



Strasbourg, 15 February 2022

CEPEJ-SATURN(2022)2

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

**WORKING GROUP ON JUDICIAL TIME MANAGEMENT  
(CEPEJ-SATURN)**

*Ad hoc* meeting - videoconference, 26 January 2022

**MEETING REPORT**

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

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Working group on judicial time management of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ-SATURN) held an *ad hoc* meeting on 26 January 2022. Considering the sanitary situation, the meeting took place via videoconference (Bluejeans system).
2. The agenda and the list of participants are attached, as Appendices I and II respectively, to this report.
3. Giacomo OBERTO (Italy) was re-elected as Chairperson of the CEPEJ-SATURN for 2022 and 2023.
4. The CEPEJ-SATURN reached the following conclusions:

## 2. Develop guidelines allowing the implementation of a system of case weighting

- *agreed* to launch the work on case weighting in the public prosecution services based on the experience from developing the Study on case weighting in judicial systems adopted by the CEPEJ in July 2020 (CEPEJ Studies No. 28). The working group noted that there is limited information available on case weighting systems/methods in the prosecution services in Europe. A first step could therefore be to get an overall picture of the situation in this respect;
- *suggested* to contact the International Association of Prosecutors (AIP) and the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) to enquire about the states where the prosecution services use case weighting. Depending on the information received, a simple questionnaire could be drawn up to collect initial information on the existence of such systems in the Council of Europe member states. The survey should cover civil and criminal cases. Further steps would be decided after the collection and analysis of the data received. Experienced prosecutors, as scientific experts, could be involved in the preparation of a possible future tool;
- *decided* to leave open the possibility of developing detailed guidelines on case weighting in judicial systems at a later stage. The CEPEJ Study No. 28 already contains general guidelines to assist states in setting up their case weighting systems, however, these could be developed in more detail. It might be helpful to further explore the needs of the different countries before launching this follow-up work. Broader consultation could be organised to collect information on the implementation of case weighting systems in Council of Europe member states. This would help to shape up possible future guidelines.

## 3. Draft a proposal for a possible updating of the Recommendation No. R(86)12 of the Committee of Ministers to member States concerning measures to prevent and reduce the excessive workload in the courts

- *agreed* to start developing a draft proposal for updating the Recommendation CM/Rec(86)12 concerning measures to prevent and reduce the excessive workload in the courts. The CEPEJ-SATURN would build its work on the Opinion aimed at proposing to the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) an update of the recommendation CM/REC(86)12 of the Committee of Ministers to member states concerning measures to prevent and reduce the excessive workload in the courts (CEPEJ(2014)19) adopted by CEPEJ in December 2014;
- *agreed* to continue working with the European Union of Rechtspfleger and Court Clerks (EUR) which was at the origin of the aforementioned Opinion, in particular as far as the list of non-judicial tasks of which judges could be relieved from is concerned;
- *invited* its members and the scientific experts to submit to the Secretariat, by 20 February 2022, their proposals for measures to update the Recommendation.

**4. Develop tools supporting courts and justice professionals in improving judicial time management and court management**

- *decided* to update the Time Management Checklist (CEPEJ(2005)12REV) adopted by CEPEJ in 2005 which has been used in particular in co-operation projects for assessment purposes;
- *instructed* Dimitrije ŠUJERANOVIĆ, scientific expert, to propose measures which could be included in an updated document while bearing in mind new developments in the field of judicial time management. The updated version should include the tools developed by CEPEJ since 2005 with a view to producing a comprehensive document but limited specifically to judicial time management.

**5. Develop a compilation of good practices analysing success factors concerning judicial time management in member States**

- *agreed* to postpone the collection of good practices until a later stage, in particular until the Time Management Checklist has been reviewed. Measures proposed in the updated Checklist may be also useful for the collection of good practices.

**6. Judicial time management in times of sanitary crisis**

- *decided* to send to the pilot courts the Report on the experiences of pilot courts with judicial time management in times of health crisis (CEPEJ-SATURN(2022)1. The report was prepared by Joan Miquel RASCAGNERES and Philippe THÉLIN on the basis of the replies to the questionnaire received from 32 pilot courts from 28 countries. The questionnaire helped to collect information on the measures taken in the courts during the different successive epidemic waves that took place between March 2020 and March 2021. The working group thanked the scientific experts for the work done on the report.

