



CCJE-BU(2020)1

Strasbourg, 29 January 2020

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN JUDGES (CCJE)

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?
 - a) For judges of all jurisdictions and all court levels one
 - b) For judges of certain jurisdictions only _____
 - c) For judges of certain court levels only _____
 - d) Are there Associations of Judges on some other criteria (i.e. women judges) _____

Total number of all types of Associations of Judges One

Other objectives _____

Membership

2. What are the requirements for membership in the Associations of Judges?
Member of the Judiciary: judge or magistrate
3. Are prosecutors members of the Associations of Judges? No

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?

No law regulates the Association; it was set up by the Judiciary and simply recognised by Government as meetings are regularly held by the Committee of the Association and Government officials.

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

Support of individual judges

6. a) How do the Associations of Judges interact with individual judges?
Generally, informal contacts by the President of the Association and the member of the judiciary concerned
- b) Can judges get assistance from the Association (which kind)? Yes
- c) Do the Associations of judges defend individual judges (against what)? Yes if need be. Depending on the charge and the need for help.
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? By issuing a statement in support of the Judge. If need be, it can order measures as a sign of protest.

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

Resources

11. Are there membership fees? Yes
12. What other resources are available for the Associations of Judges? None

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? By members of the judiciary. 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 restrictions at all.
15. Are there restrictions to become an officer of an Association of Judges? No

Interactions with state institutions and political parties

16. How do the Associations of Judges interact with the parliament? They do not do so, although it does hold regular meeting with the Minister of Justice according to need.

Are Associations of Judges involved in the process of law-making? No

If yes, how (is this formal or informal)?
17. How do the Associations of Judges interact with the government, especially with the ministry of justice? As noted above.
18. a) How do the Associations of Judges interact with political parties? It does not.

b) Are certain Associations of Judges connected with certain political parties? No

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? If need be, it can hold meetings as necessary

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)? None
20. How do the Associations of Judges interact with the court administration and what, if any, are the problems in these relations?
If there are problems affecting a particular member it can intervene and try to reach a settlement.

Interactions with other organisations

21. a) If there is more than one Association of Judges, how do they interact with each other?
There is only one Association
- b) If there is more than one Association of Judges, how other stakeholders deal with this fact?
22. How do the Associations of Judges interact with NGOs? By holding meetings if the need arises
23. How do the Associations of Judges interact with foreign or international organisations?
By regular contacts
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? No

Ethical standards

25. Is there any influence of the Associations of Judges in establishing ethical standards?
Yes, the Association has issued a Code of Ethics for all members
26. Do the Associations of judges contribute to a further improvement of the justice system?
How?
We do sometimes provide memos with suggestions for amendments to the law

Perception

27. How does the public at large see the Associations of Judges?
I do not think the public was any perception of the Association as a body.