



CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN JUDGES (CCJE)

CCJE-BU(2020)1

Strasbourg, 29 January 2020

Questionnaire for the preparation of the CCJE Opinion No. 23 (2020):

“The role of the Associations of Judges in supporting the judicial independence”

*Please in your answers do not send extracts of your legislation
but describe the situation in brief and concise manner.*

General

1. How many Associations of Judges (please note that they can have different names) exist in your country? 6
 - a) For judges of all jurisdictions and all court levels ___0___
 - b) For judges of certain jurisdictions only ___5___
 - c) For judges of certain court levels only ___1___
 - d) Are there Associations of Judges on some other criteria (i.e. women judges) ___0___

Total number of all types of Associations of Judges ___6___

Other objectives _____

Membership

2. What are the requirements for membership in the Associations of Judges?
The requirements are: a) Being a judge/prosecutor in service and b) pay a certain fee on a yearly basis.
3. Are prosecutors members of the Associations of Judges?
Yes

Legal framework / objectives

4. Which is the legal framework of the Association of Judges? Are there specific legal regulations (law, by-laws) which deal with the Associations of Judges in your country?

Yes, the legal framework of the Association of Judges is: a) Constitutional provision for the establishment of the Associations of Judges (art.89 §5), b) Civil Code (the articles concerning the organizations) and c) the Regulation of each Association.

5. According to their statutes, what are the main objectives of the Associations of Judges? (please mark yes or no and indicate by "1", "2" and "3" the three most important objectives)

Defending and fostering the independence of judges and the judiciary	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no 3
Defending and fostering the rule of law	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Fighting for economic safeguards of judges	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no 2
Fighting for social and physical security of judges	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no 1
Contribution to the development of the law	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Training of judges	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Ethics and accountability of judges	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Involvement in judicial self-government, especially influencing the election of officers of self-government	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Media work	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Organising conferences	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
International contacts and networking	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Other objectives (which)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

Support of individual judges

6. a) How do the Associations of Judges interact with individual judges?
Email , Mobile phone App
- b) Can judges get assistance from the Association (which kind)?
Moral support . In some cases of economic difficulties material help.
- c) Do the Associations of judges defend individual judges (against what)?
Yes. Against public assaults of the judiciary (usually by the press), interventions of the executive and interventions of other factors.
7. If there is an infringement of the independence of a judge or of the judiciary, by what means do the Associations of Judges react?
Usually the Associations of Judges react by a press release.
8. Is there any influence of the Associations of judges on appointment or promotion of judges? No

9. Is there any influence of the Associations of Judges in disciplinary procedures?
No

10. Is there any influence of the Associations of Judges on training?

No, except for that they are participating in the 11 - member Board of Directors of the National School of Judges with a single representative. Also, the Associations organize conferences for special topics.

Resources

11. Are there membership fees? Yes

12. What other resources are available for the Associations of Judges? No other

Administration of the Associations of Judges

13. How are the governing bodies, the secretariat and officers of the Associations of Judges selected? What is their term of office? Elections every two years.

14. Are there restrictions as regards the number of terms of office for members of the governing bodies of the Associations of Judges, and if yes, how many terms and for how long? No restriction

15. Are there restrictions to become an officer of an Association of Judges? No restriction

Interactions with state institutions and political parties

16. How do the Associations of Judges interact with the parliament? – The Associations collaborate with the Parliament in the service of the rule of law.

Are Associations of Judges involved in the process of law-making? Usually they are being heard in matters concerning the judiciary.

If yes, how (is this formal or informal)? They are summoned to the parliament's committees.

17. How do the Associations of Judges interact with the government, especially with the ministry of justice? The interaction is achieved through meetings

18. a) How do the Associations of Judges interact with political parties? The interaction is achieved through meetings.

b) Are certain Associations of Judges connected with certain political parties? No because of the constitutional restriction.

c) Is there an influence of party politics within the Associations of Judges? No

19. a) How do the Associations of Judges interact with the Council for the Judiciary? There is no Council for the Judiciary

b) What is the role, if any, of the Associations of Judges in the selection of members of the Council for the Judiciary and/or presidents of courts and judges (please describe)?

20. How do the Associations of Judges interact with the court administration and what, if any, are the problems in these relations? – The Associations are collaborating with the court administration whenever this is necessary

Interactions with other organisations

21. a) If there is more than one Association of Judges, how do they interact with each other? The interaction is achieved through meetings.

b) If there is more than one Association of Judges, how other stakeholders deal with this fact? – There are simultaneous contacts of the Associations with the stakeholders, unless there is a specialized issue for discussion.

22. How do the Associations of Judges interact with NGOs? – Usually the NGOs are sending information about their activities
23. How do the Associations of Judges interact with foreign or international organisations? The Associations of Judges participate as members in European and International Organisations of Judges
24. Is there a trade union, in which judges can be members? If so, what are the relations between this trade union and the association of judges? - The Associations of Judges in Greece have both the substance of a scientific organisation and a trade union

Ethical standards

25. Is there any influence of the Associations of Judges in establishing ethical standards? No
26. Do the Associations of judges contribute to a further improvement of the justice system? How? – The Associations of Judges make their contribution to further improvement of the justice system by proposals for legislation and training.

Perception

27. How does the public at large see the Associations of Judges? – We do not have a specialized research under our knowledge.