2019 Discharge

Questionnaire to the European Court of Justice

Hearing: 10 November 2020

Horizontal and general questions

1. In a report published last year, the ECA pointed out that the majority of European institutions had not developed a real sustainable development strategy. What is the situation of your authority on this point?

The CJEU ensures that sustainability is embedded in all its work and activities.

In fact, the CJEU has implemented the environmental management system in accordance with the European Union's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and attaches the utmost importance to matters such as sustainable procurement, ethical and compliant behaviour of its staff and governing bodies, transparency and accountability, fraud prevention, fair recruitment, staff physical and mental health and well-being (flexible working arrangements, periodical medical examination, psychological counselling, ergonomics, network of confidential counsellors) and equal opportunities and diversity.

As mentioned in our reply to the ECA's questionnaire on sustainability reporting in January 2019, the relevant information published by the CJEU on these matters can be found in its Annual Activity Report (see in particular: Part III, Section V: "Results obtained in relation to compliance activities with the applicable regulations and the following up of best practices"; Part IV "Risks associated with operations of the CJEU's services"; Part VI "Internal control"; Annexe 1 "Staff policy statement"; Annexe 5 "Updated real estate investment plan"), in its Environmental Statement and more generally, on its website (see for example, the "Sustainable management" section, https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/P 134088/en/).

2. What measures have been taken in respect to the safety of staff, security of buildings and communications, including cybersecurity? What were the additional expenses for security in 2019? What measures have been taken in order to improve the physical and mental health at the workplace?

As regards safety of staff, the main measures implemented in 2019 are as follows:

- a close protection team, composed of a team leader and of 2 armed agents, was created in the fourth quarter of the year; part of the equipment needed has also been purchased;
- rooftops accesses were secured to allow maintenance and cleaning interventions in complete safety;

- machines likely to present risks to the safety of persons have been inspected and brought into conformity;
- different equipment was acquired in order to ensure the CJEU could effectively face a crisis affecting the safety of staff;
- organisation of training courses on the field of first aid.

With respect to security of buildings, it is worth mentioning that:

- the Joint Research Center delivered a consultancy in order to determine the best antiblast solutions for the security of visitors reception and control pavilions or lodges of the future security building project;
- a manual control has been created in order to be able to block access to the buildings in case of emergency.

Security of communications has been reinforced through the following measures:

- the protection of "High Sensitive Information" was improved by implementing new security measures, including the use of a high-level encryption software;
- adequate equipment has been purchased to limit the risk of a breach of sensitive information during the judges' deliberations.

Concerning cybersecurity, see the answer to question 54.

In general, the CJEU has equipped itself with crisis bodies enabling it to react effectively to any eventuality in order to guarantee the security of staff, buildings and information and to ensure business continuity, and whose usefulness and proper functioning have been proven during the health crisis in 2020.

The additional expenditure in the budgetary line 2026 "Building security and surveillance" in 2019 compared to 2018 amounted to around EUR 0.5 million.

Finally, in order to improve the physical and mental health of its staff at the workplace, the CJEU has hired a consulting psychologist to assist actively staff encountering personal or professional difficulties.

In addition, a series of training courses for all managers were organised based on the concept of human management, including modules focused on self-knowledge and emotion management designed to improve mental health in the workplace. Training courses were also provided, for all staff, in the field of conflict management, burnout prevention and ergonomic equipment. The HR Directorate fully covered the budgetary aspects of information and discussion sessions organised by the Staff Committee on topics such as recognition at work, management of emotions, mindfulness and developing resilience. The same topics were also followed by staff members in the framework of training sessions proposed by EUSA in its 2019 course program about wellbeing at work.

HR representatives participated in training on the subject of invisible handicap and related management tools.

3. Has your institution developed synergies or rationalisations with other European bodies? If so, which ones?

Yes, in 2019 the CJEU has continued to develop a multi-pronged strategy of interinstitutional cooperation. Mention should in particular be made of:

- The organisation of interinstitutional calls for tenders, whether as a partner or leader, in order to benefit from better market prices and optimise the associated management costs.
- The participation in interinstitutional groups or networks in various areas, such as buildings and security (GIS, GICIL), environmental protection (ECONET, GIME), IT (CII, CERT-EU Steering Committee and the Publications Office's FORMATS group), legal informatics (GIL, e-Law, e-Justice, EUR-Lex), vocational training, library (EUROLIB), information and communication [CEIII, Interinstitutional Online Communication Committee (IOCC), Web Preservation Group and Interinstitutional Archives Group [IIAG]], human resources (EPSO), equal opportunities and diversity (Intercopec, LUXX EU women's network).
- The cooperation in the field of translation and interpretation, within the framework of the ICTI (Interinstitutional Committee for Translation and Interpretation), the IEC (its Executive Committee for Interpretation) and the ECT (Executive Committee for Translation).
- The intensive use of interinstitutional tools such as ACI-Webcalendar, DocFinder, Euramis, IATE, Quest or eTranslation. The CJEU is working very actively with the Commission to improve the eTranslation tool, which is also part of the Connecting Europe Facility initiative, and to make it as suitable as possible for the CJEU's needs.
- The use of applications and hosting services common to other institutions. The shared applications cover the main areas of administrative management (human resources, payroll, training, and budget, financial and accounting management).
- The outsourcing to the Commission of certain human resources activities, namely in the areas of transfer of pension rights, severance pay and unemployment benefit.
- The cooperation with the Publications Office, both in relation to traditional publications (brochures, leaflets, etc.) and electronic publications.
- The housing in the CJEU's building complex of the EPSO Luxembourg antenna.
- The logistic support provided to the European Public Prosecutor's Office, taking into account the fact it will be based in the vicinity of the CJEU in Luxembourg (possibility for the EPPO's staff to use CJEU's canteen, to organise meetings in the premises of the CJEU and to take part in trainings organised by the CJEU). The CJEU also provided assistance in the evaluation of EPPO's translation needs.
- Finally, it is worth mentioning that the CJEU currently holds the Presidency of the College of Heads of Administration, of the Committee of Institutions based in Luxembourg (CAlux), of the Management Committee of the Publications Office and also provides the Secretariat of the Staff Regulations Committee.

4. How many trainings concerning harassment, whistleblowing, preventing conflict of interest or other ethical issues did your institution organise in 2019 and how many staff members participated in such programmes?

In 2019, the CJEU organised 5 trainings entitled "Rules of good conduct" with the participation of 63 staff members.

This training has been set up in order to inform newcomers and other staff members on their obligations under the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants. It covers harassment, whistleblowing, preventing conflict of interest and other ethical issues.

Whistleblowing and conflict of interest have also been included in the content of 2 financial training sessions: "Expenditure Lifecycle" and "Public Procurement". In 2019, 1 course of "Expenditure Lifecycle" and 1 course of "Public Procurement" were organised, with an overall participation of 28 persons.

5. Please name CJEU's main achievements and successes in 2019. How do they affect in the institution's challenges for the future?

The major achievement of the institution in 2019 is related to its capacity to adjudicate on the cases brought before it within a very reasonable period of time and with a reduction of the average length of proceedings before the Court of justice and the General Court. Some of these cases were of economic, social or political importance and concerned questions such as asylum and migration, or the independence of the judiciary in some Member States.

Another important landmark of 2019 in the judicial field is the entry into force on 1 May 2019 of the prior authorisation mechanism for certain appeals before the Court of Justice, which has already proven to have a positive impact on this court's workload (see the answer to question 12), as well as the implementation of the third and final stage of the structural reform of the General Court adopted in 2015. The latter resulted in a large number of challenges with respect to the functioning and organisation of the General Court (see the answer to question 12), but also in terms of logistics (see the answer to question 22) and IT (see the answer to question 53), which have been successfully and efficiently addressed.

