



Strasbourg, 19 June 2024

CEPEJ(2024)14

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

42nd plenary meeting

18 and 19 June 2024

(Strasbourg, France)

Abridged report

A. FOREWORD

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) of the Council of Europe held its 42nd plenary meeting in Strasbourg (France) on 18 and 19 June 2024. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Francesco DEPASQUALE (Malta), the CEPEJ President.

The meeting was opened by Daniele CANGEMI, Head of Human Rights, Justice, Legal Co-Operation Standard Setting Activities Department of the Council of Europe, who recalled the main work to be examined during this meeting.

The agenda and the list of participants are appended.

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

The CEPEJ:

1. Recent developments in the field of justice in the Member States and Observer States

- **took note** of the information provided by delegations of Austria, Belgium, Republic of Moldova, Norway and Georgia on developments in their countries since December 2023.

2. Evaluation of judicial systems (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL)

- **thanked** the national correspondents, the Secretariat as well as the experts for their involvement in the collection and quality control of the data and **instructed** its members to inform them of the content of the Evaluation Report as presented during the meeting;
- **adopted** the CEPEJ Evaluation Report - European Judicial Systems, 2024 evaluation cycle (2022 data), subject to additional comments indicated in writing by delegations to the Secretariat, through the form provided for this purpose, before 3rd July 2024 and

taking into account the discussions at the present meeting, **agreed** that no new data will be accepted after this date and **instructed** the Secretariat to organize the publication and dissemination of the report in an appropriate manner starting on 16 October 2024;

- **took note** that specific studies based on the CEPEJ 2022 data will be prepared by the justice professionals enjoying observer status with the CEPEJ (Council of the Notariats of the European Union, International Union of Judicial Officers, European Expertise & Expert Institute) and submitted to the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL before their publication on the CEPEJ-STAT page;
- **entrusted** the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL to prepare the next evaluation cycle 2026, based on the 2024 data and to begin a reflection to simplify and rationalise the evaluation cycles in particular to achieve ultimately a single annual data collection for the 4 evaluation cycles;
- **encouraged** delegations to contact the Secretariat with a view to organising peer reviews to support the collection and quality control of data for the next cycle and **took note** of the inquiry of Switzerland to organise an evaluation by the peers in 2025;
- **welcomed** the continued cooperation with the European Commission, on the basis of the CEPEJ's own evaluation methodology, on: (i) an annual study on the functioning of the judicial systems in the EU member states and more specifically the transfer of certain data collected by the CEPEJ towards EUROSTAT; (ii) the annual evaluation of the functioning of the judicial systems in the beneficiaries of the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia); (iii) the annual evaluation of the functioning of judicial systems in the "Eastern Partnership" countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine), and **entrusted** the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL to continue this co-operation, which reinforces the pre-eminent 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. Joint work CEPEJ-GT-QUAL/ CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST on artificial intelligence (AI)

- **thanked** Patrick PENNINGKX, Head of the Information Society Department, for his presentation of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, recently adopted by the Committee of Ministers, and his exchange with the CEPEJ;
- **took note** of the progress in the implementation of the "Revised Roadmap to ensure the appropriate follow-up of the CEPEJ European Ethical Charter on the use of artificial intelligence in judicial systems and their environment"¹, in particular of the implementation of a Pilot Phase of the Assessment Tool for the operationalisation of the so called Charter² and the work of the CEPEJ Artificial Intelligence Advisory Board (AIAB) in this field, whose members were recently appointed within the framework of its second two-year mandate;

* 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.

¹ CEPEJ(2021)16

² CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2024)1

- **welcomed** the development of the Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and Artificial Intelligence, which now contains 118 entries corresponding to cyberjustice and artificial intelligence tools implemented in judicial systems, including 103 from member states, and invites its members to inform the Secretariat of any new tool introduced via the dedicated online form on the CEPEJ website.

4. Quality of justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL)

- **took note** of the work and discussions underway within the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL, notably on the qualitative evaluation of judges' work³, the quality of judicial debate, the access to justice for vulnerable people and more specifically for children.

