



12 May 2025

CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2025)3

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE
(CEPEJ)**

Working Group on Quality of Justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL)

38th meeting – 27-28 March 2025
Strasbourg, Agora Building, Room 6

Hybrid meeting

MEETING REPORT

1. Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Quality of Justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL) of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) held its 38th meeting in Strasbourg, on 27 and 28 March 2025. The meeting was opened and chaired by João ARSENIO DE OLIVEIRA (Portugal). The agenda and list of participants are attached to this report as Annexes I and II respectively.

2. Quality of the jurisdictional debate

2. Wim DAVID (Belgium) presented the revised draft Guidelines on the quality of the jurisdictional debate (document CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2025)1rev1), as well as the comments received from the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE).
3. Members of the Working group noted that the principles to reduce the length of written pleadings is not contrary to the practice in international and some national courts. However, they noted that the imbalance between the part on written pleadings and the rest of the text should be tackled.
4. CEPEJ-GT-QUAL members discussed and approved the revisions proposed by the expert in reply to the comments of CCBE which argued that strict restrictions of the length of written pleadings could hamper the effectiveness of the defence and undermine the quality of legal arguments and that, therefore, it should be considered to allow for derogations

when justified by the complexity of the case (particularly in cases involving complex areas of law, such as fundamental rights).

5. In addition, they decided that the title of the Guidelines should clearly refer to civil and administrative matters. The members tasked the expert to revise the draft for 7 April 2025 so it can be shared with CCBE for final comments with a two-week deadline.

3. Access to justice

6. Vivien WHYTE (France) and Helen BURROWS (United Kingdom) presented the draft structure of the Checklist for promoting access to justice (document CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2025)2rev1).
7. CEPEJ-GT-QUAL members discussed the document and concluded that the text is well structured and presents a good basis, noting however that the document should clearly indicate that it is conceived as a self-assessment tool, that the document should not go beyond the scope of the access to justice (enforcement of judicial decisions might not be included in the document) and that it would be beneficial to include more good practices.
8. The members decided all their comments and proposals for revisions should be provided to the Secretariat in written by 11 April 2025 and to follow up during an online meeting on the revisions made by the experts.

4. Revision of the satisfaction surveys methodology

9. Vincent DELBOS (France) presented the draft conclusions and recommendations for the revision of the satisfaction surveys methodology (document CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2025)4) prepared in cooperation with Annie KENSEY (France). His intervention was complemented by the example of good practices from Albania where an online application was developed, presented by Laurela MUCA (CEPEJ local project officer in Tirana).
10. CEPEJ-GT-QUAL members endorsed the proposed approach of updating the Handbook on conducting satisfaction surveys in courts and notably its questionnaire. While the conclusions of the study show that the questionnaire remains valid, it could however be considered to distinguish between essential and optional elements depending on populations concerned by the survey or on type of disputes.
11. It was also agreed to launch the development of an online tool, based on the Handbook, that would allow for simplified means of administering and carrying out surveys; therefore making it possible to conduct satisfaction surveys more regularly and to collect a large quantity of easily exploitable data.

5. Mediation

12. Maria OLIVEIRA (Portugal) presented the Concept note on the place of children in civil and familial mediation (document CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2025)5).
13. CEPEJ-GT-QUAL members approved the Concept note, and tasked Maria OLIVEIRA to develop in cooperation with another expert specifically using Child Inclusive Mediation (CIM) a Guide which shall include a definition of CIM, examples of good practices as well

as recommendations on measures to be taken at national level to promote CIM. The importance of including the digital aspect and use of AI in the procedures was also noted.

14. Furthermore, the members proposed to revise the CEPEJ Glossary to include the definition of CIM.
15. Jens MOLDENHAUER (CNUE) informed the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL members that this topic will be put on the agenda of CNUE's next meeting to be held in May 2025 so to obtain members' feedback. He also offered to provide names of relevant practitioners who could support the development of the document.
16. Maria OLIVEIRA (Portugal) also presented the Practical handbook for mediators which was developed under the cooperation project in Azerbaijan and could be used as basis for developing a more general Handbook for member States.
17. CEPEJ-GT-QUAL members decided that there is no need to develop such a tool at this stage, however they suggested to publish the Practical handbook on CEPEJ website for dissemination purposes.