In the administrative and institutional field, the major success of 2019 certainly lies in the delivery and opening of the 5th extension of the Palais of the Court of Justice, including the building of tower C, which construction has been carried out according to schedule and without exceeding the resources allocated for its completion (see answer question 22).

Amongst the main achievements in 2019, it is also worth mentioning the reinforcement of the internal legal framework of the CJEU in the field of data protection. On the one hand, independent supervision authorities responsible for monitoring the processing of personal data by the Court of Justice and the General Court when acting in their judicial capacity have been established, respectively on 10 and 16 October 2019, following the invitation made to the CJEU in recital 74 of Regulation (EU) 1725/2018 to set up an internal mechanism to this effect.

Finally, a change implemented in 2019 concerning the teleworking modalities has been proven crucial to deal with the situation created by the sanitary crisis in 2020. In fact, in

May 2019, a new decision setting up a system of occasional teleworking was adopted. This system facilitates the reconciliation of private and professional life, promotes continuity of the work performed and improves the attractiveness of the CJEU as an employer. All the work done for the implementation of this system in terms of providing staff with the necessary equipment and the adaptation of procedures in place proved as extremely useful once the CJEU was obliged to turn into a system of generalised teleworking in the context of the pandemic situation.

6. What was the average duration of proceedings in 2019 at the Court of Justice and the General Court compared to 2017 and 2018?

The average length of proceedings at the Court of Justice and the General Court was as follows:

	2017	2018	2019
Court of Justice	16.4	15.7	14.4
General Court	16.3	20.0	16.9

As far as the **Court of Justice** is concerned, the average length was as follows for the different types of proceedings:

	2017	2018	2019
References for a preliminary ruling	15.7	16	15.5
Appeals	17.1	13.4	11.1
Direct actions	20.3	18.8	19.1

In 2019, almost 70% of all closed cases before **the Court of Justice** concerned references for a preliminary ruling whereas appeals and direct actions represented approximately 24% and 5% respectively.

It should also be noted that 2019 saw a very significant increase in the number of new cases brought before the Court of Justice (+ 14% compared to 2018). Despite this significant increase, the average length of proceedings has remained stable overall for references for a preliminary ruling and direct actions, and decreased substantially for appeals.

As far as the **General Court** is concerned, the average duration of proceedings for cases closed by judgement and reasoned order decreased by 15.5% between 2018 and 2019 (16.9 months in 2019, compared to 20 months in 2018), having a noticeable impact, in particular in competition and intellectual property law cases. This positive evolution is in line with the objectives of the reform set by Regulation n° 2015/2022.

7. How many calls for tender did your institution organise in 2019? Please indicate the value and the number of applicants for each tender.

In 2019, the following tender procedures above the thresholds laid down in Directive 2014/24/EU were launched:

	Procurement proced	dures at	ove threshol	d launched in 2019	
No.	Object		Value	Type of procedure	Number of applicants
1	Design, implementation and operation of IT solutions for the Court of Justice			Open	
	Lot 1: Analysis, design and licensing of IT solutions	€ 8.00	00.000 (est.)		ongoing
	Lot 2: Implementation of IT solutions	€ 19.0	00.000 (est.)		ongoing
	Lot 3: User support operations	€	30.000.000		5
2	Conclusion of framework contracts for the translation of legal texts from Polish into Slovak	€	300.000	Restricted	The tender procedure is permanent, new requests may be accepted at any moment during the duration of the procedure.
3	Conclusion of framework contracts for the translation of legal texts from Polish into Maltese	€	300.000	Restricted	The tender procedure is permanent, new requests may be accepted at any moment during the duration of the procedure.
4	Medical analysis laboratory services	€	400.000	Open	2
5	Security guard and fire safety services for the buildings of the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Public Prosecutor's Office, as well as quality assessment of these services, and consultancy on safety and security			Restricted	
	Lot 1: Security guard and fire safety services for the buildings of the contracting authority	€	43.320.000		2
	Lot 2: Assessment of the quality of security guard and fire safety services provided by the contractor of lot 1, and consultancy on safety and security matters	€	501.625		3
6	Provision of office chairs that facilitate movement for the Court of Justice of the European Union			Open	
	Lot 1: Dynamic office chairs	€	550.000		4
	Lot 2: Sit-stand office stools	€	235.000		4
7	Integrated Case Management System	€ 25.0	00.000 (est.)	Competitive procedure with negotiation	ongoing
8	Supply of robust cabinets for the Court of Justice of the European Union	€	340.000	Open	3
9	Development, renovation and repair work in the buildings of the Court of Justice of the European Union			Open	
	Lot 1: Shell and core works	€	1.031.000		1
	Lot 2: Finishing works	€ 4.30	00.000 (est.)		not awarded
	Lot 3: Installation of electrical and HVAC technical equipment	€	3.530.000		2
	Lot 4: Movable partitions	€ 1.00	00.000 (est.)		ongoing
10	Financement du remboursement des travaux de mise à niveau du dispositif de sécurité des infrastructures immobilières de la CJUE (Projet CJ10)	€	31.000.000	Negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice (point 11.1, k) of Annexe 1 to FR)	4 (out of 10 invited)
11	Moving and handling services for the Court of Justice of the European Union	€	350.000	Open	1

8. What was the amount dedicated by the institution to travel for Members in 2019?

The table below shows the amount of the payments executed until 27 October 2020 regarding missions for Members in 2019 (residual payments concerning appropriations carried forward from 2019 could still take place until the end of the year).

Expenses for missions		
Members of the Court of Justice	€66 157.64	
Members of the General Court	€45 157.43	
TOTAL	€111 315.07	

9. What were the costs of the institution for interpretation, translation and language classes in 2019?

a) Translation

For translation, the costs, based on KIAPI methodology, were as follows:

	2019 (EUR)	
Total cost of AD staff (officials and temporary agents)	83 619 616.65	58.45%
Total cost of AST staff (officials and temporary agents)	16 436 323.20	11.49%
Cost of contract staff	689 632.58	0.48%
Freelance costs	12 306 224.07	8.60%
Non-staff costs	29 999 554.06	20.97%
Total	143 051 350.56	

It must be taken into account that the breakdown of these costs comprises translation-related sub-costs of salaries, the contributions of the employer towards the pension schemes, the costs of IT development, the maintenance and the contribution to the interinstitutional IT projects, the professional training, the library services, translation-related missions and other non-staff-related expenditures. Finally, these costs also comprise the cost of the buildings occupied by the staff concerned.

The cost of translation per page of EUR 117.62 is lower than in 2017 (EUR 126.87 per page) or in 2018 (EUR 117.77 per page). Translation costs are closely related to performance. Increased performance allows lower costs, increased quality and/or the execution of new tasks.

Amongst the many actions the CJEU has undertaken in order to increase performance, which directly or indirectly lead to a reduction in costs for translation, the following can be mentioned:

i. IT

The Directorate-General for Multilingualism uses the same advanced technological tools as other institutions, such as IATE, Euramis, DocFinder, Quest II or the neuronal translation tool eTranslation, which it co-finances. The CJEU has been working with dedicated CAT tool SDL Trados Studio for several years and uses ad hoc neural machine translation engines based on the case law of the Court of Justice and the General Court. Using this CAT tool ensures more convergence with the working methods of the translation services of other institutions, and yields not only increased quality, namely through consistency of translations, but savings too.

ii. Terminology

All of the language units of the Directorate-General for Multilingualism cooperate with the Projects and Terminology Coordination Unit in order to produce high quality legal

terminology including descriptions and a comparative law approach. In-house products available in IATE such as JUDIT (terminology of the Rules of Procedure) and the Comparative multilingual legal vocabulary are constantly updated and enriched in order to spare lawyer linguists long and complicated analyses and research, therefore allowing them to translate more pages at the highest level of quality.