5. Judicial time management (CEPEJ-GT-SATURN)

- **took note** of the other work in progress within the CEPEJ-SATURN, in particular on the Database of the backlog reduction practices⁴, the Time Management Checklist for public prosecution services, the case-weighting tool as well as on the analysis of the length of the steps of the civil proceedings;
- **took note** of the activities of the CEPEJ Pilot Courts Network and **thanked** the Belgium Ministry of Justice and the court in Malines/Mechelen (Belgium) for the excellent organisation of the 17th annual meeting of the Network held there on 10 April 2024.

6. Cyberjustice and artificial intelligence (CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST)

- **took note** of the information note on the use of Generative AI by judicial professionals in a work-related context⁵, published by CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST in February 2024;
- **took note** of the ongoing work in the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST on the study⁶ and draft Guidelines on online publication of case-law and legal knowledge access, the Glossary of Technology terms, the training program on information and communications technologies (ICT) for judges, as well as on the review of the Guidelines on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings.

7. Transversal work for all working groups

- **took note** of the transversal activities that will be conducted jointly by the different CEPEJ working groups notably on the improvement of work-life balance in judiciary, on potential effects of the use of AI tools on efficiency and quality of justice⁷, the developments of indicators to measure quality of justice or new indicators to measure efficiency.

8. Cooperation activities of the CEPEJ

- **took note** of the ongoing activities, achievements, and next steps of the cooperation programmes presented in the synthesized document⁸ and **thanked** the project coordinators and the project managers concerning Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, Malta, Republic of Moldova, and the South

³ CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2023)11PROV2

⁴ CEPEJ-SATURN(2024)3REV

⁵ CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST(2023)5

⁶ CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST(2024)5Rev2

⁷ CEPEJ-SATURN(2024)12REV1

⁸ CEPEJ-COOP (2024)1

Programme V for their thematic presentations during the review of the work of the various CEPEJ Working Groups;

- **welcomed** the results achieved by the two projects recently completed in Bulgaria and Latvia and the new cooperation programme with Morocco, which began in June 2024;
- **welcomed** the constantly growing number of requests to the CEPEJ for support, either on an ad hoc basis or through a cooperation program, in implementing its tools, particularly in the fields of statistical collection and the efficiency of justice, thus demonstrating the relevance of the latter, but **noted** the difficulty faced by the CEPEJ Secretariat in responding rapidly and with a constant number of staff, particularly in the case of ad hoc requests;
- **invited** the member States of the European Union to inform the Secretariat of the CEPEJ in advance if they wish to respond to the call for expression of interest launched in the framework of the European Union Technical Support Instrument (TSI) 2025 for potential cooperation programmes concerning the implementation of CEPEJ tools, for which the deadline for submission of applications is 31 October 2024.

9. 2023 CEPEJ activity report

- **adopted** its activity report for 2023.

10. Crystal Scales of Justice Prize

- **took note** that the 3rd edition of the Junior Crystal Scales of Justice Prize, organised in partnership with Strasbourg's Faculty of Law, **congratulated** the winning team from the Faculty of Law at the University of Leiden, led by Ms Philex T.L. YE, and composed by Mrs. Rosa S. Calles Contreras, Mrs. Justy Thomas, Mr. Matheus F. Andrade Mendes and Mr. Paul Benedict Lee who defended the Belgian awarded project of the Crystal Scales of Justice 2023 on the establishment of a "Civil and criminal chamber specialized in environmental and urbanism matters", also **congratulated** the teams from Liège⁹ in Belgium and Eötvös Loránd¹⁰ in Hungary on receiving special mentions;
- **thanked** the President of the Jury as well as its members for their valuable commitment and the added value of their analysis;
- **announced** the launch of the 2025 Crystal Scale of Justice Prize.

11. Observers

- **took note** of the information provided by the observers, namely the International Union of Judicial Officers (UIHJ), the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) as well as European Expertise and Expert Institute (EEEI).

⁹Faculty of Law, Political Science, and Criminology of the University of Liège in Belgium, led by Prof. Patrick Wautelet composed by Anne-Charlotte Baron, Lise Talbot, and Mike Lemaître defended the 'Kids in Court Game' , in collaboration with the Judicial Training Institute of Cyprus and 'Hope For Children' CRC Policy Center, Cyprus.

