



Strasbourg, 28 April 2022

CEPEJ-SATURN(2022)6

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

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

32nd meeting - videoconference, 9 March 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 its 32nd meeting on 9 March 2022. The meeting took place via videoconference.
2. The agenda and the list of participants are attached to this report as Appendices I and II respectively.

2. TOOLS ENABLING TO BETTER ANALYSE TIMEFRAMES ACCORDING TO THE VARIOUS STAGES OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

3. The Working Group had considered an exchange of views on the content of the questionnaire on detecting delays in civil proceedings (Document CEPEJ SATURN (2011)11) during the 15th Meeting of the Network of CEPEJ pilot courts, initially scheduled to take place on 10 March 2021 in Lublin, Poland, which was postponed due to the limited number of participants.
4. In order to avoid further delays on this work, the Working Group suggested the organisation of, as a first step, an online meeting to seek feedback from the interested pilot courts on the questionnaire and its follow-up. The revised questionnaire will then be sent to the pilot courts for their replies. A consultation of the CEPEJ national correspondents is also being considered.

3. GUIDELINES ALLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SYSTEM OF CASE WEIGHTING

5. The Working Group exchanged views on the draft questionnaire on case weighting in the public prosecution services (Document CEPEJ-SATURN(2022)3) that was developed based on preparatory work carried out by Ivan CRNČEC (Croatia) and Marco FABRI (Italy). The aim of this simple questionnaire is to identify the case weighting systems which exist or are planned to be put in place within the prosecution services.
6. The Working Group instructed the Secretariat to consult with the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) and the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) about their possible cooperation in collecting the information outlined in the questionnaire and their further involvement in the future work on this topic.

4. POSSIBLE UPDATE 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

7. The Working Group had a first exchange of views on the scope and the content of the possible revision of the Recommendation No.R(86)12 (Document CEPEJ-SATURN(2022)4) based on a draft submitted by Giacomo OBERTO (Italy) and Marco FABRI (Italy). The Working group considered that the proposed changes should be limited only to the work of the CEPEJ-SATURN and envisaged subsequent consultations with the other working groups of the CEPEJ.
8. The Working Group raised the issues of the involvement of the European Union of Rechtspfleger (EUR) in the proposal for the revised Recommendation, and in particular its Annexe I which contains examples of non-judicial tasks of which judges in some states could be relieved according to the circumstances particular to each country. Wolfgang LAEMMER (Germany) reiterated the interest of the EUR to contribute to the proposed update of the Recommendation and will submit a contribution to this effect in May 2022.

5. REVISION OF THE TIME MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

9. Dimitrije SUJERANOVIC (Serbia), scientific expert of the CEPEJ-SATURN, presented the revised Time Management Checklist, a tool for collecting relevant information for the analysis of the length of proceedings in the justice system (Document CEPEJ-SATURN(2022)5). The Checklist was updated in light of the documents and tools developed by the CEPEJ-SATURN and developments in justice systems since 2005.

10. The Working Group suggested to make the proposed changes visible and formulate them as simple questions in a new version to be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 March 2022. Further work on its revision will be carried out during regular online meetings as from the beginning of April 2022.

6. COMPILATION OF GOOD PRACTICES ANALYSING FACTORS CONCERNING JUDICIAL TIME MAANGEMENT IN MEMBER STATES

11. The Working Group considered the different steps for the update of the Compendium on “best practices” on judicial time management (Document CEPEJ-SATURN(2006)13):

- i. To assess the projects pertaining to judicial time management awarded by the “Crystal Scales of Justice” Prize and their results and decide whether it is relevant to include them in the Compendium. To this end, the Secretariat was entrusted with the preparation of a list of the winners of the Crystal Scale Justice competition for the next meeting of the Working Group.
- ii. To collect information on bodies in charge of collecting judicial practices in member States, including in the field of judicial time management. The CEPEJ members and/or national correspondents could be contacted in this respect.

7. TRAINING ON JUDICIAL TIME MANAGEMENT

12. The Secretariat informed the Working Group of the preparation of a training module on the HELP online platform on the CEPEJ and quality of justice. The HELP course will be composed of six sub-modules reflecting the CEPEJ’s work in the fields of artificial intelligence and digitalisation in the judiciary, mediation, judicial time management, perception of quality of justice by users, and evaluation of judicial systems. Furthermore, an introductory module will introduce the mandate, the functioning, and the composition of the CEPEJ and its working groups. The experts in charge of developing the different modules submitted their first drafts which were discussed at the 2nd meeting of the HELP-CEPEJ Working Group held on 3 and 4 March 2022.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

13. The Working Group highlighted the need to boost the Network of pilot courts which has not met since October 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

14. The Working group also suggested that the Secretariat would send a call for nominations of the CEPEJ pilot courts to the CEPEJ members, with a view to renewing the Network after more than two years of slowdown in activities.

15. Apart from the ad hoc online meeting to discuss how to detect delays in civil proceedings mentioned in paragraph 4 above, the Working Group suggested to organise the 15th face-to-face meeting of the pilot courts on 13 October 2022 together with its 33rd meeting. The District Court Lublin-East reiterated its invitation to hold the next meeting in Lublin, Poland.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

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

1. Opening of the meeting

2. **Tool to better detect delays in civil proceedings**
Exchange of views on the follow up to be given to the draft questionnaire

WORKING DOCUMENT

[Draft questionnaire on detecting delays in civil proceedings](#)
[CEPEJ-SATURN\(2021\)11](#)

3. **Guidelines allowing the implementation of a system of case weighting**
Exchange of views on the questionnaire and the way forward

WORKING DOCUMENT

[Questionnaire on case weighting in public prosecution services](#)
[CEPEJ-SATURN\(2022\)3](#)

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

[Case-weighting in judicial systems – Study No.28](#)

4. **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 draft proposal and the way forward

WORKING DOCUMENT

[Draft proposal for the update of the Recommendation R \(86\)12](#)
[CEPEJ-SATURN\(2022\)4](#)

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

[Opinion on REC \(86\)12](#)
[CEPEJ\(2014\)19](#)
[CCJE Opinion 22](#)

5. **Possible revision of the Time Management Checklist**
Exchange of views on the draft revised Time Management Checklist and the way forward
Expert in charge: Dimitrie SUJERANOVIC

WORKING DOCUMENT

[Draft revised Time Management Checklist](#)
[CEPEJ-SATURN\(2022\)5](#)

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

[Time management checklist](#)
[CEPEJ\(2005\)12REV](#)

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6. **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](#)
[CEPEJ\(2006\)13](#)

7. **Any other business**
- Update on HELP course
 - Cooperation with the CEPEJ pilot courts

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

[Report of the ad hoc meeting](#)
[CEPEJ-SATURN\(2022\)2](#)

ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

Vassilis ANDROULAKIS, Judge, Council of State, Athens, GREECE Apologised/*Excusé*

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, Judge, First-Instance Civil Court in Turin, ITALIE, President of SATURN / *Président du SATURN*

Christian DE VALKENEER, President of the First-instance Court in Namur-Dinant, BELGIQUE, Deputy member

SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS / EXPERTS SCIENTIFIQUES

OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS

EUROPEAN UNION OF RECHTSPFLEGER AND COURT CLERKS / *UNION EUROPEENNE DES GREFFIERS DE JUSTICE (EUR)*

Wolfgang LAEMMER, President

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)

Eva KONECNA, Secretary of the CEPEJ-SATURN

Milan NIKOLIC, Co-Secretary of the CEPEJ-SATURN
