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CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST(2022)1

Strasbourg, 26 January 2022

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

WORKING GROUP ON CYBERJUSTICE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST)

5th meeting (videoconference, 24 January 2022)

MEETING REPORT

Report prepared by the Secretariat Directorate General I - Human Rights and the Rule of Law

1. Opening of the meeting

2. The Working Group on Cyberjustice and Artificial Intelligence (CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST) of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) held its 5th meeting on 24 January 2022. Considering the sanitary situation, the meeting took place via videoconference. The agenda and the list of participants are attached as Appendices I and II respectively to this report.

3. The CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST was informed that the CEPEJ, during its 37th plenary meeting on 8 and 9 December 2021, adopted its 2022-2023 Activity Programme, which contains in its appendix the terms of reference of the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST. During the same meeting, the CEPEJ also adopted a 2022-2025 CEPEJ Action Plan entitled "Digitalisation for a better Justice".

4. The Secretariat presented and welcomed the Working Group's newly appointed members, Camille LE DOUARON (France) and Martin HACKL (Austria), new deputy member Geneviève VANDERSTICHELE (Belgium), absent during this meeting, and a new scientific expert, Tomasz KISIELEWICZ (Poland).

2. Designation of CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST President for 2022-2023

5. Maria Giuliana CIVININI (Italy) was re-elected as President of the Working Group for 2022 and 2023.

3. On-line alternative dispute resolution (AODR)

6. Ruslan MIRZAYEV (Azerbaijan), expert of the CEPEJ, presented a revised version of the draft Guidelines on Online Alternative Dispute Resolution, based on the comments of the Working Group members during its 4th meeting. The CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST thanked the expert for the improvements in the document.

7. It decided that this document could benefit from a greater emphasis on its specificity and complementarity to the *Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on online dispute resolution mechanisms in civil and administrative court proceedings,* prepared by the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) in 2021. Additionally, the Working Group agreed that it should be clearer on whether penal (restorative justice) and family matters should be included in these future

Guidelines, and at which target groups (mediation providers, Member States, etc.) this document is aiming.

8. The Working Group entrusted Rimantas Simaitis (Lithuania) to support the scientific experts for a revised version to be prepared for the next meeting.

4. CEPEJ Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and artificial intelligence

9. The Secretariat presented the situation as regards the Resource Centre: as a first step, this Resource Center, which would be located in the CEPEJ website in a similar fashion than CEPEJ-STAT, through the *Tableau* software, would compile the current AI-based applications concretely implemented in the judicial systems of the member States. Then, cyberjustice tools and good practices could be integrated, under modalities to be specified. A first document was prepared to that aim by the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST, which has to be refined in order to avoid that the Resource Centre becomes a melting pot of all justice digitalisation elements existing in Europe and beyond.

10. It is mentioned that both CEPEJ-GT-QUAL and CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST have the setting up of a Resource Center in their respective tasks contained in the CEPEJ Activity Programme. The distribution of tasks on that topic would be further discussed during the next joint meeting of the two Working Groups, planned in Pisa on 17 March 2022.

5. Contribution to the ICT part of the CEPEJ Evaluation scheme

11. Giulio BORSARI (Italy) and Alexandra TSETKOVA (Bulgaria), experts of the CEPEJ, presented their revised *Report on assessing the calculation/weighting of the ICT-Index leading to concrete proposals on re-calculation and re-weighting*, developed upon demand from the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL to update the ICT part of the Evaluation Scheme.

12. This document will be presented to the next CEPEJ-GT-EVAL meeting on 31 January 2022. The CEPEJ-GT-EVAL will decide which re-weightings proposals contained in the document could be accepted for the current cycle of evaluation 2022 Report (2020 data). In addition, the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL could decide to entrust this team of experts with the task of proposing new questions for the evaluation cycle 2024 (2022 data).

6. On-line enforcement procedures

13. The Working Group examined the revised *Report on Analytical Overview of the State of Play on Digitization of Enforcement* (CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST(2021)5 prepared by the expert Jos UITDEHAAG (the Netherlands) and decided to consider it as a working document which should be available on the CEPEJ website.

