



Strasbourg, 1 December 2009

CCJE(2009)5

Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE)
Report of the 10th plenary meeting (Ljubljana/Brdo (Slovenia), 18-20 November 2009)

A. FOREWORD

- 1. The Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) met in Brdo (Slovenia) at the invitation of the Slovenian Minister of Justice from 18 to 20 November 2009 with Ms Julia LAFFRANQUE (Estonia) in the Chair.
- 2. The CCJE thanked the Slovenian authorities, especially Mr Ales ZALAR, Minister of Justice, for the excellent reception given to it and the quality of the meeting arrangements. Part of the proceedings were held in conjunction with the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE).
- 3. The agenda and the list of participants are appended.

B. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CCJE

The CCJE:

- 4. **adopted**, in conjunction with the CCPE, Opinion No. 12 (2009) entitled "Judges and prosecutors in a democratic society" containing a declaration known as the Bordeaux Declaration and an Explanatory Note, subject to purely stylistic amendment, to be forwarded to the Secretariat by 27 November 2009, the latter being responsible for the preparation of the finalised version;
- 5. **decided** to submit it to the Committee of Ministers so that it might take the requisite measures, in particular transmission to the appropriate agencies in the member states and possibly having it translated into the appropriate languages;
- 6. **invited** the Committee of Ministers to transmit the Opinion particularly to the CEPEJ, the CDCJ, the CDPC and the CDDH so that these bodies might take account of it in their own work;
- 7. **welcomed** the close, productive co-operation with the CCPE in the context of preparing the Opinion;
- 8. **invited its members** to send the Secretariat written information on recent developments in their countries regarding judges, to be included in the "country profile" section of its website;
- 9. **adopted** the CCJE's draft terms of reference for 2010 and 2011, bearing in mind the measures concerning the CCJE contained in the pilot survey on steering committees and intergovernmental ad hoc committees (Document GR-REF.INST (2009)1);
- 10. decided to include in the draft terms of reference, besides the preparation of an Opinion in 2010 on the role of judges in the enforcement of judicial decisions in their relations with the other state functions and other players, and an Opinion in 2011 on the non-materialisation of the judicial process, the drafting of a single document entitled "Magna Carta of European judges" encapsulating, updating and codifying the principal conclusions of the Opinions already adopted by the CCJE in order to improve the visibility of its work;
- 11. expressed the wish to see its role reinforced with regard to practical assistance, in response to the continually increasing demand of member states for CCJE member to help states meet Council of Europe standards concerning judges;

- 12. agreed to submit the draft terms of reference to the Committee of Ministers for adoption;
- 13. elected Mr Orlando AFONSO (Portugal) Chair and Mr Gerhard REISSNER (Austria) Vice-Chair of the CCJE for 2010; elected Mr Paul MAFFEI (Belgium) member of the Bureau for a term of two years, it being understood that he would hold his seat alongside Mr Raffaele SABATO (Italy), elected for two years in 2008;
- 14. congratulated and thanked Ms Julia LAFFRANQUE (Estonia) for the excellent quality of the work done during her term of office, and agreed that the new Bureau would not take office until 31 January 2010 in order to enable the former Chair to present the work of the CCJE for the year 2009 to the Committee of Ministers on 20 January 2010;
- 15. appointed, subject to adoption of the draft terms of reference by the Committee of Ministers, Ms Aneta ARNAUDOVSKA ("former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), Ms Nina BETTETO (Slovenia), Mr José Francisco COBO SÀENZ (Spain), Mr Niels ENGSTAD (Norway), Mr Alain LACABARATS (France), Ms Julia LAFFRANQUE (Estonia), Mr Otto MALLMANN (Germany), Mr Duro SESSA (Croatia) and Mr VALANCIUS (Lithuania) as members and Mr Perikli ZAHARIA (Albania) and Mr Jean-Claude WIWINIUS (Luxembourg) as substitutes in the select working party responsible for preparing the draft Opinion on the role of judges in the enforcement of judicial decisions (CCJE-GT) for submission to the 11th plenary meeting of the CCJE;
- 16. welcomed the invitation extended by Ms Aneta ARNAUDOVSKA to organise a meeting of the CCJE-GT in 2009 in Skopje ("former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") during this country's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, and the invitation extended by Mr Bart VAN LIEROP (Netherlands) to organise, also in 2009, a meeting of the CCJE-GT in The Hague; took note of the Secretariat's remarks concerning the need for prior approval by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for holding these meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg or Paris;
- 17. **agreed** that the draft Opinions to be prepared in 2010 could be preceded by a brief questionnaire the replies to which would usefully supplement the material existing in the Council of Europe on enforcement of judicial decisions, particularly that arising from the work of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ); **instructed the Secretariat** to prepare, in co-operation with the Bureau, the relevant questionnaire and send it to all members of the CCJE by 31 January 2010 in order to receive the replies by 1 March 2010; **instructed the Secretariat**, in the light of the replies, to consider the expediency of entrusting to an expert the processing of the replies in a preparatory report;
- 18. **appointed**, subject to the adoption of the draft terms of reference by the Committee of Ministers, Mr Orlando AFONSO (Portugal), Mr Alain LACABARATS (France), Ms Julia LAFFRANQUE (Estonia), Lord MANCE (United Kingdom) and Mr Raffaele SABATO (Italy) as members of the select working party responsible for preparing a "Magna Carta of European judges" (CCJE-MC);
- 19. **recalled** that the other members of the CCJE could at all events attend the select meetings at their own expense;
- 20. instructed its Bureau to set up for each year, on the basis of a list of willing CCJE members, a select working party responsible for dealing with requests for practical assistance (CCJE-TF); instructed the Secretariat, subject to budgetary capabilities, to consider in this context and according to needs the possibility of arranging at least two visits to the states concerned in order to deal as adequately as possible with requests for practical assistance;
- 21. **adopted** the document prepared by the Bureau on CCJE working methods (document CCJE(2009)3) and invited all its members and observers to comply scrupulously with the measures set out therein so as to improve the efficiency of the CCJE which had only one annual plenary meeting to carry out its terms of reference;
- 22. owing to lack of time at the plenary meeting, **asked** the members of the CCJE in respect of the states concerned by the CCJE's practical assistance activities (Italy, Romania, Serbia and Poland) to send the Secretariat, in writing, an information paper on the position and the follow-up given in these states to the CCJE's responses;
- 23. **took note** of the report presented by MEDEL on 29 October 2009 on events concerning relations between judges and the media in Italy, together with the Resolution passed as a result by the Italian Judicial Service Commission on 21 October 2009, and the substance of the letter sent to it on 5