The Directorate General for Multilingualism is represented in the inter-institutional terminology management groups which work on several aspects: IT tools (e.g.: IATE, terminology management in SDL Trados Studio, etc.) and content management (common best practices, collections sharing, etc.).

iii. Training

Lawyer linguists attend lectures organised by the CJEU or given either by outside guests from the national legal communities or by other lawyer linguists on specific topics. Moreover, numerous discussion groups led by lawyer linguists on legal texts in their language and open to lawyer linguists of other legal cultures focus on particular topics. IT, language and other trainings are also organised. The competence thus created and/or maintained increases performance.

b) Interpretation

For the Interpretation service the costs, based on the KIAPI methodology, were as follows:

2019 (EUR)				
Total costs AD staff (officials and temporary agents)	10 258 990.00	63.65%		
Total costs AST staff (officials and temporary agents)	266 001.00	1.65%		
Costs of contract staff	67 242.69	0.42%		
ACI cost	2 876 500.00	17.85%		
Non-staff costs	2 648 791.91	16.43%		
Total	16 117 525.60			

The total cost relates to the interpretation of the 617 meetings organised by the CJEU in 2019. Apart from official protocol visits, seminars and formal sittings, the major part of the activity covers the costs of the hearings. The total cost for the interpretation of the 539 hearings in 2019 amounted to EUR 14 079 977.80, therefore with an average cost by hearing of EUR 26 122.41.

Efforts continue to be made to contain the cost of recruitment of freelance interpreters (AIC). In 2019, 2 117 AIC days were required to cover 539 hearings, slightly increasing the ratio of contract days to 3.92 AICs per hearing. Furthermore, in order to ensure the highest possible standard of interpretation, the interpretation directorate endeavours whenever possible to recruit from among a pool of proven AICs with prior work experience in judicial conference interpretation.

c) Language classes

The cost sustained by the institution for language classes in 2019 was EUR 1 021 923.

10. Can the ECJ provide a table how its workload in 2019 compared to 2018 and 2017 has changed?

The following table compares the workload of the institution in the 3 years demanded on the basis of some key indicators:

	2017	2018	2019
Cases brought	1 656	1 683	1 905
Cases completed	1 594	1 769	1 739
Cases pending	2 420	2 334	2 500
Procedural documents entered in the registers	154 336	163 642	168 286
Translated pages	1 135 000	1 215 000	1 265 000

11. Has the CJEU conducted an assessment on whether the workload is distributed proportionally across the different teams and members of staff? How many cases of burnouts have been reported in 2019 compared to the previous years?

As far as the Members of the Court of Justice and their chambers are concerned, it should be recalled that the President has responsibility for allocating cases to Judge Rapporteurs. Before allocating a new case to a Judge Rapporteur, the President always checks the current and anticipated workload of that judge and his/her chambers.

As far as the Members of the General Court and their chambers are concerned, it should be recalled that the President has responsibility for allocating cases to Chambers. Before allocating a new case to a Chamber, the President assesses its workload. After this allocation, the President of the Chamber concerned makes a proposal to the President concerning the allocation of the case to a Judge Rapporteur and the President takes a decision based on that proposal. Tools have been made available to the President and to the Presidents of Chamber that enable them to know exactly how many pending cases the Chamber has in its current portfolio (by Judge Rapporteur, by sub-composition of the Chamber and by category of cases) and thus to assess the impact of any new case allocation on that portfolio. These tools also indicate the "total workload" (number of cases) for each Judge Rapporteur and sub-composition (before and after allocation). In addition, the President and the Presidents of Chamber conduct an analysis of the workload of Judge Rapporteurs every 6 weeks.

For the administrative services and taking into account the continuous increase in the workload and the limited resources available, the managers monitor on an ongoing basis the workload and its distribution between the different members of staff in order to be able to proceed to the necessary adjustments.

Concerning the cases of burnout and according to the CJEU's medical service's best estimate, in 2019, there were 20 cases where members of staff showed symptoms which could be associated with a diagnosis of burnout. It is worth specifying that the 20 cases registered in 2019 and the 12 cases registered for each of the years 2017 and 2018 may include staff members facing personal difficulties, without any direct or indirect link to workload or their working conditions.

12. What measures have been introduced in 2019 to ensure that the ECJ is able to cope with an ever-increasing workload while still respecting its objectives?

The significant increase in the workload at the **Court of Justice** (+14 %) over the years 2018-2019 (966 cases brought in 2019 compared to 849 in 2018) was to a great extent attributable to the considerable rise in the number of appeals brought before it. Whilst in 2017, 141 new appeals were lodged before the Court of Justice, that number rose to 193 in 2018 and to 256 in 2019.

For that reason the Court of Justice submitted, back in 2018, a request to insert a new provision in the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union introducing a prior authorisation mechanism for certain categories of appeal. Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 2019/629, which entered into force on 1 May 2019, amended the Statute of the Court of Justice to include that provision, thereby allowing for such a mechanism to be implemented, notably for appeals in the field of intellectual property. Under that mechanism, the Court of Justice allows an appeal to proceed, in whole or in part, only where it raises an issue that is significant with respect to the unity, consistency or development of EU law.

The introduction of this new mechanism has led to a reduction both in the number of appeals brought in the fields concerned and in the Court of Justice's workload in dealing with such appeals, meaning that it is currently capable of dealing with all of its cases in a timely manner.

As far **the General Court** is concerned, the number of incoming cases has increased from 834 in 2018 to 939 in 2019. It is worth mentioning that, in the context of the reform provided for by Regulation N° 2015/2022, the trend of having more cases heard by Chambers sitting with 5 judges has been confirmed (65 cases in 2019 compared to 64 in 2018, and 8 on average per year for the period 2010-2015).

The year 2019, during which the third phase of the reform was completed, saw significant structural changes at the General Court. A set of measures was introduced to enhance performance and optimise working methods, in particular the creation of specialised chambers for intellectual property and staff cases, a greater involvement of the President and the Vice-President in judicial work, the modernisation of systems for the statistical monitoring of chambers' performance and the mid-term planning of the General Court's activity.

Staff

13. What flexible working arrangements does CJEU offer? Were there any changes made following the outbreak of the COVID-19 and the increase in workload?

Flexible working arrangements available at the CJEU include part-time work with different working time arrangements, flexitime, parental leave, family leave and telework, whether on a full-time, part-time or an occasional basis.

Since the outbreak of the sanitary crisis and the lockdown, a regime of generalised teleworking had to be implemented. Flexitime has been temporarily suspended.

Certain staff members in part-time work have exceptionally opted for a full-time scheme in order to manage the increase of workload or take over duties of other absent staff members.

14. What were the most important actions taken by the institution in favour of gender equality and geographical balance?

Gender equality

The CJEU makes every effort to encourage the applications of women to senior and middle management positions, which are filled on the basis of the assessment of the merits of all candidates. Efforts in the field of equal opportunities led by the HR Directorate, through mentoring, coaching, communication, talent management and job shadowing, are becoming increasingly visible since 2018. The equal opportunities and diversity entity set up a scheme entitled "Optimising integration" in order to provide useful advice to newcomers and to any other staff member seeking information on career development perspectives. Furthermore, the equal opportunities entity communicates actions to remind staff of the aspects relating to equal opportunities and facilitates collaboration with the other institutions and female professional networks, through regular exchanges and joint actions.