¹⁰ Eötvös Loránd University's Faculty of Law, led by Prof. Dr. Réka Somssich composed by Pál Osztoivits, Lili Poka, Abel Csiffary, Tamas Wisznovszky and Kata Pusok, defended the Facility Dogs Europe (FYDO) project, in collaboration with Victim Support Europe from Belgium, France, and Italy.

12. Other items

- **took note** that the 43rd plenary meeting of the CEPEJ will be held on December 3rd and 4th 2024, in Strasbourg, and that it will be preceded on December 2nd by the 3rd World Forum on Enforcement, co-organized by the CEPEJ and the UIHJ, devoted to "Artificial intelligence, human rights and enforcement of court decisions in civil and commercial matters: what guarantees for litigants?" and in which CEPEJ members and observers are invited to participate;
- **took note** that all the dates of the many other CEPEJ meetings are shown on the calendar on the CEPEJ website.

APPENDIX I

Agenda

Documents preceded by the sign ☐ are submitted for examination by the CEPEJ in view of their adoption.

The order of business can be different than the order of the items in the agenda

The working documents will be available, in restricted access, as soon as possible, on the CEPEJ collaborative workspace which is regularly updated. You can access this space by logging in with your email address and the password you have been given. If you encounter any problem of access or for any other information, please contact: sandrine.lutz@coe.int

1	Opening of the meeting	Introduction by Daniele Cangemi, Head of Department for Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation standard-setting activities Adoption of the agenda and other information	Agenda of the 42 nd CEPEJ plenary meeting
2	Recent Developments in the Field of Justice in Member States and Observer States	Delegations are invited to inform the CEPEJ of significant developments in their country since December 2023, in writing before or during the meeting, by sending their contribution via email to sandrine.lutz@coe.int (preferably one or two paragraphs, not exceeding 1 page). The document will be distributed during the meeting.	
3	Evaluation of judicial systems (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL)	Presentation of the ongoing work by Jaša VRABEC (Slovenia), President of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL 🚩 CEPEJ Evaluation report - European judicial systems, 2024 cycle (2022 data) 🚩 CEPEJ National correspondents Network 🚩 Cooperation with the European Union	Working documents ☐ European judicial systems - Draft of the CEPEJ Evaluation Report - Evaluation cycle 2024 (2022 data) Part 1: General analyses Chapter 1

European Union (EU Justice Scoreboard). CEPEJ-GT-EVAL (2024) 11 rev3

Transmission of data in the view of their publication on Eurostat. Chapter 2
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL (2024) 12 rev3

Dashboard Western Balkans. Chapter 3
Justice Dashboard Eap (Eastern Partnership countries) CEPEJ-GT-EVAL (2024) 13 rev4

✚ Cooperation activities in the field of evaluation of judicial systems (presented by project managers) Chapter 4
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL (2024) 14 rev3

Chapter 5
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL (2024) 15 rev3

Chapter 6
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL (2024) 16 rev3

Part 2: Country Profiles
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2024)19

Background documents

Scheme for evaluating European judicial systems – 2024 cycle
CEPEJ(2022)9rev1

Explanatory note to the Evaluation scheme – 2024 cycle
CEPEJ(2023)2

46th meeting report of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2024)3

