

Strasbourg, 23 June 2021

CEPEJ(2021)10

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

36th plenary meeting

Strasbourg, 16 and 17 June 2021 (on-line meeting)

Abridged report

A) FOREWORD

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) of the Council of Europe held its 36th online plenary meeting on 16 and 17 June 2021. The meeting was chaired by Mr Ramin GARAGURBANLI (Azerbaijan), President of the CEPEJ.

The Director of Human Rights, Mr Christophe POIREL recalled the challenges and principal work to be examined during this meeting and introduced Mr Mikhail LOBOV, Head of the Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, within which the CEPEJ will henceforth be integrated.

The agenda and the list of participants appear as appendices.

B) LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CEPEJ

The CEPEJ:

1. Quality of justice

- **decided to postpone** the adoption of the roadmap for the establishment of a certification mechanism for artificial intelligence tools and services in the legal and judicial field to the next CEPEJ plenary meeting on 8 December and **instructs** the CEPEJ Bureau and its Working Group on Quality of Justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL) to refine the document, in light of the discussions with the other partners working on artificial intelligence, and in particular the European Commission concerning the proposal for a regulation on harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (COM(2021)206 final);
- **adopted** the document for a better integration of the user in the judicial systems: Guidelines and comparative studies on the centrality of the user in legal proceedings in civil matters and on the simplification and clarification of language with users¹ and **decided** to submit it to the Committee of Ministers to take note of it;
- **adopts** the mediation awareness and training programme for bailiffs² and **decided** to submit it to the Committee of Ministers to take note of it;
- **took note** of the ongoing work within the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL on (i) gender equality in the recruitment and promotion of judges, (ii) administrative mediation, and (iii) the training on CEPEJ tools in the field of quality of justice.

2. Evaluation process of European judicial systems

- **took note** of the transmitted information concerning the preparation of the next CEPEJ Evaluation Report "European judicial systems" (Edition 2022, 2020 data) and the work in progress within the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL in order to further improve the content of the report; **recalled** in particular that the Evaluation

¹ CEPEJ(2021)6.

² CEPEJ(2021)7.

Scheme³ is open in the CEPEJ-COLLECT system until 1st October 2021 for the collection of the 2020 data (2022 cycle); **reminded its members** to appoint national correspondents responsible for providing answers to the Evaluation Questionnaire, to communicate their contact details to the Secretariat as soon as possible, and to ensure that the national correspondents respect the deadlines for data collection;

- **took note** of the contributions of the professional observers to the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL (International Union of Judicial Officers⁴, European Institute of Expertise and Experts, Council of Notaries of the European Union) in the form of specific studies based on the 2018 CEPEJ data which have been published on [CEPEJ-STAT](#) or are being prepared for publishing;
- **welcomed** the continued cooperation with the European Commission, on the basis of the CEPEJ's own evaluation methodology, concerning: (i) an annual study on the functioning of the judicial systems of the Member States of the European Union; (ii) the annual evaluation of the functioning of the judicial systems in the States and entities of the Western Balkans; (iii) the launching of the annual evaluation of the functioning of the judicial systems in the countries of the "Eastern Partnership" (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine), and **entrusted the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL** with the task of continuing this cooperation which reinforces the preeminent role of the CEPEJ in the field of evaluation of justice, as well as the synergies between the European Union and the Council of Europe in this field.

3. Cyberjustice and artificial intelligence

- **took note** of the work in progress within the Working group on cyberjustice and artificial intelligence (CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST) on (i) videoconferencing in judicial proceedings, (ii) electronic filling of court documents, (iii) online dispute resolution (ODR), (iv) online enforcement procedures, and (v) the European Cyberjustice Justice Network;
- **reminded** the CEPEJ members and observers, if applicable, to appoint representatives for the European Cyberjustice Network;
- **decided to adopt, by written procedure**, the Guidelines on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings⁵ and **agreed**, subject to their adoption, to submit them to the Committee of Ministers to take note of them.

4. Judicial time management

- **adopted** the Handbook on court dashboards⁶ and **decided** to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for taking note of it;
- **took note** of the ongoing work within SATURN Working group on judicial time management (CEPEJ-SATURN) concerning guidelines on the role of lawyers, experts appointed by courts, non-judicial administrative and judicial court staff, Rechtspfleger and enforcement agents in preventing or reducing delays in court proceedings, which will enrich the existing revised SATURN guidelines on judicial time management⁷;
- **took note** of the ongoing work on (i) the training curriculum concerning CEPEJ tools related to judicial timeframes, (ii) judicial management in times of crisis and (iii) the potential tool to reduce delays in civil proceedings through their better identification.