**7. Meeting of the Network of pilot courts**

- *commented* on the draft agenda of the meeting of the Network of the pilot courts (CEPEJ-Pilot Courts(2022)OJ/Prov) scheduled to take place in Lublin, Poland, on 10 March 2022. If it appears impossible to hold the meeting in March, it could be postponed to April or May 2022, if the sanitary situation allows.

**8. Any other business**

- *agreed* to invite the newly appointed deputy members to the working group, Jean-Marc TOUBLANC (France) and Christian DE VALKENEER (Belgium), to its next meetings; to familiarise themselves with themes and working methods of the CEPEJ-SATURN in view of their possible contribution to its work.

**APPENDIX I**  
**DRAFT AGENDA**

The working documents are available on the [CEPEJ collaborative workspace](#).

1.	Opening of the meeting
<hr/>	
2.	Information by the members of the working group and the Secretariat Designation of the President of the Working Group
	REFERENCE DOCUMENT <a href="#">CEPEJ 2022 – 2023 Activity Programme</a>
<hr/>	
3.	Develop guidelines allowing the implementation of a system of case weighting Exchange of views on the possible future tool and the way forward
	REFERENCE DOCUMENT <a href="#">Case-weighting in judicial systems – Study No.28</a>
<hr/>	
4.	Draft a proposal for a possible updating of the Recommendation No. R(86)12 of the Committee of Ministers to member States concerning measures to prevent and reduce the excessive workload in the courts Exchange of views on the content of the future draft proposal and the way forward
	REFERENCE DOCUMENTS <a href="#">Recommendation No. R (86)12 of the Committee of Ministers to member States concerning measures to prevent and reduce the excessive workload in the courts</a> <a href="#">Contribution from the European Union of Rechtspfleger (April 2018)</a> <a href="#">CCJE Opinion No. 22 (2019) The role of judicial assistants</a>
<hr/>	
5.	Develop tools supporting courts and justice professionals in improving judicial time management and court management Exchange of views on the possible future tool and the way forward
	REFERENCE DOCUMENT Time management checklist <a href="#">CEPEJ(2005)12REV</a>
<hr/>	
6.	Develop a compilation of good practices analysing success factors concerning judicial time management in member States Exchange of views on the possible future tool and the way forward
	REFERENCE DOCUMENT Compendium of “best practices” on time management of judicial proceedings <a href="#">CEPEJ(2006)13</a>

---

7.	Judicial time management in times of sanitary crisis Exchange of views on the follow up to be given to the draft report in the light of the discussion with the pilot courts	WORKING DOCUMENT  Draft analytical report on experience of pilot courts with judicial time management in times of health crisis <a href="#">CEPEJ-SATURN(2022)1</a>
<hr/>		
8.	Meeting of the Network of pilot courts Discussion to prepare for the meeting of pilot courts (10 March)	WORKING DOCUMENT  Draft agenda of the meeting of the Network of pilot courts <a href="#">CEPEJ-Pilot Courts(2022)OJ</a>
<hr/>		
9.	Any other business	REFERENCE DOCUMENT  Report of 31 <sup>st</sup> meeting of CEPEJ-SATURN <a href="#">CEPEJ-SATURN(2021)9</a>

## APPENDIX II

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

\*\*\*

#### MEMBERS / MEMBRES

**Vassilis ANDROULAKIS**, Judge, Council of State, Athens, GREECE

**Ivana BORZOVÁ**, Head of Department of Civil Supervision, Ministry of Justice, Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC

**Ivan CRNČEC**, Assistant Minister of Justice, Zagreb, CROATIA

**Francesco DEPASQUALE**, Magistrate, Legal Advisor to the Director General, Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, Valletta, MALTA

**Giacomo OBERTO**, Magistrat, Tribunal de Grande Instance de Turin, ITALIE, President of SATURN / *Président du SATURN*

**Mitja KOZAR**, Judicial Councillor, District Court, Malibor, SLOVENIA

\*\*\*

#### SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS / EXPERTS SCIENTIFIQUES

**Marco FABRI**, National Research Council (IRSIG-CNR), Bologna, ITALY

**Dimitrije ŠUJERANOVIĆ**, judicial expert, Belgrade, SERBIA

\*\*\*

#### COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE SECRETARIAT

Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI)

*Direction générale droits de l'Homme et Etat de droit (DGI)*

**Muriel DECOT**, Secretary of the CEPEJ

**Eva KONECNA**, Secretary of the CEPEJ-SATURN

**Milan NIKOLIC**, Co-Secretary of the CEPEJ-SATURN