This entity organised in 2019 a one-day interinstitutional event with the participation of members of the LUXX EU women's network and of female staff of the CJEU with a view to discussing the CJEU's equal opportunities policy, the existing training and skills development programmes and the career management of female staff members by reconciling professional and private life and remaining focused on the objective of evolution and progression.

The figures are encouraging as the female senior and middle managers have reached 39% at the end of 2019 and, in 2020, 40 % of the senior managers and 41% of the middle managers.

Geographical balance

The CJEU remains sensitive to the particular interest of ensuring a balanced geographical representation among its staff and takes this into account, in strict compliance with the rules laid down in Article 7(1) and the first paragraph of Article 27 of the Staff Regulations, in the context of its recruitment procedures. It deploys its best efforts to encourage

applications from candidates whose nationality is underrepresented and makes good use of the pertinent information obtained from the interinstitutional exchanges on the subject.

15. What is the gender distribution in your institution, especially for top management positions?

Staff in general: 39 % male -61 % female AD staff: 46 % male -54 % female Middle management: 59% male -41 % female Senior management: 60% male -40% female

16. The CJEU's administration has worked on more detailed rules governing the exercise of external activities by staff to be implemented in 2020. How was the situation at the end of 2019?

The CJEU applies directly, and in a strict manner, the obligations set out in the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of other servants concerning professional activities by staff.

Furthermore, in 2019 (and more intensively in 2020), the institution started to offer to its staff a special training focused on deontology and ethics, including the rules on external activities, with the aim to raise awareness of the staff about their statutory rights and obligations.

We had also intended to adopt internal rules, during the course of 2020, laying down detailed provisions on individual obligations related to conflicts of interest, outside activities, occupational activities after leaving the service, gainful employment of the spouse, public offices, and publications. Additional workload owing to the current health situation has delayed this slightly.

17. Could you please provide a table of all human resources broken down by nationality, type of contract, gender and grade for the year 2019, and an overview of how these figures compare with the year 2018?

(Detailed table: see Annex 1)

At the end of 2019, the CJEU's staff was composed of:

- 1 401 officials (62%), 681 temporary agents (30%) and 174 contract agents (8%);
- overall, 1 372 women (61%) and 884 men (39%);
- 56% AD, 33% AST, 3% AST/SC and 8% contract agents.

At the end of 2018, the CJEU's staff was composed of:

- 1 413 officials (64%), 650 temporary agents (29%) and 154 contract agents (7%);
- Overall, 1 345 women (61%) and 872 men (39%);
- 56% AD, 34% AST, 3% AST/SC and 7% contract agents.

There has been a slight decrease concerning the percentage of officials in 2019 (62%) in comparison to the percentage of 2018 (64%), as well as an increase of 1 point in the percentage regarding contract agents (from 7% to 8%).

18. Could you please provide us a table of staff broken down by type of contract and average duration (of contractual employments) for 2013 and 2019?

2013		20	19		
STATUTO	ORY LINK		STATUTO	ORY LINK	
Temporary agents		612	Temporary agents		681
Contract agents	GFI : GFII : GFIII :	139 72 23 36	Contract agents	GFI: GFII: GFIII:	174 84 28 42
	GFIV:	8		GFIV:	20
Average dura	ation of contr	acts (not ii	ncluding contracts for in	definite perio	ods)
3.5 y	ears ears		3.8 y	ears	

19. We would appreciate a comprehensive overview of staff on sick leave in 2019, broken down by the total number of staff members that were on sick leave and by how many days they were on sick leave in total.

How many days did the three longest cases of sick leave last for? How many days of sick leave were taken on Mondays and Fridays in 2018? What was the evolution since 2013?

The CJEU's staff took a total of 25 629.50 days of sick leave in 2019. This works out at an average of approximately 11.36 days per member of staff. Of these, 892 days were taken only on a Monday and 879 days only on a Friday. In comparison, in 2018, 924.50 days were taken only on a Monday and 863 days only on a Friday.

Sick leaves without a medical certificate correspond to 3 592.50 days and 1 109 people. The average per person, based on the total number of staff members in 2019, is 1.6 days.

Sick leaves with a medical certificate correspond to 22 037 days and 1 010 people, with an average per person, based on the total number of staff members in 2019, of 9.77 days.

The three longest cases of sick leave in 2019 concerned staff who were absent, respectively, for 365, 365 and 358 days, due to very serious illness.

Due to the implementation of a new IT system in 2013 and 2014, statistical data are only available from 2015 onwards.

In 2015, a total of 20 860.50 days of sick leave were taken by the CJEU's staff. The average was approximately 9.74 days per member of staff.

20. How many requests for promotions were submitted in 2019? How many promotions between function groups were postponed or denied in 2019? Were any of these a consequence of the 2014 staff reform?

At the CJEU, the promotion system is not based on a requests submission mechanism. The annual number of promotions depends on the number of officials reaching, for each grade, a particular threshold of promotion points as well as the availability of budgetary posts. These thresholds result from a conversion into "promotion points" of the rates laid down in Annex I, Section B of the Staff Regulations ("SR").

Number of officials promoted at the CJUE in 2019 for each grade:

	Promoted in 2019	% on the last 5 years average basis
AD 13	2	8.42%
AD 12	2	3.13%
AD 11	14	22.20%
AD 10	25	22.83%
AD 9	24	24.96%
AD 8	44	30.92%
AD 7	36	35.32%
AD 6	3	32.79%
AD 5	6	34.76%

	Promoted in 2019	% on the last 5 years average basis
AST 10	0	20.56%
AST 9	0	3.73%
AST 8	4	21.43%
AST 7	8	19.32%
AST 6	20	24.97%
AST 5	21	22.62%
AST 4	28	29.79%
AST 3	28	33.16%
AST 2	8	27.79%
AST 1	1	18.57%

Concerning the certification procedure (Article 45 of the SR), a number of 2 or 3 AST officials (3 in 2019) is selected annually to follow the training program organised by EPSO and EUSA. Since 2004, 22 AST have been appointed on AD positions (3 among them in 2019).

21. What were the most important actions taken by the institution in 2019 in order to have a more diverse workforce?

The most important actions taken by the institution in 2019 to promote a more diverse workforce include:

- regular participation of HR representatives to recruitment interviews and selection panels in order to encourage diversity and inclusion.
- awareness-raising meetings and events, in collaboration with the Staff Committee, on diversity and inclusion.

22. Were there any changes made to the organisation of workspaces in 2019? Could you please provide a table of the current workspaces and their capacity?

The landmark event of 2019 was the delivery and entry into service on July 15th of the 5th extension to the Palais of the Court of Justice, including the new Tower C.

The delivery of this new extension, with a total surface area of 42 631 m², of which approximately 14 850 m² is office spaces, enabled the CJEU to reorganise its work spaces by terminating the lease of the last building rented over the last years at Kirchberg (the T/T bis buildings, with a surface area of approximately 33 000 m²). Some 750 workstations could thus reintegrate the CJEU's building complex, mainly in Tower C, but also in Tower B.

The entry into service of the new Tour C also made it possible to free up workspaces in the Erasmus building. These spaces were necessary to accommodate, close to the other judges of the General Court, the 7 additional judges who joined this court in September 2019, in the framework of the third and final stage of the structural reform that was adopted in 2015 and has led to the doubling of the number of judges at the General Court. This increase in the number of judges has also made it necessary to reorganise the General Court's Grand Conference Room in the Annex C building in order to increase its capacity to a maximum of 61 seats.

In addition to the offices used by the CJEU's staff, the new extension contains a data centre, 10 training rooms and 12 meeting rooms, a new health centre and catering facilities.

