



Strasbourg, 3 mars 2026

CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2026)2

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

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

51st meeting
9-10 February 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 51st meeting in Strasbourg (France) on 9 and 10 February 2026. The meeting was chaired by Jaša Vrabc (Slovenia). The agenda and the list of participants at the meeting are set out in Appendices I and II of this report, respectively.

II. DESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF CEPEJ-GT-EVAL

2. The Working Group designates Jaša Vrabc (Slovenia) as President of the Group for the duration of the next mandate 2026–2027.

III. INFORMATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND THE SECRETARIAT

3. The Secretariat informs the members of the new mandate of the Working Group, adopted by the CEPEJ at its 45th meeting in December 2025. This mandate will mainly focus on implementing the reform of the CEPEJ judicial systems evaluation cycles and, within this framework, on preparing the 2026 annual report (based on 2025 data) and the 2027 annual report (based on 2026 data), developing the CEPEJ-STAT database, and preparing a report on a specific topic to be published for the first time in 2027. Supporting the national correspondents as part of the ongoing reform is also a priority for the Working Group, as is continuing cooperation with the European Commission within the framework of regional evaluations conducted by the CEPEJ.

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

4. The next CEPEJ evaluation report will be published in December 2026, based on 2025 data. Data collection was launched in November 2025, and the deadline is set for 15 March 2026. In order to prepare the report within the planned timeframe, the data must be finalized, following the quality control phase, no later than early September.
5. After discussion, the Group agrees that, for this first annual publication, the report will take the form of an interactive online report. A printable version, which would require the preparation of a completely different deliverable, could be considered at a later stage. On this occasion, the Group also emphasises the need to ensure greater visibility of the evaluation report.

a) Content of the first part of the 2026 Report: “European Analyses”

6. The first part of the report will present European analyses, without referring to the specific situations of individual States as it was previously the case.
7. The Secretariat presents a draft content of this part of the report, as well as various prototypes (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)31). Presenting the report in an electronic format will allow users to easily navigate between different chapters and themes, access CEPEJ-STAT data directly through integrated links, and apply a number of filters enabling countries to be positioned in relation to analyses at the European level.

8. In general, the Group agrees to:

- retain the chapter structure of the previous 2024 edition (based on 2022 data);
- use 2012 data as the starting point for presenting trends and developments;
- regarding 2024 data: these data were collected through specific questionnaires for the EU Justice Scoreboards, the Western Balkans Dashboards, and the Eastern Partnership countries Dashboards, as well as through an *ad hoc* voluntary data collection for countries not participating in these regional exercises. Not all countries took part in this data collection, which may have an impact on European statistics (such as the median, average, minimum, and maximum). After discussion, the Group decided to include these data in the report where relevant, while accompanying them with clear methodological warnings when country coverage differs.

9. After examining the proposed content for each chapter, the Group instructs the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the prototypes for the different chapters for the next meeting of the Working Group.

b) Indicators

10. The Working Group examines a draft of potential new indicators prepared by the Secretariat (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)4rev). Some of these indicators may concern only certain countries and would not be compared to the European median but rather presented in terms of their evolution over time.

11. With regard to some of these indicators, the Group proposes the following:

- to rename the indicator “Appeal Rate” so that it is not perceived as a quality indicator intended to measure the performance or quality of judges’ work;
- to use the terms “Clearance Rate (CR)” and “Disposition Time (DT)” for the indicator “Efficiency of Public Prosecutors,” in line with the measures used for court efficiency;
- not to use the indicators relating to financial independence.

12. The Group agrees to resume consideration of the document at its next meeting in May 2026, in light of the first available data, in order to determine which indicators can be presented in the next evaluation report.

c) Content of the 2026 “European Profile” (indicators at the European level) and the 2026 country profiles

13. The Working Group examines the draft profile containing indicators at European level (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)20) and the draft country profiles (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)19rev), and instructs the Secretariat to update these drafts in light of the discussions held, for the next meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL.

14. With regard to the indicators in the country profiles, the Group proposes adding absolute values to certain standardised values in order to provide more information on the situation in each country.

15. The summary analysis of the state of judicial systems, which will appear before the indicators on each country profile, should primarily include a description of the judicial system and ongoing reforms, as well as analyses of budgets and the efficiency of courts and public prosecutors. Other themes from the list proposed in the draft country profile may be added depending on their relevance in presenting the specific features of each country.
16. The Group instructs the Secretariat to propose different versions of these analyses of the state of judicial systems by country for the next meeting.

d) CEPEJ-STAT Database

17. As with the first part of the report, the Group decides to present data in CEPEJ-STAT starting from 2012 rather than from 2010.
18. The Group also decides to include in CEPEJ-STAT the 2024 data from regional data collections (EU Justice Scoreboards, Western Balkans, and Eastern Partnership countries Dashboards), as well as data from the *ad hoc* collection, and data from all odd-numbered years that had been collected annually for the purposes of these regional exercises. For the latter data, a median based on the selected countries that provided data (rather than all Council of Europe countries) could be introduced in CEPEJ-STAT.
19. Furthermore, older data originating from questions that no longer appear in the new CEPEJ evaluation questionnaire (documents CEPEJ(2025)6rev2 and CEPEJ(2025)7rev1) will also be retained in CEPEJ-STAT, but will be archived and clearly identified as such.

