During sentencing, mitigating circumstances were taken into account in relation to 87 % of convicted persons.

The category of the crime was changed by the court to a less serious one in regard of 6,800 persons – 2,400 persons or 55 % more than in 2020.

At the same time, the courts take into account that the legislator does not consider the opinion of the victim regarding the imposition of a severe punishment on the defendant as an aggravating circumstance.

The courts granted 54 % of motions for conditional early release from serving a sentence, 46 % of motions for replacement of an unserved term of imprisonment with a milder type of punishment, 63 % of motions for suspension of sentence due to illness of the convicted person, and 46 % of motions for release from punishment due to illness of the convicted person.

Release from punishment due to illness of the convicted person cannot be refused on the grounds that he/she has negative characteristics from the administration of the correctional institution or had no commendations while serving the sentence, or does not have a permanent place of residence or social ties.

A pre-trial restriction measure in the form of pre-trial custody was chosen in respect of 87,000 persons, of whom 76 % were accused of committing serious and particularly serious crimes, 53 % had previous convictions.

At the same time, the Supreme Court proceeds from the fact that the severity of the charge cannot be the only and sufficient reason to justify pre-trial custody for the accused.

Since 2001, when the restriction measure in the form of pre-trial custody was chosen by prosecutors, the number of persons to whom it was applied has decreased more than 4 times – from 366,000 persons in 2001 to 87,000 persons last year, and by 49,000 persons or 36 % over the past 10 years.

The result of humanization of criminal law and law enforcement practice is also a

reduction in the number of convicted underage persons: over the past 10 years, their number has been more than halved – from 39,000 in 2011 to 15,000 in 2021.

Over the past year, this number has also decreased by 300 persons.

The courts have terminated criminal cases against 9,000 or 37 % of underage persons.

The number of underage sentenced to actual deprivation of liberty is 2,500 persons or 17 %, while 74 % of them were convicted of serious and particularly serious crimes, 57 % committed crimes in a group, and 51 % had previous convictions.

As of 1 January this year, 842 underage persons were serving sentences in educational colonies – this is less than in 2020.

The courts granted 640 motions for selection of pre-trial custody as a pre-trial restriction measure for underage persons, which is 111 or 15 % less than in 2020.

Over the past 10 years, the number of underage for whom this measure was chosen has decreased more than 4 times (from 2,653 persons in 2011 to 640 persons in 2021).

The Supreme Court pays close attention to consideration of criminal cases on crimes committed in the sphere of entrepreneurial and other economic activities.

Last year, 5,500 cases of this category were considered against 6,000 persons, 4,000 persons were convicted – this is 67 %, and criminal cases against 2,000 persons or 33 % were terminated by the court.

360 persons or 9 % of convicted persons were sentenced to actual deprivation of liberty.

In this category of cases, 139 motions for the selection of pre-trial custody were considered, 90 motions (65 %) were granted and 49 motions (35 %) were rejected.

Military courts considered 5,900 criminal cases against 6,300 persons, convicting 4,800 persons (76 %); criminal prosecution was terminated by the courts in respect of 1,500 persons or 24 %.

Military courts also considered 19,000 civil cases and 7,300 administrative cases.

In administrative proceedings, 65 % of claims aimed at providing the prescribed types of allowances and 53 % of claims for protection of housing rights of military personnel were granted.

The judicial system pays close attention to court compliance with the requirements of the legislation and of the Code of Judicial Ethics.

187 judges were held disciplinarily liable, of which 24 judges were removed from office.

Despite the pandemic, international cooperation in the judicial sphere was actively carried out in 2021.

The Supreme Court of Russia took part in 17 international Forums, meetings, conferences and webinars, including the 11<sup>th</sup> International Legal Forum of the Asia-Pacific organized by the Court.

On 7 December last year, the Supreme Court hosted a seminar on the practice of court consideration of environmental protection cases. Its online broadcast was joined by all the courts of the Russian Federation and interested Internet users.

During the seminar, a communication session with the International Space Station was established, and cosmonaut Anton N. Shkaplerov, Hero of the Russian Federation, took part in the event, informing the judges about the prospects of using the results of space research in judicial practice.

Contributions were made by Mikhail B. Lobov, elected judge of the European Court of Human Rights in respect of the Russian Federation, and by judges of all the Judicial Chambers of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

This year, based on the results of the seminar, a Case Law Review on court application of environmental protection legislation and a Ruling of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court will be prepared.

The Supreme Court has created and forwarded to the courts 8 thematic compilations and 11 reviews of the current practice of international organizations

in the sphere of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In execution of ECHR judgments, I have presented 204 submissions to the Presidium of the Supreme Court in respect of 218 persons, court decisions regarding 178 criminal cases and materials have been cancelled.

Violations of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms were identified in 219 judgments of the European Court regarding 741 complaints against the Russian Federation; violations of the right to a fair trial were identified in 202 complaints.

Let me remind you that the total number of cases considered by the courts of the Russian Federation in 2021 is more than 39,000,000.

The European Court of Human Rights did not issue a single judgment against the Russian Federation citing violation of reasonable time limits for trial.

The concept of improving the court structure, the court proceedings and the legal status of judges, currently being implemented in the Russian Federation, definitely contributes to the rule of law, the legal protection of citizens and businesses and the broader access to justice.