Finally, it should be noted that a series of refurbishment operations have begun in the Erasmus, Annex C and Gallery buildings. These include the conversion of the old reproduction workshop and the Gallery cafeteria into a courtroom, the creation of a secured archive room in the former health centre, and the transformation of training rooms on the first level of the Gallery into reception rooms for groups of visitors.

A table of the current workspaces and their capacity is presented as Annex 2.

23. Flexible working arrangements:

a) What flexible working arrangements does your institution offer?

Flexible working arrangements available at the CJEU include part-time work, flexitime work, parental leave, family leave and telework.

b) How often are they used? Has there been a development in the frequency?

In 2019, the total number of officials and agents who used flexible working arrangements was as follows:

Part-time work: 225
Parental Leave: 314
Flexitime work: 939
Family Leave: 17
Telework: 353

In 2018, the total number was as follows:

Part-time work: 210
Parental Leave: 299
Flexitime work: 775
Family Leave: 18
Telework: 305

c) What is the share of men and women respectively using these working arrangements?

Part-time work: 190 women and 35 men
Parental Leave: 237 women and 77 men
Flexitime work: 628 women and 311 men
Family Leave: 12 women and 5 men
Telework: 256 women and 97 men

d) To what extent does your institution encourage parents to make use of flexible working arrangements to better combine family life with their career?

Information about the existing flexible working arrangements is provided at the entry of service and is published with detailed explanations on the Staff Vademecum (Intranet). Staff members, especially young parents, who request parental leave or part-time arrangements, are also informed about the whole range of existing flexible working patterns.

e) Can all categories of staff apply for these working arrangements?

All categories of staff (officials, temporary and contract agents) can apply for these flexible working arrangements, in accordance with the provisions of the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants.

24. How many British members of staff work for your institution?

There are currently 24 British members of staff who are not nationals of a Member State: 18 officials, 5 temporary agents and 1 contract agent.

25. What were the costs in 2019 respectively for away days, closed conferences or similar events for staff? How many staff members participated in the respective events? Where exactly did these events take place?

The CJEU organised 7 Away Days in 2019. 1 was held on the premises of the CJEU, 5 were held in the European Foyer, the centre for training and cultural activities of the European institutions in Luxembourg managed by OIL (Commission), and 1 in a hotel of the city Stadtbredimus (Luxembourg).

The events were the following:

Donortmont	Doutisinouts	Expenses	
Department	Participants	Logistics	Trainer
Directorate for Interpretation	5	€ 378.00	€ 4 155.00
Directorate for IT	5	€ 378.00	€ 4 155.00
Directorate for Protocol and Visits	27	€ 1 303.04	€ 4 155.00
Directorate for Research and Documentation	10	€ 540.00	N/A
Security Unit	17	€ 912.00	€ 4 155.00
Portuguese Translation Unit	31	€ 1 024.52	N/A
Senior management of the CJEU	23	€ 6 990.23	N/A
TOTAL	118	€ 11 525.79	€ 16 620.00

26. How many trainees have worked in 2019 at the CJEU? How many trainees have been paid and ensured a fair remuneration?

In 2019, the CJEU engaged 272 trainees.

Among them, 132 trainees were granted a monthly stipend by the CJEU's budget.

27. How many traineeships at the ECJ were non-paid in 2019? Please provide a table with the numbers of non-paid traineeships from 2016–2019. When will the ECJ install a fair reimbursement scheme to eliminate all non-paid traineeship / internships?

140 trainees were not paid by the CJEU's budget in 2019.

Year	Non-paid trainees
2016	156
2017	193
2018	187
2019	140

For the future, the CJEU is contemplating the possibility of increasing even further the number of paid trainees by the CJEU's budget.

28. Only 15 of 57 heads of unit at the CJEU and 2 of its 13 directors are from Member States that have joined the Union since May 2004. How does the ECJ ensure that there is a merit-based recruitment scheme that takes account of geographical balance?

The CJEU remains sensitive to the particular interest around ensuring a balanced geographical representation among managers and considers this aspect for the appointment procedures, in strict compliance with the rules laid down in Article 7(1) and the first paragraph of Article 27 of the Staff Regulations.

The overall percentage of senior and middle managers coming from Member States that have joined the EU since May 2004 is 22%.

We would point out that this figure reflects approximately the population of the new Member States as a proportion of the total population of the Union.

Harassment

29. Has there been any modification to your anti-harassment rules or actions?

There has been no modification to the CJEU's anti-harassment rules or actions in 2019.

The CJEU is committed to preventing all forms of harassment in the workplace. The internal rules and procedures of the CJEU are published on the Internet site of the Institution in order to promote a respectful working environment and to prevent any form of harassment. The CJEU's staff is informed, by that means, about the possibility to initiate a formal or an informal procedure in case of inappropriate behaviour. The HR Directorate examines complaints and organises investigations if necessary.

30. Where there any cases related to harassment reported, investigated and/or concluded in 2019? If so, how were they handled and what were the expenditure in terms of court case management or sentences?

One alleged case of harassment was reported in 2019. The competent authority concluded that the alleged facts did not constitute harassment as defined by Article 12a of the Staff Regulations. The person who reported the alleged case of harassment did not contest this decision.

In 2019, one investigation was concluded following complaints of harassment by members of staff. This case was handled by means of an administrative inquiry led by a former judge of the Civil Service Tribunal.

No other complaints were received.

There was no expenditure in terms of court case management or sentences.

Whistleblowing

31. Were there any whistleblower cases coming out of the CJEU and in such a case how did you follow up on them? How did you guarantee protection of the whistleblower from any possible reprisals?

In 2019, one person initiated an action under the CJEU's rules on whistleblowing, which were then applied. The verification of the facts was carried out in accordance with these rules. Based on this verification, appropriate decisions were taken, of which the person was informed under the rules on whistleblowing. There was no indication of any possible reprisal against that person within the CJEU. Therefore, no specific measures were or had to be taken in this respect.

32. How many cases of whistleblowing were reported in 2019? What improvements have been made regarding procedures for whistleblowing? How many of these reports have been notified to OLAF?

There was one case of whistleblowing in 2019 (see the answer to question 31), which was also the first one to trigger the application of the CJEU's rules on whistleblowing adopted in 2017 (decision of the Administrative Committee of the Court of Justice of the European Union of September 25, 2017 adopting a general framework for issuing and handling alerts, as amended by the decision of June 11, 2018). This case showed these rules to be "fit for purpose". No change to these rules is therefore necessary at this moment. OLAF was not informed of the alleged facts put forward by the whistleblower. The information at the CJEU's disposal allowed it to take the appropriate decisions.

Communication

33. How many viewers visited the new CJEU website in 2019? What measures were taken in order to protect the privacy of the website users?

In 2019, the CJEU's website received a total of 8 150 232 visits and 36 065 064 pageviews. This compares with slightly more individual visits in 2018 (8 270 495) but fewer pageviews (32 808 573), which indicates that visitors are spending more time on the CJEU's website than was previously the case.

A number of features are in place to protect the privacy of website users.

The videos embedded from YouTube use the "nocookie" function to limit the placing of cookies or similar devices on the user's computer. Moreover, these videos will only load once the user has explicitly accepted the third-party cookies from YouTube.

Consent to the use of these cookies can also be withdrawn at any time by the use of a simple button on the "Cookies" page of the website.

Following recommendations from the EDPS and the judgment of 1 October 2019, Planet49 (C-673/17, EU:C:2019:801), the cookie banner on the CJEU's website was improved to allow

users to accept or reject those cookies which are not first party and strictly necessary cookies.

