

Strasbourg, 14 November 2025

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN JUDGES (CCJE)

26th plenary meeting
12 - 14 November 2025
Room G03, Agora Building
Strasbourg

ABRIDGED MEETING REPORT

A. FOREWORD

1. The Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) held its 26th plenary meeting on 12 - 14 November 2025 in Strasbourg. It was chaired by Ms Leonie Reynolds (Ireland), President of the CCJE. The agenda is appended to the present report.

B. ITEMS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS FOR DECISION

2. The CCJE invited the Committee of Ministers:
 - a. to take note of Opinion No. 28 (2025) on the importance of judicial well-being for the delivery of justice which will be forwarded to the competent authorities in the member states while encouraging its translation into appropriate languages if need be, and to the relevant bodies of the Council of Europe, so that they can take account of it in their own work;
 - b. to take note of this report as a whole.

C. LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CCJE

The CCJE

3. **adopted** its Opinion No. 28 (2025) on the importance of judicial well-being for the delivery of justice subject to possible editorial amendments by its Bureau, which was entrusted with making any such amendments, if needed, and also ensuring consistency between the English and French versions;
4. **decided** to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for it to take note of it and to invite member states to ensure its dissemination as widely as possible among decision-makers and professionals of justice, including through its translation where needed;
5. **adopted** the CCJE comments in respect of the case of *Kuijt v. the Netherlands* (application no. 19365/19) pending before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights, following the invitation of the President of the European Court of Human Rights under Article 36 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and **decided** to forward these comments to the Court;
6. **welcomed** the 2025 Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe entitled “Towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe” which quoted the CCJE’s Opinion No. 27 (2024) on the disciplinary liability of judges, as regards the need for robust safeguards at the constitutional or legislative level and their effective implementation in practice. The same Report also quoted the CCJE’s Opinion No. 26 (2023) entitled “Moving forward: the use of assistive technology in the judiciary”, in particular stressing that technology should serve to support and strengthen the rule of law;
7. **took note** of the information provided by Ms Leonie Reynolds (Ireland), President of the CCJE, underlining the importance of the work of the CCJE in the overall context of the Council of Europe, as reflected in the Secretary General’s above-mentioned Report, and the Reykjavík Principles for Democracy adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Reykjavík, Iceland, 16-17 May 2023), which stress the commitment of member states to ensuring the independence and impartiality of the judiciary;
8. **took note** of the information provided by the President, as well as by the Vice-President and members of the Bureau, on the CCJE activities in 2025 and their participation in various events contributing to higher awareness of the standards developed by the CCJE;
9. also **took note** of the statements of the CCJE members underlining reforms of legal and justice systems and legislation in their respective member states and their continued efforts to introduce and promote the implementation of the CCJE standards; **welcomed** the increasing use of the CCJE standards in such context;
10. **welcomed** the continued close co-operation between the CCJE and other bodies and institutions of the Council of Europe, and in particular with the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), the European Committee on Legal Co-operation

(CDCJ) and the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);

11. **took note** in this respect of the recently adopted Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, and **noted** its significance as the first instrument of its kind aimed at safeguarding the legal profession as an essential component of the good functioning of justice systems;
12. **took note** of the adoption by the Committee of Ministers at its 134th Session (14 May 2025, Luxembourg) of the Strategy on the Environment and its Action Plan; **noted** that Action 4.3 of the Action Plan deals with the development of co-operation on the role of judges and prosecutors in environment-related cases; and also **took note** of the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law;
13. also **took note** in this respect of the adoption by the CEPEJ at its plenary meeting on 3-4 December 2024 of the Guidelines on the evaluation of the quality of work of judges which used, among other sources, the CCJE Opinion No. 17 (2014) on the evaluation of judges' work, the quality of justice and respect for judicial independence;
14. **welcomed** the continued use of the CEPEJ and Venice Commission's standards in the CCJE Opinions and other documents, and also the use by the CEPEJ and the Venice Commission of the CCJE standards and recommendations; also **noted** the continued references to the CCJE Opinions by the European Court of Human Rights in its judgments;
15. **adopted** the rules on membership and working methods of the CCJE based on the Terms of Reference of the CCJE for 2024-2027;
16. **reiterated** that it remains at the disposal of the Committee of Ministers and other bodies of the Council of Europe (particularly the Secretary General and the Parliamentary Assembly) and of the CCJE members to prepare opinions and other texts concerning the specific situation of judges in member states;
17. **entrusted**, in this regard, the Bureau of the CCJE to prepare, adopt and publish such opinions and other texts concerning the specific situation of judges in member states;
18. **decided** to proceed in 2026 with the preparation of the Opinion No. 29 (2026) focusing on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the work of judges, which is in line with the greater emphasis put within the Council of Europe on issues related to the artificial intelligence, including the recently adopted Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, and **instructed** its Bureau and the Working Group of 2026 to prepare a draft Opinion on this topic for adoption at its 27th plenary meeting in 2026;
19. **decided** to continue entrusting the Bureau of the CCJE with the organisation of the thematic studies of the CCJE, and organise in particular the preparation, in co-operation with the Secretariat, of the thematic study in 2026 on the role of judges in the protection of the environment, taking into account the recently adopted Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, and which will

serve as a groundwork for developing the relevant standards in one of the future CCJE Opinions;

20. **elected** José Igreja Matos (Portugal) as President, and Wiggo Larssen (Norway) as Vice-President for 2026; and warmly **thanked** Leonie Reynolds (Ireland) for her outstanding contribution to the work of the CCJE;
21. **elected** Marc de Werd (The Netherlands) and Björg Thorarensen (Iceland) as members of the Bureau for 2026-2027;
22. **appointed** Anke Eilers (Germany), Viktor Gorodovenko (Ukraine), Gianluca Grasso (Italy), Kim Lewison (United Kingdom), Björn Linden (Sweden), Ghenadie Mira (Republic of Moldova), Leonie Reynolds (Ireland), Duro Sessa (Croatia), Diana Tămagă (Romania), Ketevan Tsintsadze (Georgia) as members, and Valéry Turcey (France), Maiia Rousseva (Bulgaria) as substitute members of the Working Group responsible for preparing the draft Opinion in 2026 to be submitted to the 27th plenary meeting of the CCJE;
23. **appointed** Yvonne Summer (Austria) as the Gender Equality Rapporteur for 2026;
24. **decided** to hold its 27th plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 4-6 November 2026;
25. **decided** to hold the 50th and 51st meetings of the Working Group on 28-30 April 2026 and 24-26 June 2026, respectively.