6. Piloting of the Assessment Tool for the operationalisation of the European Ethical Charter on the use of artificial intelligence in judicial Systems and their environment

18. This point was discussed during the joint meeting of CEPEJ-GT-QUAL with CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST opened by the CEPEJ President, Francesco DEPASQUALE (Malta).
19. Matthieu QUINIOU (France), scientific expert and member of the CEPEJ's Artificial Intelligence Advisory Board (AIAB), presented the Report on piloting phase and proposals for improvements of the assessment tool (document CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2025)6). The piloting was conducted for the Anonymisation tool "Open data of judicial decisions" (France), the Speech-to-text "textualization" (Spain), GIADA2 - the automatic criminal trials assignment tool (Italy) and Salme - solution for audio recording, typing transcripts, and generating session minutes (Estonia). The report proposes to make two revisions in questions 10 and 21 of the Assessment tool¹ and concludes that the Tool could be used at different stages of development of AI systems and for different levels of risk. Members of both groups were also informed that AIAB recommended to improve the user experience and make it available in an online dynamic form.
20. Both groups discussed the findings and conclusions of the report. They noted that if the opportunity arises, it would be beneficial if the assessment tool could be tested with each of the categories of judicial AI, especially AI systems in the highest-risk areas such as decision support, litigation outcome prediction or automated dispute resolution. It was also suggested to invite systems registered in the CEPEJ Resource Centre on AI and Cyberjustice to reply to the Assessment tool and propose the publication of the filled-in

¹ Question 10: "Is the AI system likely to provide an advantage (e.g. ~~real-time~~ data processing during witness interviews) to its user(s) in legal proceedings?"

Question 21: Is the source code auditable (*technically auditable, no secrets limiting auditability, etc.*)? ~~Is a trade secret likely to hinder the auditability of the AI system?~~

questionnaire on the CEPEJ website, stating very clearly that this does not constitute a labellisation of the tool by CEPEJ.

21. CEPEJ-GT-QUAL members approved changes to questions 10 and 21 of the Tool. The CEPEJ Plenary will be informed during its next meeting (4-5 June 2025).

7. Translation and interpretation in judicial proceedings

22. This point was also discussed during the joint meeting of CEPEJ-GT-QUAL with CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST.
23. John LAGSTRÖM (Sweden) presented the interpreting tool “Digital interpreter” being developed by the Swedish court administration which is a platform providing automatized language services. The tool allows for real time transcription during court hearings including text analysis by AI, as well as automatized translation of transcripts, and speech synthesis. The next steps will include interpretation during hearings. Prof. Mira KADRIĆ (Austria) presented the main principles of interpreting in legal settings (accuracy and impartiality of interpretation to ensure fair communication) and the importance of ensuring quality (for example through qualification and certification of court interpreters).
24. CEPEJ-GT-QUAL decided to focus the work on interpreting, and not translating, when developing Guidelines on interpretation in judicial proceedings and its impact on the quality of judicial services. They noted the importance of keeping the balance between the digital developments and the human factor. The guidelines will include a chapter more specifically devoted to developments relating to the use of IT and/or artificial intelligence mechanisms in judicial systems.
25. Additionally, the possibility of developing a European register of court interpreters was discussed, in order to solve in the framework of remote hearings the difficulties encountered in many European countries to find an interpreter for court proceedings especially for less widely used languages.

8. Joint work with other CEPEJ working groups: improving Work-life balance in the judiciary

26. The Secretariat presented the terms of reference of the new *ad hoc* working group on work-life balance in the judiciary (CEPEJ-GT-WLB) established to collect information on practices to ensure the balance between professional and personal sphere and develop a tool on this issue, that would be specifically designed and tailored to meet the needs of the judiciary. Stergios KOFINIS (Greece) represents the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL in this *ad hoc* working group. The members of the Group were also informed about the results of the first meeting held on 3rd April in Paris and the subsequent work (development and sharing with the CEPEJ networks of a questionnaire to collect information and good practices).

9. Any other business

27. CEPEJ-GT-QUAL members conducted a brainstorming on possible topics to be included under the next CEPEJ-GT-QUAL mandate 2026-2027 and agreed to provide their

proposals in written format to the Secretariat before 11 of April. Suggested topics included: specialisation of jurisdictions; the relations between lawyers and judges; ideal court; digitalisation of justice and quality of justice (that could in particular tackle the issue of digital divide and judgecraft in a digital age); court fees; the publicity of judicial proceedings; etc.

