



Strasbourg, 6 May 2026

CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)12

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

**WORKING GROUP ON THE EVALUATION OF JUDICIAL SYSTEMS
(CEPEJ-GT-EVAL)**

52nd meeting
Paris, 5 - 6 May 2026

MEETING REPORT
Document prepared by the Secretariat
Directorate General I – Human Rights and Rule of Law

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The Working Group on the Evaluation of Judicial Systems (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL) of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) held its 52d meeting in Paris (France) on 5 and 6 May 2026. The meeting was chaired by Jaša Vrabec (Slovenia). The agenda and the list of participants at the meeting are set out in Appendices I and II of this report, respectively.

II. 2026 CYCLE FOR THE EVALUATION OF EUROPEAN JUDICIAL SYSTEMS (2025 DATA)

2. The next evaluation report of the CEPEJ, prepared on the basis of 2025 data, will be presented to the CEPEJ members in the view of its adoption at the CEPEJ plenary meeting on 3 and 4 December 2026, and will be published immediately afterwards as an interactive online report. A printable version of the report may be made available in the months following the publication of the electronic version.

a. State of play of the data collection for 2024 and 2025

3. Within the frame of the CEPEJ evaluation cycles reform, an *ad hoc* collection of 2024 data has been opened on a voluntary basis for member States or entities as well as for observer States that are not participating in the regional data collections related to the European Union Justice Scoreboard and the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Dashboards.
4. Five member States/entities (Norway, Türkiye, Switzerland, San Marino, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)) and two observer States (Israel and Morocco) are currently participating in this data collection. These data will not be the subject of a dedicated evaluation report but will be published on CEPEJ-STAT.
5. With regard to the ongoing data collection for 2025, the deadline for submission has been set for 15 March 2026. In order to ensure the report can be prepared within the required timeframe, it is imperative that data are stabilized following the quality check phase, and no later than the beginning of September 2026.

b. 2024 and odd years data in the Evaluation report and on CEPEJ-STAT

6. Following the discussion held at the last meeting of the Working Group (9–10 February 2026), the Group has agreed to publish data collected in previous years through specific questionnaires for the European Union Justice Scoreboard and the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Dashboards, as well as through the *ad hoc* voluntary data collection for countries not participating in these regional exercises, exclusively within the “explorers” section of CEPEJ-STAT and not in the “Dashboards” or in the “European Analyses” section of the report. This publication will be accompanied by clear methodological warnings where country coverage differs.

c. Content of the first part of the 2026 report: “European Analyses”

7. The Working Group reviews the various proposals of chapters of the first part of the report, which presents the European analyses, without, referring to the specific situations of individual States as it was previously the case. The analyses focus on the themes of budget, professionals, access, efficiency, and information and communication technologies (ICT).
8. These various chapters are currently being developed on the CEPEJ website to allow for an electronic and interactive presentation of the evaluation report. This will enable users to easily navigate between the different chapters and topics, to access data on CEPEJ-STAT directly via embedded links, and to apply a range of filters to compare countries in the context of the European-level analyses.
9. Having examined the proposed content for each chapter, the Group instructs the Secretariat to prepare a revised and updated version of the proposals of chapters, incorporating the 2025 data, for the next meeting of the Working Group.

d. Content of the 2026 country profiles and “European profile” (indicators at the European level)

10. The Working Group reviews the draft country profile, which includes the main CEPEJ indicators (budget, court and prosecution service efficiency, professionals, ICT, and an organigram of the judicial systems), as well as two first pages of synthetic analysis of the situation of the relevant judicial system. The Group agrees that the model for the synthetic analysis presented should as a priority contain a description of the judicial system and ongoing reforms, as well as analyses of budgets and the efficiency of courts and public prosecution services, but may differ on other points from one country to another depending on the data and information available.
11. In light of the discussions held, the Group instructs the Secretariat to prepare a revised and updated version of the draft country profile, incorporating the 2025 data, for the next meeting of the Working Group.
12. The Group also agrees to develop a page setting out the indicators at the European level, using a different model from that of the country profiles, and instructs the Secretariat to prepare this for the next Working Group meeting.

e. CEPEJ-STAT Database

13. The Secretariat informs the Group that a new dashboard presenting the ICT indexes and efficiency indicators will be developed within the CEPEJ-STAT database.
14. Furthermore, the Group decides that the answers to the "open questions" in the questionnaire will be published in full on CEPEJ-STAT, in the same way as information on ongoing reforms in the various countries.