5. Crystal Scales of Justice Prize

- **took note** that the 11th edition of the Crystal Scales of Justice Prize, which was launched in January 2021 and for which 23 competing entries were received from 15 countries; **thanked the Slovenian authorities** for having invited the CEPEJ to hold the award ceremony of the Crystal Scales of Justice 2021 in Ljubljana on 1 October 2021, following a round table on the subject of procedural fairness, to be organised at the invitation of the Supreme Court of Slovenia;
- **welcomed** the success of the first edition of the Crystal Scales of Justice Prize - Junior Edition in collaboration with the Strasbourg Law School and **congratulated** the three winning teams to their work

³ [CEPEJ\(2020\)16rev.](#)

⁴ [CEPEJ-GT-EVAL\(2021\)7.](#)

⁵ [CEPEJ\(2021\)4.](#)

⁶ [CEPEJ\(2021\)8.](#)

⁷ [CEPEJ\(2018\)20.](#)

and their presentations during this meeting; **took note** of the launch of the 2nd edition of the Crystal Scales of Justice Prize - Junior Edition, **asked** the members to disseminate this information in their countries and **informed** them that the deadline for submitting entries is 21 November 2021.

6. "Knowledge Sharing" cooperation project

- **took note** of the information presented by Mr Stefano Piedimonte Bodini, Deputy Jurisconsult of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), concerning the "Knowledge Sharing" project consisting of a platform for internal use, gathering all the case law of the ECHR with the aim of making it available to all national judges in French and in English as well as in non-official languages of the Council of Europe, and more generally to the general public; **welcomed** the project carried out with DG1; **expressed its willingness** to contribute, in one way or another, to the implementation of this ambitious project.

7. Activity report of the CEPEJ 2020

- **decided** that the 2020 CEPEJ activity report will be adopted by written procedure⁸.

8. Participation of the CEPEJ in the cooperation programmes of the Council of Europe

- **took note** of the current cooperation programmes (Albania, Azerbaijan, Spain, Georgia, Kosovo*, Latvia, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Slovak Republic, Morocco, Tunisia and South IV Programme) which were presented by video, featuring the various responsible project managers, based in Strasbourg and in the field, on the ongoing activities and the achieved results;
- **welcomed** the progress and adaptations that were made during implementation to meet the needs of beneficiaries, particularly following the closure of courts, **and encouraged** all stakeholders to continue their efforts to carry out these programmes despite the delays caused by the COVID-19 health crisis.

9. European Day of Justice

- **invited its members** to promote initiatives for the 2021 edition of the "European Day of Justice" which will be celebrated on 25 October and to transmit to the Secretariat their programmes of events for publication on the CEPEJ website;
- **informed** its members that the posters, customizable in 23 languages, will again be available for download on the CEPEJ website from July 2021, **thanks** to the European Union.

10. Observers to the CEPEJ

- due to lack of time caused by the online format of the meeting, **invited** the observers to send relevant information on their current activities of interest to the CEPEJ Secretariat for inclusion on the CEPEJ website, **and recalled** the importance of their involvement in the implementation of the CEPEJ programme of activities.

11. Various

- **thanked** all members, members of the Working Groups, national correspondents, and experts for their constant involvement in the various activities of the CEPEJ, despite the constraints of online meetings in particular, having thus enabled the CEPEJ to accomplish its tasks almost without delay despite the COVID-19 health crisis;
- **took note** that the 37th plenary meeting of the CEPEJ should take place on 8 and 9 December 2021 in Strasbourg, and that all the meetings of the Working Groups and the Networks are indicated on the calendar appearing on the CEPEJ website.

12. Recent developments in the field of justice in the member and observer States

- **took note** of the information from the Belgian, Greek, and Turkish delegations of certain significant developments in their countries since December 2020.

⁸ [CEPEJ\(2021\)9](#).

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Appendix I: Agenda

Wednesday 16 juin 2021 (09.30 am – 01.00 pm)

1. Opening of the meeting

Christophe Poirel, Director of Human Rights

Mikhail Lobov, Head of the Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

3. Information from President and from the Secretariat

4. Quality of justice

- a. Possible establishment of a certification mechanism for artificial intelligence tools and services in the legal and judicial field (on the order of discussions: see Appendix I to this agenda)
 - *Presentation: Matthieu Quiniou (France), scientific expert, barrister at the Paris Court of Appeal and lecturer/researcher (Paris 8 University)*
 - *Joao Arsenio De Oliveira, President of the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL*
- b. The simplification and clarification of language with litigants
Summary of work: Joao Arsenio De Oliveira, President of the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL
- c. Development of mediation: ensuring the implementation of the CEPEJ guidelines on mediation