Finally, in order to prevent user data being transferred to a third party, the font used on the website was hosted within the CJEU's curia.europa.eu domain, rather than the usual web practice of calling the font from the servers of the font provider (in this instance Google font).

34. What was the ECJ's budget for communication activities in 2019? Can you explain the strong increase in expenditure between 2015 and 2018 (from EUR 243 500 to EUR 429 000?)

As a preliminary point, it should be noted that the budget for communication activities in the year 2015 was the lowest that it has been at any point in the last decade. Taking a more long-term view, the budget for communication activities has not seen such a great increase over the last 10 years:

Year	Amount
2019	505 091
2018	429 000
2017	331 500
2016	306 500
2015	243 500
2014	305 500
2013	330 500
2012	276 216
2011	424 365
2010	369 435

The overall budget for communication activities was EUR 505 091 for 2019.

This amount covers activities such as the publication of the Annual Report (the Report on Judicial Activity, the Year in Review and the Management Report), brochures and other printed materials, media monitoring services, the production of animations, communication material, professional photography, outreach events (including seminars for journalists, the CJEU's Open Day, materials for job fairs, etc.), some development work for the CJEU's website and expenses linked to memberships of legal associations.

The increase in expenditure stems from a number of reasons.

The move over the last few years to more audiovisual means of communication has had an impact on the budget as such material is generally more expensive to produce than printed material. Since 2017, the CJEU has produced 16 short animations, each in 23 languages (368 animations in total), about its work and case law. A number of other videos have also

been produced. In 2018, 3 animations were produced at a total cost of EUR 136 460, and in 2019, 2 further animations were produced at a cost of EUR 103 000.

Since 2016, the CJEU has added an extra element to its Annual Report, the "Year in Review" which is designed to provide a summary of its work over the year for a non-specialist audience, in addition to the production of the more substantial summary of the CJEU's case law and statistics designed for a legal audience. In 2018, the costs of producing and distributing this document amounted to EUR 57 000, and in 2019 EUR 78 000.

In both 2018 and 2019 a total of EUR 60 000 was budgeted for the outsourcing of some of our media-monitoring work. Previously the entire media-monitoring service of the CJEU had been carried out in-house, but because of the need to redeploy some human resources to other tasks, this was no longer feasible.

All of this is in addition to the most traditional communication work that has continued to be carried out (producing press releases, providing support to journalists, answering queries from the general public, publishing the Annual Report, maintaining the CJEU's website), which itself has not decreased in volume over the corresponding period.

35. What were the key priorities in the communication strategies in 2019?

The key priorities and objectives of the CJEU's communication strategy are to:

- ensure a wide and timely dissemination of information about the CJEU's decisions;
- improve knowledge of the CJEU at the level of the citizen;
- ensure a greater access to information about the CJEU.

As has been the case for a number of years, these objectives were pursued through the use of multiple communication channels (press releases on judgements and opinions, production of brochures and the CJEU's annual reports, improvements to the CJEU's website, etc.).

One of the focal points of the CJEU's communication activities in 2019 was an increased use of social media to ensure a greater dissemination of its information. In that respect, in November 2019, the CJEU started to actively use LinkedIn to further inform interested parties of its work. The followers in this platform are increasing continuously.

Another priority for the CJEU's communication strategy has been ensuring that the material produced is used to its fullest potential. Cross-channel promotion, and continued re-use of our products such as the animations, new material added to the website, etc., has thus formed an important part of our work in 2019. Using a wide variety of channels to distribute the material also ensures that the CJEU directly reaches as large a number of citizens as possible.

Transparency

36. What activities has the CJEU started and what policies implemented in the area of transparency in 2019?

The main landmark of 2019 regarding transparency has to do with the Judicial Network of the European Union (JNEU), since the CJEU and the other participating courts have decided to make available to the general public in all languages, on the Curia website, all references for preliminary rulings submitted since 1 July 2018. This is a major achievement for dissemination of EU law and judicial cooperation. For the first time since the establishment of the preliminary ruling procedure, it enables all national courts and tribunals to have access to the content of references for a preliminary ruling and thus to gain a better understanding of the context in which the reference was made and the response given by the Court of Justice. It also helps them to assess the opportunity to submit a new reference for a preliminary ruling or to stay the proceedings pending the Court of Justice's decision on an issue identical to the one brought before them - which might prove useful to contain the number of references for preliminary rulings submitted in the future.

The section dedicated to the JNEU on the Curia website also provides for a selection of decisions of national courts of interest to EU law and documents of a scientific nature, such as the comparative law studies ("research notes") elaborated by the Directorate for Research and Documentation of the CJEU. These documents contribute to a better understanding of legal traditions of the Member States and draw upon an incomparable wealth of documents relating to EU law and its application in the Member States, now made available to judges, lawyers and legal researchers throughout the world.

Significant efforts have also been made throughout 2019 to ensure transparency in the area of personal data protection, following on from the work that accompanied the entry into force in 2018 of the new Regulation applicable to EU institutions. The CJEU put a great deal of efforts to enhance the information provided to data subjects, whose ability to exercise their rights in this area depends largely on the level of information they receive. In addition to the establishment of the supervisory authorities mentioned in the answer to question 5:

- the CJEU adopted a decision on potential restrictions of certain rights of data subjects, as contemplated by article 25 of Regulation (EU) 1725/2018;
- it created comprehensive pages on the Curia website relating to data protection, both in the judicial and administrative fields;
- the CJEU continued to document its processing activities, accompanied, whenever necessary, by information notices communicated or made available directly to data subjects (39 processing activities were documented in 2019).

It is also worth mentioning that this work in favour of transparency will continue in 2020, with the publication on its website of the central record of processing activities carried out by the CJEU.

Finally, mention should be made of the creation, in 2019, of "Abstracts of court decisions", prepared by the Research and Documentation Directorate. These brief presentations of judicial decisions, designed as a multi-purpose communication tool, represent a major step forward in terms of rationalisation of resources dedicated to the dissemination of case law,

since they serve as a basis for the production of press releases, case law fact sheets and the annual report. They also represent an important step forward in terms of transparency and information, since they allow for the public to discover, in all official languages and immediately upon delivery of the judgement, a large selection of decisions delivered by the Court of Justice and the General Court, which goes beyond the scope of the decisions usually selected for the purposes of press releases in the light of their media interest. For their first year of existence, 250 abstracts have been available to the public.

37. Did the Ombudsman issue any recommendations to the CJEU in 2019 and how did you follow up on them?

The Ombudsman did not issue any recommendations to the CJEU in 2019.

38. Following the recommendation of the Parliament, are all CJEU public hearings broadcasted, recorded and available online?

As explained by the CJEU in its answer to the Parliament's resolution of 14 May 2020 (concerning the 2018 discharge), Article 15 TFEU is not applicable to the CJEU as regards the performance of its judicial activities. The institution is nevertheless fully committed to transparency. The oral delivery of judgements and opinions for which there exists a significant interest from the press and the public are thus filmed and distributed through Europe by Satellite (EbS).

The live-streaming of the hearings themselves is a much more complex and costly matter as the Court of justice and the General Court operate in 24 languages and hold numerous hearings each week during which several of those languages are used by the parties' representatives. In addition to the fact that the oral arguments before the Court of justice and the General Court are very often characterised by a high degree of technicity and thus require an in-depth knowledge of the matter at issue, not least on the part of the interpreters themselves, the live-streaming of such hearings without access to simultaneous interpretation would be of limited interest for the vast majority of EU citizens for linguistic reasons.

Fraud and Corruption

39. How many OLAF investigations were carried out in 2019 with regard to the CJEU? How many of them led to a sentence?

In 2019, a disciplinary measure was taken following an OLAF investigation carried out in 2018. OLAF has been informed of this measure. Furthermore, an OLAF investigation was opened in 2019 which is still ongoing.