III. 2027 EUROPEAN JUDICIAL SYSTEMS CEPEJ EVALUATION CYCLE (2026 DATA)

15. As part of the preparation for the next 2027 evaluation cycle, based on 2026 data, the evaluation questionnaire will be made available to the national correspondents during the course of next autumn. The Group instructs the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the evaluation questionnaire and the explanatory note for the next meeting of the Group in September, based primarily on feedback from the national correspondents and the Secretariat regarding the ongoing data collection.
16. The Group also agrees to discuss the topic chosen at the last meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL for the first thematic report—"Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), including artificial intelligence: its impact on and challenges for judicial systems"—during the plenary meeting of the CEPEJ to be held on 18 and 19 June next, particularly with the experts from CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST, with a view to further defining it. The Group agrees to include this thematic report, which should be published in 2027, on the agenda for its next meeting.

IV. COORDINATION WITH CEPEJ-GT-QUAL AND CEPEJ-GT-EFF ON INDICATORS

17. The Secretariat informs the Working Group of the discussions held at the last meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL regarding the development of a quality of justice indicator and proposes to organize an initial meeting between the Chairs of the two Working Groups in order to coordinate deliberations on this matter.
18. The Secretariat also proposes to participate in the next meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-EFF in order to discuss the workload measurement indicator with the experts of that Group.

V. COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

19. The Secretariat informs the Working Group of the signing of the contract between the CEPEJ and the European Commission concerning the CEPEJ study prepared for the European Union Justice Scoreboard, which started at the beginning of April 2026.
20. In this context, the data collection undertaken by the CEPEJ comprises an extract from the main questionnaire, the CEPEJ ICT questionnaire, and two additional modules—one concerning ICT and the other relating to questions regarding asylum applicants' cases before the courts. In order to support National Correspondents during this transitional year, which involves multiple questionnaires and different data submission deadlines, the Secretariat is ensuring the provision of detailed information and appropriate support for the National Correspondents concerned.

VI. Any other business

21. The meeting of the National Correspondents will be held on 27 May 2026 in Strasbourg. This will be the first joint meeting of the CEPEJ Networks of National Correspondents and Pilot Courts, organised within the framework of the Monegasque Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

22. The next meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL will take place on 8 and 9 September in Strasbourg.

Appendice I Agenda

1.	Adoption of the agenda	
2.	Information by the members of the Working Group and the Secretariat	
		Working documents
		Draft Chapter Budget -2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)7
		Draft Chapter Professionals - 2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)8
		Draft Chapter Access -2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)9 Under preparation
	2026 European Judicial Systems CEPEJ Evaluation Cycle (2025 data)	Draft Chapter Efficiency -2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)10
	a. State of play of the 2024 and 2025 data collection	
	b. 2024 data and odd years in the Evaluation report and CEPEJ-STAT	Draft Chapter ICT -2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)11
3.	c. Content of the first part of the 2026 Report “European analysis”	Draft Country profile -2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)19rev1
	d. Content of the 2026 country profiles and “European profile” (indicators at the European level)	Draft European profile -2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)20
	e. CEPEJ-STAT data base	
		Reference documents
		Proposal of new indicators CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)4rev
		Prototype for the European analysis – 2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)31
		Scheme for evaluating European judicial systems – 2026 cycle CEPEJ(2025)6rev2