5. Evaluation of judicial systems

Summary of work : Jaša Vrabec, President of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL

6. Cyberjustice and artificial intelligence

Summary of work : Giuliana Civinini, President of the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST

Thursday 17 June 2021 (09.30 am – 01.00 pm)

7. Judicial time management

Summary of work : Giacomo Oberto, President of the CEPEJ-SATURN

8. Crystal Scales of Justice 2021

Presentation : Annette Sattel-Ahlberg

Junior Crystal Scales of justice

Presentation of the winning projects of the 2020 edition of the Junior Crystal Scales of Justice Prize

9. “Knowledge Sharing” cooperation project (CEDH / DG1)

Presentation: Stefano Piedimonte Bodini, Deputy Jurisconsult, European Court of Human Rights

10. 2020 CEPEJ activity report

11. Cooperation programmes

Presentation : Vafa Rovshanova

Video presentation of the CEPEJ team

12. 2021 European Day of Justice

Presentation : Annette Sattel-Ahlberg

13. Other items

14. Date and place of the next meeting

15. Recent developments in the field of justice in member and observer states

16. Adoption of the abridged meeting report

Appendix II: List of participants

CEPEJ Members / Membres CEPEJ

ALBANIA/ALBANIE

Elira KOKONA, General Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, TIRANA

ANDORRA/ANDORRE

Marta TORRES DUEDRA, Secretària General del Consell Superior de la Justícia, AD 500 ANDORRA LA VELLA

ARMENIA/ARMENIE

Yervand KHUNDKARYAN, Judge, Constitutional Court, YEREVAN

AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE

Georg STAWA, Judicial Attaché for the Western Balkans, Federal Ministry for Constitution, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice, BELGRADE, SERBIA

AZERBAIJAN/AZERBAÏDJAN

Ramin GARAGURBANLI, Judge, Baku City Yasamal District Court, Head of the working group on e-Court System, Ministry of Justice, BAKU (**President of the CEPEJ / Président de la CEPEJ**)

Leyla ZAKIROVA, Head of the analytical division at the General Department of organization-supervision, Ministry of Justice

Samad JAFAROV, judge of Baku city Nasimi District Court

BELGIUM/BELGIQUE

Jean-Paul JANSSENS, Président du Comité de direction, Service Public Fédéral, Justice, BRUXELLES

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE

Svjetlana MILISIC-VELICKOVSKI, Judge, Supreme Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, SARAJEVO

Rusmir ŠABETA, Head of the Judicial Administration Department, Secretariat of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, SARAJEVO

BULGARIA/BULGARIE

Vera CHAVDAROVA, Ministry of Justice, SOFIA

CROATIA/CROATIE

Ivan CRNČEC, International Co-operation Directorate, Ministry of justice, ZAGREB

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Lena DEMETRIADOU, Judge of the Supreme Court, NICOSIA

CZECH REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

Ivana BORZOVÁ, Head of Department of Civil Supervision, Ministry of Justice, PRAGUE

DENMARK/DANEMARK

Marianne GRAM NYBROE, International Coordinator, Department of Training, Danish Court Administration, COPENHAGEN

Merethe ECKHARDT, Director, Danish Court Administration, COPENHAGEN

ESTONIA/ESTONIE

Villar PEEP, Deputy Secretary General, Judicial Administration Policy Department, Ministry of Justice, TALLINN

Margit LAURI, Adviser, Judicial administration policy department, Ministry of Justice, TALLINN

FRANCE

Sonya DJEMNI-WAGNER, Inspectrice générale de la Justice, Ministère de la Justice, PARIS

FINLAND/FINLANDE

Pasi KUMPULA, Director, Development Department, National Courts Administration, HELSINKI

Kari KIESILAINEN, Director General, Ministry of Justice, HELSINKI

GEORGIA/GÉORGIE

Nino BAKAKURI, Judge, Supreme Court, TBILISI

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Matthias HEGER, Chef du Service de procédure civile internationale, Ministère fédéral de la justice, BERLIN
Sophie MATHÄß, Juge, Ministère de la Justice du Land Baden-Württemberg

GREECE/GRÈCE

Konstantinos KOUSSOULIS, Councilor, Hellenic Council of State, ATHENS

HUNGARY/HONGRIE

Gábor SZÉPLAKI-NAGY, Procureur, Chef d'unité, Parquet Général, Ministère de la justice, BUDAPEST

ICELAND/ISLANDE

Ólöf FINNSDÓTTIR, Director, The Judicial Administration, REYKJAVÍK

IRELAND/IRLANDE

Matthew SEWELL, Strategic Policy, Planning and Research, Policy - Civil Justice & Equality, Department of Justice and Equality, DUBLIN