November 2009 by the President of the Italian Republic; **instructed the CCJE Bureau** to prepare, initially, a reply with the signature of the Chair of the CCJE reiterating the principles embodied in the Opinions of the CCJE concerning the independence of judges and relations between judges and the media, and offering MEDEL in case of need the CCJE's assistance in order to ensure the proper application of the principles in question;

- 24. **took note** of the information on the work of revising Recommendation Rec(94)12 on the independence, effectiveness and role of judges, **welcomed** the work already carried out, **regretted** having been unable to attend all meetings for budgetary reasons, **conveyed to the CDCJ its ongoing interest** in participating in the future work to revise Recommendation Rec(94)12 **and its wish** to have the opportunity to present, with useful effect, some observations on the finalised draft; **accordingly instructed its Bureau** to prepare a document containing the observations of the CCJE, upon reception of the finalised revised draft Recommendation;
- 25. **welcomed** the "concept on training of judges and prosecutors in cybercrime and electronic evidence" approved by the Lisbon Network in September 2009;
- 26. **proposed** to hold its next plenary meeting from 17 to 19 November 2010 and the meetings of the working party (CCJE-GT) from 17 to 19 March and from 2 to 4 June 2010, on the understanding that these dates would be confirmed in due course in order to take account of the host countries' requirements should the meetings be organised away from Strasbourg;
- 27. **expressed the wish** that a budgetary solution might be found to enable the select working party responsible for preparing a "Magna Carta of European judicial systems" (CCJE-MC) to meet in 2010.

APPENDIX I

AGENDA

- 1. Opening ceremony of the meeting
- 2. Adoption of the agenda
- 3. Information by the President and the Secretariat
- 4. Draft Opinion No.12 of the CCJE for 2009
- Examination with a view the adoption of the draft Opinion No.12 on "the relations between judges and prosecutors" (Bordeaux Declaration and the Explanatory Note).
- 5. 2010-2011 working programme
- Discussion and adoption of the draft terms of reference for 2010-2011
- Preparing the 2010 Opinion (choice of theme, questionnaire, expert(s) etc.)
- 6. Working structure of the CCJE
- Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the CCJE
- Nomination of the Working Group of the CCJE for 2010
- Working methods of the CCJE
- 7. Pool of experts concerning the situation in member States concerning judges
- State of the situation concerning the pool of experts
- Member States concerned:
- 8. Communication strategy of the CCJE and visibility of its work
- 9. Calendar of future meetings of the CCJE and the CCJE-GT in 2010
- 10. Any other business Information items
- Justice Forum
- « Justice in the World » Foundation

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(Apologised/ Excusé)

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