		Scheme for evaluating European judicial systems - 2026 cycle – IT part CEPEJ (2025)7rev1
		Explanatory note to the Scheme – 2026 cycle CEPEJ(2025)9rev
		Explanatory note to the Scheme – 2026 cycle – IT part CEPEJ(2025)10rev
		2024 European Judicial Systems CEPEJ Evaluation Report
2027 European Judicial Systems CEPEJ Evaluation Cycle (2026 data)		
4.	- Brainstorming on the possible evolution of the questionnaire - Preparation of the 1st thematic report on ICT – eventual new questions	
5.	Coordination with CEPEJ-GT-QUAL and CEPEJ-GT-EFF on indicators	
Cooperation with the European Commission		Evaluation Scheme (extract) – EU Justice Scoreboard CEPEJ-GT- EVAL(2026)1
6.	a. Study for the European Commission on the functioning of judicial systems in the member States of the European Union (Justice Scoreboard) and Eurostat	ICT module - Scheme CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)3
	b. Dashboard Western Balkans	ICT module- Explanatory note CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)4
	c. Dashboard Eastern Partnership countries	Module Data on asylum seekers in courts – Scheme CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)5
		Module Data on asylum seekers in courts – Explanatory note CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)6
7.	Any other business	51th Meeting report of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)2

Appendice II
List of participants / liste des participants

MEMBERS

Joanne BATTISTINO, Director, Justice Initiatives and Reforms Directorate, Ministry of Justice and reform of the construction sector, MALTA (online)

Michel DACCACHE, Deputy Head of Department, Statistics, Studies and Research Department, Ministry of Justice, FRANCE

Seçkin KOÇER, Judge, Head of Department at the General Directorate for Strategy Development, Ministry of Justice, TÜRKIYE

Simone KREß, Judge, Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia, GERMANY

Jaša VRABEC, Head of the Office for court management development, Supreme Court, SLOVENIA, President of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL

Martina VRDOLJAK, Head of the Department for statistics, analytics and strategic development of judiciary, Ministry of Justice, CROATIA (apologized)

PRESIDENT OF THE CEPEJ

Francesco DEPASQUALE, Judge for the Superior Courts of Malta and Gozo, MALTA

SCIENTIFIC EXPERT

Victoria MERTIKOPOULOU, Advisor, EU & Competition, Regulatory, Compliance, Kyriakides Georgopoulos Law Firm, GREECE (online)

Edoardo BUONVINO, Director General of Statistics and Organizational Analysis – Department for Technological Innovation – Ministry of Justice, ITALY

DEPUTY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS / MEMBRES SUPPLÉANTS DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL

Maria José CHAVARRI, Advisor. Support Unit of the Directorate General for International Legal Cooperation, Ministry of Justice, SPAIN

Antanas JATKEVIČIUS, Deputy Director, National court administration, Lithuania

OBSERVERS

Christophe KOLLER, Researcher, Director ESEHA, Centre for counselling and comparative analysis, SWITZERLAND (online)

Mathieu CHARDON, Honorary 1st Vice-President of the International Union of Bailiffs (UIHJ)

Susanne KRAEMER, Legal Adviser, Council of the notariat of the european union (CNUE)

Anna-Maria PETROULAKI, Senior Legal Advisor, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)

INVITED DELEGATIONS/ DÉLÉGATIONS INVITÉES

KAZAKHSTAN

Shakir SHAYAKHMETOV, First Deputy Head Judicial Administration

Duman OMAROV, Head of the International Relations Department, Judicial Administration

SECRETARIAT

DGI - Human Rights and Rule of Law, Department of Human Rights and Justice Standards

Muriel DECOT, Executive Secretary of the CEPEJ

Christel SCHURRER, Secretary of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL

Lidija NAUMOVSKA, Head of Statical Unit

Emilija DEOLSKA, Lawyer

Marie – Ange NOWAK, Lawyer

Federica VIAPIANA, Project Manager, Dashboard Western Balkans

Daniela ZOL, Statistician, Dashboard Western Balkans

Enes SEHIC, Project Manager, Dashboard Western Balkans

Tony VILELA, Statistician, Dashboard Eastern Partnership

Oxana GUTU, Project Manager, Dashboard Eastern Partnership

Bakar JIKIA, Project Manager, Dashboard Eastern Partnership