Stephen MC CARTNEY, Strategy and Reform Directorate, Courts Service, DUBLIN

ITALY/ITALIE

Giuliana PALUMBO, Directeur Général, Direction des statistiques et analyses organisationnelles, Ministère de la Justice, ROME

Rosario AMMENDOLIA, Coordinator of the civil sector at the IT Department of the Italian Ministry of Justice, ROME

LATVIA/LETTONIE

Aija BRANTA, Judge of the Supreme Court, RIGA

Anna SKRJABINA, Court Administration, Ministry of Justice

LITHUANIA/LITUANIE

Egidija TAMOŠIŪNIENĖ, Judge of Civil Cases Division, Court of Appeal, VILNIUS

LUXEMBOURG

Jeannot NIES, Procureur Général d'Etat adjoint, Parquet général du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, LUXEMBOURG

MALTA/MALTE

Francesco DEPASQUALE, Magistrate, Magistrates' Chambers, The Law Courts, VALETTA

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

Victoria PALANCIUC, Trainer for employees of the judiciary, National Institute of Justice, CHISINAU

Petru VIRLAN, Director of the Agency for Court Administration

Tatiana TVERDUN, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, CHISINAU

Silvia STICI, Head of Minister's Cabinet, Ministry of Justice, CHISINAU

Ion GUZUN, national consultant, CEPEJ Project, CHISINAU

Olga CEBAN, representative of the National Union of Enforcement Agents, CHISINAU

Tatiana CIAGLIC, National Institute of Justice, CHISINAU

MONACO

Sébastien BIANCHERI, Conseiller, Secrétaire du Conseil d'Etat, Cour d'Appel, MONACO

MONTENEGRO

Momir JAUKOVIĆ, Ministry of Justice, PODGORICA

NETHERLANDS/PAYS-BAS

Eliane EIJNWACHTER, Ministry of Justice, THE HAGUE

NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD

Nikola PROKOPENKO, Head of Department of Courts, Public Prosecutors and other Judicial institutions, Ministry of Justice, SKOPJE

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Ivar ARNSTAD, Head of International secretariat, The National Courts Administration, OSLO

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Michał DĄBROWSKI, Judge, Main expert in the Department of Courts, Organisation and Judicial Analyses, Ministry of Justice, WARSAW

PORTUGAL

João ARSENIO DE OLIVEIRA, Head of Department, International Affairs Department, Directorate General for Justice Policy, Ministry of Justice, LISBON

ROMANIA/*ROUMANIE*

Violeta BELEGANTE, Conseiller juridique, Chef du service du droit privé, Direction de l'Elaboration des actes normatifs, des études et de la documentation, Ministère de la Justice, BUCAREST

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION/*FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE*

Ekaterina KUDELICH, Deputy Director of the Department of the International Law and Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice, MOSCOW

Aleksandr LASHCH, Expert, Division for the Legal facilitation of international economic integration of the Department of the International Law and Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Justice, MOSCOW

SAN MARINO / SAN MARIN

Stefano PALMUCCI, Secrétariat d'Etat pour la Justice, SAN MARIN

SERBIA/*SERBIE*

Jelena DERETIC, Ministry of Justice, BELGRADE

Maria CERANIC, Ministry of Justice, BELGRADE

SLOVAK REPUBLIC/*RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE*

Zuzana SCHURER PIOVARČIOVÁ, Adviser of the Analytical Unit, Ministry of Justice, BRATISLAVA

Danka KOVALOVA, Director, Analytical Centre of the Ministry of Justice, BRATISLAVA

SLOVENIA /*SLOVENIE*

Gregor STROJIN, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, LJUBLJANA

SPAIN/*ESPAGNE*

Juan Fernando ARMENGOT IBORRA, Conseiller, Direction générale de la coopération juridique internationale et des droits de l'homme, Ministère de la Justice, MADRID

SWEDEN/*SUÈDE*

Maria SNÖBERG, Swedish Ministry of Justice, STOCKHOLM

Johan LAGSTRÖM, Swedish Ministry of Justice, STOCKHOLM

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Jacques BÜHLER, Secrétaire Général suppléant, Tribunal fédéral suisse, LAUSANNE

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Seçkin KOÇER, Judge, Ministry of Justice, ANKARA

Aslıhan ÜLGER, Judge, Ministry of Justice, ANKARA

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TUNISIA / TUNISIE

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EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS / AGENCE DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE
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Esmin IMERI, Project assistant / *Assistante de projet*

Sara RADOVICKA, Project assistant / *Assistante de projet*

Valentin LEONARDIS, Trainee / *Stagiaire*

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRÈTES

Isabelle MARCHINI

Katia DI STEFANO