4	Joint work on artificial intelligence (AI) (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL/CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST)	Presentation of The Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law by Patrick PENNINCKX, Head of the Digital Development and Governance Department	Working documents Note on the Implementation of a Pilot Phase for the Evaluation Tool of AI Systems in the Judicial Sector
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		<p>Presentation of the ongoing work by Maria Giuliana CIVININI (Italy) President of the CEPEJ-CYBERJUST and João Arsenio De OLIVEIRA (Portugal), President of the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Artificial Intelligence Advisory Board (AIAB) ✚ Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and Artificial Intelligence ✚ Operationalisation of the CEPEJ Ethical Charter on AI 	<p>CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2024)1</p> <p>Background documents</p> <p>Report of the 6th AIAB meeting CEPEJ-AIAB(2023)5</p> <p>Report of the 7th AIAB meeting CEPEJ-AIAB(2024)1 (under preparation)</p> <p>Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (CETS 225) and Explanatory Report</p> <p><u>Link to the Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and AI</u></p> <p>European ethical Charter on the use of Artificial Intelligence in judicial systems and their environment</p>
5	Quality of justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL)	<p>Presentation of the ongoing work by João Arsenio De OLIVEIRA (Portugal), President of the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Qualitative Assessment of Judges' Work ✚ Quality of Judicial Debate ✚ Access to justice of vulnerable people, in particular participation of children in judicial proceedings ✚ Statistics on mediation ✚ Cooperation activities in the field of quality of justice (presented by project managers) 	<p>Working documents</p> <p>How to assess the quality of the work of judges: comparative analysis CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2023)11PROV2</p> <p>Background document</p> <p>36th meeting report of the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL CEPEJ-GT-QUAL(2024)4</p>
6	Judicial time management (CEPEJ-SATURN)	<p>Presentation of the ongoing work by Giacomo OBERTO (Italy), President of the CEPEJ-SATURN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Database of backlog reduction practices 	<p>Working documents</p> <p>Prototype of the Database of backlog reduction practices</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Time Management Checklist for public prosecution services ✚ Case-weighting tool ✚ Study on workload measurement in judicial systems ✚ Potential effects of the use of AI tools on court efficiency ✚ Tool to analyse the timeframes according to the steps of the civil procedure ✚ Meeting of the Network of pilot courts of the CEPEJ ✚ Cooperation activities in the field of judicial time management (presented by project managers) 	<p>Form for collecting information on backlog reduction practices CEPEJ-SATURN(2024)3REV</p> <p>Concept Note on the implementation of potential effects of the use of artificial intelligence's tools on court efficiency CEPEJ-SATURN(2024)12REV1</p> <p>Questionnaire on workload measurement tools in the courts</p> <p>Questionnaire sur les outils de mesure de la charge de travail dans les tribunaux</p> <p>Background documents</p> <p>Report of the 36th meeting CEPEJ-SATURN(2024)18</p>
7	<p>Cyberjustice and artificial intelligence (CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST)</p> <p>Presentation of the ongoing work by Maria-Giuliana CIVININI (Italy), President of the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Information note on the Use of Generative AI by judicial professionals in a work-related context ✚ Draft Guidelines on online publication of case-law and legal knowledge access ✚ Glossary of Technology terms ✚ ICT Curriculum for judges ✚ Review of the Guidelines on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings ✚ European Cyberjustice Network activities 	<p>Background documents</p> <p>Report of the 10th meeting CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST(2024)4 (under preparation)</p> <p>Information note on the Use of Generative AI by judicial professionals in a work-related context CEPE-GT-CYBERJUST(2023)5</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Cooperation activities in the field of cyberjustice (presented by project managers) 	
8	Transversal work for all working groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of work-life balance in judiciary • Study on potential effects of the use of AI tools on efficiency and quality of justice • Developments of indicators to measure quality of justice or new indicators to measure efficiency 	
9	Cooperation activities of the CEPEJ	Other activities than those presented during the work presentations under points 3 to 7	<p>Working document</p> <p>State of implementation of CEPEJ cooperation programmes</p>
10	2023 CEPEJ activity report	Examination with a view to its adoption of the draft CEPEJ activity report for 2023	CEPEJ(2024)1_Draft activity report 2023
11	Crystal Scales of Justice Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Presentation of the 2024 Edition of the Junior Crystal Scales of Justice Prize ✚ Crystal Scales of Justice 2025 	
12	Observers	Observers to the CEPEJ have the possibility to make an oral presentation of their current activities of interest to the CEPEJ and/or to submit written information to the Secretariat, which will share it during the meeting.	
13	Other items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Relations between the CEPEJ and other bodies ✚ Preparation for the Forum co-organized with the International Union of Judicial Officers (UIHJ) ✚ 2024 Meeting Calendar 	<u>Meeting Calendar</u>

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

Abridged report of the 41th plenary meeting of the CEPEJ

2024 – 2025 Activity Programme of the CEPEJ

APPENDIX II

List of Participants

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