40. Which measures have been implemented to support better interinstitutional cooperation? Has the cooperation with OLAF increased?

The CJEU has always fully cooperated with OLAF in all instances where such cooperation was requested by OLAF and the CJEU is committed to continue with this good cooperation. The investigation opened in 2019 has given rise to intense cooperation with OLAF.

Conflict of Interests

41. What has been done by the CJEU to improve the internal procedure to verify, before attributing a case to a member, on the basis of the declarations of interests, whether that member has a financial interest in the case? Are declarations of financial interests of the Court's members public?

Pursuant to Article 5(2) of the Code of Conduct for Members and former Members of the Court of Justice of the European Union, on taking up their duties, Members shall submit a declaration of their financial interests, within the meaning of paragraph 3, to the President of the relevant court. According to Article 5(4) of the Code of conduct, this declaration is updated by the Member concerned in the event of changes to the financial interests held. The declaration is not made public.

The potential financial interest of a Member in the outcome of a case is verified on two levels.

First, as already indicated (question 11), the President of the court concerned attributes cases to Judge Rapporteurs, following different mechanisms. Before attributing a case he will first verify *in abstracto* whether the case *could* give rise to a conflict of interest because of a financial interest held by the Judge-Rapporteur. In many cases, e.g. in references for a preliminary ruling concerning litigation between a natural person and a Member State, the financial interests of the Members of the Court will not generally be liable to give rise to a conflict of interest (asylum cases, citizenship cases, etc.). When a particular case may potentially give rise to a conflict with a financial interest held by a Member, the President will verify the declaration of financial interests before deciding whether to attribute the case to the judge concerned.

Second, pursuant to Article 5(1) of the Code of conduct, Members are required to notify the President of their own motion "if they are to hear a case in which they have an interest that might give rise to a conflict of interest".

42. Have rules been established and implemented by the CJEU relating to the internal procedures on 'revolving doors' for senior members of staff? What is the current progress on the establishment and publication of these rules?

See answer to question 16.

43. The CJEU was asked in the last discharge "to publish more detailed information concerning the external activities of members, including the purpose, date, venue and travel and subsistence costs of the listed events and whether they were paid by the CJEU or by a third party". The CJEU affirmed to continue "to carry out the technical work necessary to publish additional information on those activities." Could you please provide more details on the progress made in this regard?

The CJEU is actively pursuing the technical work that has been undertaken to enable the publication of more detailed information on Members' external activities. Despite the fact that the Covid outbreak has led to a reassessment of certain priorities in order to prioritise business continuity, those operations are continuing close to schedule.

The complexity of the IT developments involved in this project can be explained, on the one hand, by the institution's ambition, in the interests of efficiency, to automate this publication as far as possible by promoting the automatic retrieval of relevant information from the various databases concerned and, on the other hand, to allow the automated publication of this information in all the official languages of the Union, in the interests of transparency and public scrutiny by *all* European citizens.

Pending the availability of that tool, the CJEU will examine the best alternative, in terms of transparency and allocation of resources, between manually compiling this financial information for publication on its website or making it available to European citizens upon request, where appropriate by inserting a comment to that effect in the list of external activities currently published on the Curia website (see the answer to question 45).

44. "the CJEU's administration is also continuing to work to establish more detailed rules regarding occupational activities after leaving service, as part of a general package of measures. These future rules will lay down detailed provisions on individual obligations related to conflicts of interest, outside activities, occupational activities after leaving service, gainful employment of the spouse, public offices, and publications." When does the CJEU's administration plan to finish the establishment of more detailed rules? When is the implementation of these new rules foreseen?

See answer to question 16.

- 45. Could you please provide a list of external activities pursued by the judges in 2019? How many working hours of judges were spent in 2019 for external activities?
- 46. Could you provide us with a list of the external activities of all your Members?

The list of external activities pursued by judges and advocates general in 2019 is publicly available on the Curia website. See:

– for Members of the Court of Justice:

¹ Discharge 2018: EU general budget – Court of Justice of the European Union

² Follow-up report – Report on measures taken in light of the European Parliament recommendations (Discharge 2018)

³ Follow-up report – Report on measures taken in light of the European Parliament recommendations (Discharge 2018)

https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-02/tra-doc-fr-div-c-0000-2018-201800885.pdf

– for Members of the General Court:

https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-02/tra-doc-fr-div-c-0000-2018-201800890-05 00.pdf

Members fully devote themselves to the fulfilment of their mandate. As a result, they are only permitted, subject to prior authorisation, to engage in outside activities insofar as such activities, which fall within the scope of their duties in respect to dissemination of case law, are compatible with the requirements of the Code of Conduct and with judicial activity. In view of the foregoing, the peculiar nature of their mandate hardly accommodates the concept of "working hours" applicable for civil servants.

47. Are there any former judges currently employed by the CJEU?

No former judges are currently employed by the CJEU.

48. Did you put in place rules governing post-office employment?

The revised Code of conduct for Members, entered into force on 1st January 2017, imposes very strict obligations on former Members with regard to their new professional undertakings after their ceasing to hold office, to prevent that advantage can be taken from their past occupation.

Article 9 of the Code sets out different kinds of incompatibilities regarding the activities they can carry out. On one hand, article 9 provides for a three-year waiting period during which they shall not be involved, as representatives of parties, in cases before the CJEU. On the other hand, they cannot become involved, in any manner whatsoever, in cases which were pending before the court of which they were a Member when they ceased to hold office or in cases connected with cases, whether pending or concluded, which they had dealt with.

In any event, one must stress out that Members are not relieved from their duty of integrity, dignity, loyalty and discretion after ceasing to hold office and that the secrecy of deliberation is not limited in time.

49. Given the current legal framework, the parliament criticised the declarations of financial interests as being of self-declaratory nature. What measures have been introduced to improve the system in cooperation with other institutions?

Article 5 of the Code of Conduct provides that each Member submits a declaration of financial interests upon taking office and updates it when necessary. As it is apparent from Article 5(6) of the Code of conduct, the objective of the declaration is judicial. The President of each court thus examines the declarations with a view to avoiding conflicts of interests when assigning cases to the different judge rapporteurs (see also the answer to question 41). The CJEU is in the process of examining whether this mechanism could be perfected with due regard to the principle of judicial independence.

50. Will the ECJ publish CVs and declarations of interest for all its members as requested by the parliament?

The CJEU is prepared to develop the information presented on its website as concerns Members' CVs and is considering the various options available for this purpose, taking into account, in particular, the approaches followed by the other institutions and the Member States in this area.

Declarations of interests constitute one of the internal instruments available to presidents for ensuring prevention of conflict of interests, as detailed under questions 41 and 49. As part of the discussions on the enrichment of CVs, the CJEU will nonetheless examine how a greater transparency can best be achieved in this area.

51. What actions have been introduced related to the use of official cars to improve the control system? What concrete measures have been adopted to avoid situations in which drivers are going to members' home countries without having the member on board?

In November 2017 and December 2018, the CJEU made important changes to the internal legal framework concerning Members' journeys, in particular with regard to the use of official cars and drivers.

Since then, the Member can only use the services of a driver to drive his service car in two cases:

- 1) where the Member's journey is justified by the carrying out of an investigative measure for the purposes of judicial proceedings or an external activity which has been authorised and for which the Member has received a mission order;
- 2) on an exceptional basis, when justified by special circumstances, such as reasons of health, safety or security, force majeure or exceptional events. In view of the derogatory nature of these authorisations, only one authorisation was granted in 2019 to transport a Member to its home country due to special circumstances.