14. The follow-up to this document will be decided during the next meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST.

7. European Cyberjustice Network

15. Following the first meeting of the European Cyberjustice Network meeting organised on 16 November 2021, the date of the next meeting was set for 21 October 2022. Potential topics and a draft agenda shall be discussed at the following working group meeting.

8. Other topics of work for 2022 and 2023

Future documents to be developed

16. The CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST was entrusted in its new terms of reference to develop in particular Guidelines on e-auctions. As there is currently a launching project on an e-auction portal on

the e-justice page of the European Commission, the timing could be relevant and such Guidelines could be complementary. Members Pedro ALMEIDA (Portugal) and Martin HACKL (Austria), as well as scientific expert Tomasz KISIELEWICZ (Poland) had shown their interest to be specifically involved in this work.

17. The Working Group also decided to prioritise the development of guidelines on public jurisprudence databases, to help member States with the use of metadata and the framework of anonymisation. Maria Giuliana CIVININI (Italy), Gregor STROJIN (Slovenia), Martin HACKL (Austria) and Camille LE DOUARON (France) had shown their interest to be specifically involved in this work.

18. The Secretariat is entrusted to prepare a concept note on this question, after consultation with the Working Group members, and look for complementary experts (lawyers and engineers) to support this future work of the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST for the next meeting.

Meeting in Pisa on 17-18 March 2022

19. The 5th meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST, together with a joint meeting with the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL, was originally planned to be held in Pisa on 24-25 January 2022, in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Because of the COVID-19 situation in Europe at that time, it was decided to postpone the meetings in Pisa to 17-18 March 2022. The Working Group thanked its President for her strong involvement in the organisation of this meeting, as well as the University of Pisa, which will welcome the meetings in its premises.

20. A meeting of the respective Working Group Presidents would be organised on 31 January in order to prepare for these meetings in Pisa.

HELP training module concerning the work of the CEPEJ

21. The Working Group was informed that the CEPEJ would develop an online training course in the framework of the Council of Europe HELP programme (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) to better disseminate its work. A specific cyberjustice module would be planned and Maria Giuliana CIVININI (Italy) accepted to prepare the first structure of this module. The Working Group would be consulted on the draft at a later stage.

APPENDIX 1

AGENDA

The working documents are available on the <u>CEPEJ collaborative workspace</u>

Link to the videoconference: https://bluejeans.com/809721446/5947

	24 January: 9.30 am to 12.30 and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	
1.	Opening of the meeting Adoption of the agenda	
2.	Designation of CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST President for 2022-2023	
		WORKING DOCUMENTS
3.	On-line alternative dispute resolution (AODR) Draft guidelines	Draft Guidelines on online alternative dispute resolution <u>CEPEJ-GT-</u> <u>CYBERJUST(2021)10</u>
4.	CEPEJ Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and artificial intelligence	
5.		WORKING DOCUMENTS
	Contribution to the ICT part of the CEPEJ Evaluation scheme	Report on assessing the calculation/weighting of the ICT- Index <u>CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST(2021)13</u>
		WORKING DOCUMENTS
6.	On-line enforcement procedures Expert in charge of this item: Jos Uitdehaag (Netherlands) Revised report	Analytical Overview of the State of Play on Digitization of Enforcement <u>CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST (2021)3</u>
7.		WORKING DOCUMENTS
	European Cyberjustice Network Next meeting and next topics to launch in the network	<u>Terms of reference and list of</u> <u>members appointed by member</u> <u>States</u>
8.	Other topics of work for 2022 and 2023	WORKING DOCUMENTS
	List of topics	Activity programme (terms of reference of the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST in Appendix)

Joint meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL/CYBERJUST organised under the Italian Presidency, 17-18 March, Pisa (Italy)

Action Plan for the next four years on digitalisation for a better justice

HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) for CEPEJ: Structure and content of the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST part

APPENDIX 2 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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