V. 2027 Cycle – Discussion on the Thematic Report

20. The Working Group discussed, based on document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)32, on the subject of the first thematic report to be prepared from the 2027 cycle. The Group decides to dedicate this first thematic report to information and communication technologies (ICT), including artificial intelligence, its impact, and the challenges it poses to judicial systems.
21. This specific report could be prepared in cooperation with the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST, and the existing questionnaire on ICT (document CEPEJ(2025)7rev1) could be expanded to meet the needs of this specific report.
22. The Secretariat informs the Working Group that the selected topic will be the subject of a dedicated workshop during the meeting of the CEPEJ Network of Pilot Courts, which will take place in Maastricht on 31 March 2026.

VI. COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

23. The Secretariat informs the Working Group about the ongoing negotiations for the next contract between the CEPEJ and the European Commission concerning the CEPEJ study prepared for the European Union Justice Scoreboard, which will begin in early April 2026.

24. In this context, the data collection carried out by the CEPEJ will include an extract from the main questionnaire, the CEPEJ ICT questionnaire, and two additional modules, one relating to ICT and the other to questions concerning cases relating to asylum seekers before the courts. The Secretariat will provide detailed information to the relevant national correspondents once the additional questionnaires and the data collection schedule for these two modules have been defined.

VII. Any other business

25. The next meeting of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL will take place on 5 and 6 May 2026 in Paris.

26. The meeting of national correspondents will be held on 27 May 2026 in Strasbourg, as part of a joint event of the CEPEJ Networks of national correspondents and pilot courts, in the framework of the Monegasque Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

Annex I

1.	Adoption of the agenda	
		Reference document
2.	Information by the members of the Working Group and the Secretariat	CEPEJ-GT-EVAL Terms of reference
3.	Appointment of the President of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL	
		Working documents
		Proposal of new indicators CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)4rev
	2026 European Judicial Systems CEPEJ Evaluation Cycle (2025 data)	Prototype for the European analysis – 2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)31
	a. Content of the first part of the 2026 Report “European analysis”	Draft Country profile 2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)19rev
	- 2012 data as start of the evolution ?	
	- Use of 2024 data and issue for <i>ad hoc</i> data collection	
	b. Indicators	Draft European profile 2026 Evaluation report rev CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)20
	- Potential new indicators	
	- Impact on the presentation of the median and of evolution (European median/median per group of countries)	
4.	c. Content of the 2026 “European profile” (indicators at the European level)	Reference documents Elements for the European analysis – 2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)21
	d. Content of the 2026 country profiles	
	e. CEPEJ-STAT data base	Scheme for evaluating European judicial systems – 2026 cycle CEPEJ(2025)6rev2
	- evolution for 2026 cycle	
	- first year of presentation of data (shift from 2010 to 2012)	
	- inclusion of odd years available only for some countries (scoreboard and dashboards countries)	Scheme for evaluating European judicial systems - 2026 cycle – IT part CEPEJ (2025)7rev1
	- update and revision with 2024 data	
	- Link to data/ dashboard until 2002	
		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

Working document

5. **2027 cycle – brainstorming on the thematic report**
topic, timeline, format, eventual *ad hoc* questionnaire

Thematic report - Potential
topics
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)32

Cooperation with the European Commission

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
- b. Dashboard Western Balkans
- c. Dashboard Eastern Partnership countries

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7. **Any other business**

50th Meeting report of the
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)22

Annex II
List of participants / liste des participants

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

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

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

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

Jaša VRABEC, Head of the Office for court management development, Supreme Court, SLOVENIA

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

SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS / EXPERTS SCIENTIFIQUES

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 (online)

OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS

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

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

Mathieu CHARDON, former 1st Vice President, International Union of Bailiffs (UIHJ)

COUNCIL OF THE NOTARIAT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CNUE) (*excused*)

SECRETARIAT

DGI - Human Rights and Rule of Law, Division for the independence and efficiency of justice /DGI - Droits de l'Homme et Etat de droit, Division pour l'indépendance et l'efficacité de la justice

Muriel DECOT, Executive Secretary of the CEPEJ/ *Secrétaire exécutive de la CEPEJ*

Christel SCHURRER, Secretary of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL / *Secrétaire du CEPEJ-GT-EVAL*

Lidija NAUMOVSKA, Statistic coordinator / *Coordinatrice des statistiques*

Oksana IAVORSKA, Lawyer / *Juriste*

Emilija DEOLSKA, Lawyer / *Juriste*

Federica VIAPIANA, Project manager (Dashboard Western Balkans) / *Chef de projet (Tableau de bord des Balkans Occidentaux)*

Oxana GUTU, Project manager (Dashboard Eastern Partnership) / *Chef de projet (Tableau de bord du partenariat oriental)*

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