28. The next meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL would take place on 20-22 October 2025 in Valletta, Malta. Further discussion on future topics of work would be conducted during this meeting.

Appendix 1
DRAFT AGENDA

1.	Opening of the meeting Adoption of the agenda
2.	Quality of the jurisdictional debate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on the draft guidelines on the quality of the jurisdictional debate <i>Expert in charge: Wim David (Belgium)</i>
3.	Access to justice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on the draft structure of the checklist for promoting access to justice <i>Experts in charge: Vivien Whyte (France) and Helen Burrows (United Kingdom)</i>
4.	Revision of the satisfaction surveys methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on the draft conclusions and proposed recommendations for revision of the satisfaction surveys methodology <i>Expert in charge: Vincent Delbos (France)</i>
5.	Mediation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The place of children in civil and familial mediation• Practical handbook for mediators <i>Scientific expert in charge: Maria Da Conceição Oliveira (Portugal)</i>
6.	Joint work with other CEPEJ working groups on Improving Work-life balance in the judiciary <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Point of information
7.	Brainstorming in preparation of the next CEPEJ-GT-QUAL mandate and preparation of the joint working group meeting in Malta (20-22 October 2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion
8.	Any other business Joint meeting with CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Piloting of the Assessment Tool for the operationalisation of the European Ethical Charter on the use of artificial intelligence in judicial Systems and their environment<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion on piloting phase and proposals for improvements of the assessment tool <i>Expert in charge: Matthieu Quiniou (France)</i>

- **Translation and interpretation in judicial proceedings**

Presentation and discussion with John Lagström, IT Strategist, IT Department, IT Coordination Unit, National Courts Administration (Sweden) and Prof. Mira Kadrić, professor for Interpreting Studies and Didactics of Translation, Centre for Translation Studies, University of Vienna (Austria)

- **Discussion on future common work**

Appendix 2 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

Gilles ACCOMANDO, Magistrat, directeur de l'Ecole de formation du barreau de la cour d'appel de Paris, FRANCE

Joao ARSENIO DE OLIVEIRA, Head of Department, International Affairs Department, Directorate-General for Justice Policy - Ministry of Justice, Lisbon, PORTUGAL

Wim DAVID, Juge à la Cour d'appel, Bruxelles, BELGIQUE

Merethe ECKHARDT, Director of Development, The Danish Court Administration, Centre for Law, Training and Communication, Copenhagen, DENMARK

Stergios KOFINIS, Administrative Judge at First Instance Administrative Court of Thessaloniki, GREECE

Cristina LORENZO PEREZ, Advisor on Digital Transformation Affairs of Administration of Justice Ministry of Justice, Madrid, SPAIN

PRESIDENT OF THE CEPEJ / PRESIDENT DE LA CEPEJ

Francesco DEPASQUALE, The Honourable Mr Justice, Superior Courts, Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, Valetta, MALTA

SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS / EXPERTS SCIENTIFIQUES

Helen BURROW, Lawyer and Justice Reform Practitioner, UNITED-KINGDOM

Mira KADRIC -SCHEIBER, Department for Translation Studies, University of Vienna, AUSTRIA

Maria OLIVEIRA, Lawyer and mediator, PORTUGAL

Matthieu QUINIOU, Maître de conférences (Université Paris 8 Lab Paragraphe), avocat, Paris, France,

Vivien WHYTE, Directeur des services de greffe judiciaires, Tribunal de Strasbourg, FRANCE

INVITED PARTICIPANTS / PARTICIPANTS INVITES

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Livia MITROFAN, Member of the Superior Council of Magistracy, Chisinau, MOLDOVA

OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS

THE COUNCIL OF BARS AND LAW SOCIETIES OF EUROPE (CCBE)/ LE CONSEIL DES BARREAUX EUROPEENS (CCBE)

Stéphanie Alves Schuldt, Senior Legal Advisor, Conseiller juridique senior, Brussels BELGIUM

COUNCIL OF THE NOTARIAT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CNUE) / CONSEIL DES NOTARIATS DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE (CNUE)

Jens MOLDENHAUER, Attorney and Notary, Vice President of the Notary Chamber, Kassel, GERMANY

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BAILIFFS / UNION INTERNATIONALE DES HUISSIERS DE JUSTICE ET OFFICIERS JUDICIAIRES (UIHJ)

Mathieu CHARDON, retired Officier judiciaire, France

SECRETARIAT

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