These rules do not provide for any situation, other than exceptional circumstances, in which a driver could be asked to drive to or to return from the Member's home country (or to any other country) without being carried in the vehicle. The CJEU therefore considers that there is no need to make any further changes to the applicable framework on this point.

Activities to Lower the Environmental footprint

52. Please present your activities and achieved results to lower the environmental footprint (EMAS rules, energy, water, paper consumption, CO2 offsetting).

The CJEU is continuously improving its environmental performance by using its environmental management system in accordance with the EMAS regulation, which requires a monitoring of the different environmental aspects based on indicators. Most

indicators, in the form of a ratio per FTE (Full-Time Equivalent), showed a favourable trend in 2019 compared to 2015, the base year of our EMAS system:

- a reduction of heat consumption by 10.1% (kWh/FTE),
- a reduction of electricity consumption by 10.6% (kWh/FTE),
- a reduction of water consumption by 5.5% (m3/FTE),
- a reduction of paper consumption by 17.6% (kg/FTE),
- a reduction of office and canteen waste by 8.6% (kg/FTE),
- a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (without travels of visitors) by 10.9% (kg CO₂/ETP).

The various environmental projects that form the basis for continuous improvement of the environmental performance are as follows:

- as part of the CJEU's comprehensive carbon footprint update, a survey on staff commuting is conducted annually to evaluate the magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions related to this item. In 2020, with 903 people out of 2,249 FTE having filled in the questionnaire, the response rate to the survey was very high;
- in order to further reduce these emissions, the CJEU decided to participate, jointly with the other European institutions based in Luxembourg, in the vel'OH! service, the selfservice bicycle sharing system introduced in 2008 by the City of Luxembourg. In all likelihood the related contract is expected to be signed before the end of 2020 and it is also foreseen that the City of Luxembourg will build another bicycle rental station next to the premises of the CJEU;
- the gradual implementation of the project aiming at reducing the number of individual printers in use in the offices of the institution will also contribute to reducing the carbon footprint. In 2019 a pilot project with several departments was implemented in order to test a new software making it possible to safely print confidential documents on network printers, with a view to facilitate the removal of individual printers;
- in 2020, the CJEU has participated in the European Parliament's call for tender concerning the offsetting of carbon emissions. The Parliament has recently signed the contract with an emissions trading company for the purchase of credits financing three Gold Standard projects;
- a project to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic products has been launched with a particular focus on catering. Several environmental clauses aiming at reducing the volume of single-use plastic will be part of the new catering contract to be signed in 2021;
- in addition to the above, in order to reduce the quantity of single-use plastic bottles, the CJEU has set itself the target of phasing out all single-use plastic bottles in the meeting rooms and court rooms at the end of 2020;
- furthermore in order to promote the consumption of drinking water from the City of Luxembourg's distribution network, additional and new water dispensers will be installed in 2020;
- finally, the new call for tender "office paper" will include environmental clauses for the purchase of paper from sustainable sources as well as recycled paper.

Digitalisation and Cybersecurity

53. What steps have been taken in 2019 to enhance digitalisation in your institutions? How much was invested in IT projects and equipment in comparison with 2018?

As major highlights, during 2019, in line with its digital strategy, the CJEU continued the integrated case management system programme (SIGA), which aims to build an integrated system that will replace the majority of actual judiciary applications used by the Court of Justice and the General Court. Besides the technology renewal, the future system will add value by changing the approach from a silo approach of activity per department towards a transversal approach of the judiciary activities flows, offering thus the possibility of higher optimisation and automation of different steps. SIGA programme started mid-2018 and follows a recommendation of the Court of Auditors. Mid-2019 the call for tender was published and the evaluation phase started.

Also, the CJEU continued to improve its IT posture by both operating key technology migration (where infrastructure or software components were obsolete and presented business continuity risks) and by issuing a new architectural blueprint to support the future IT landscape (within which SIGA will be plugged in). In this respect, three key architectural components were designed for (a) identity and access management, (b) data master management and (c) service interconnection layer.

A mobility programme started at the end of 2018 continued in 2019, aiming as a whole to increase the total teleworking capability from 20%, situation before the programme implementation in 2018, to 100% in 2020. During 2019, a full mobility was provided to the cabinets of the Court of Justice and the General Court.

Beginning of November 2019, the Curia site was enriched (via its search engine) with information and documents concerning Union law, as interpreted and applied not only by the CJEU, but also by national courts. It provides direct access to preliminary rulings. The content was enriched with (a) preliminary rulings submitted from 1 July 2018, (b) decisions given by national courts selected for their interest in Union law and (c) other documents also selected by the member courts (members of the Judiciary Network).

In September 2019 the third and last phase of the reform of the General Court took place and, in support of this, applications and room equipment were adapted.

In order to leverage the benefits of the emerging technologies, an Innovation Lab was set up, aiming to explore as first priority the use cases and the benefits of artificial intelligence for the judiciary systems.

The investment in projects and equipment was increased by EUR 1.3 Mio in 2019 compared with 2018.

54. What steps has the CJEU taken towards improving cybersecurity of the institution in 2019?

Regarding the cybersecurity protection, the CJEU continued to ensure in close collaboration with CERT-EU the security of the IT operations and continued the collaboration with CII

(Informatics Inter-institutional Committee) subgroup security for aligning the best practices in this domain.

As background, the CJEU is a member of the Steering Board of CERT-EU and part of the CERT-EU Technical Forum and is using the extended services offered by CERT-EU, which ensures information exchange, punctual collaboration, resources pool, knowledge and best practices sharing, all of that leading to inter-institutional synergy effects.

During 2019, the CJEU was able to handle all cyber-attacks received and to ensure the protection of the whole IT landscape without any major incident.

Besides the technical and operational measures taken to ensure the cyber protection, the CJEU launched in 2019 two major initiatives:

- 1) it hosted the kick-off meeting of the Cybersecurity month, a cybersecurity event led by the European Commission, which reunites all EU Institutions and Member States, to create awareness on the topic across Europe;
- 2) it continued to raise the awareness amongst its own staff via tailored training addressing topics such as social media, mobility and Internet usage.

55. Is the use of e-Curia now compulsory by the Court of Justice? What measures were taken in order to protect the privacy of users?

In contrast with the General Court, which rendered the use of e-Curia compulsory for the parties since December 2018, the use of e-Curia is strongly encouraged by the Court of Justice, but is not compulsory in proceedings before the latter court. As explained by the CJEU in its answer to the Parliament's resolution of 14 May 2020 (concerning the 2018 discharge), the main reason for this difference between the two courts lies in the difference between the types of actions that can be brought before them.

Whereas the General Court only deals with direct actions – in which the parties must always be represented by an agent or a lawyer –, the Court of Justice deals with various types of actions (references for a preliminary ruling, direct actions, appeals, requests for opinions...) involving different kinds of actors: agents and lawyers, of course, but also national courts and tribunals, university teachers, people authorised under national rules to represent the parties in the main proceedings and, in some cases, the latter parties themselves. Imposing the use of e-Curia in all circumstances would be disproportionate and could lead to a possible restriction in the access to justice as some of the above-mentioned actors do not necessarily possess a computer (or do not have access to Internet) and often appear only once before the Court of Justice. The Court of Justice therefore accepts the requests for preliminary ruling sent by post as well as the procedural documents lodged by judges and parties (or their representatives).

This being said, the rate of utilisation of e-Curia at the Court of Justice is very important (80% of all the procedural documents lodged before this court in 2019 were lodged through that channel) and that percentage has grown further during the health crisis, in 2020, as a result of the lockdown and/or the non-functioning of the postal services in several Member States. New e-Curia accounts have been opened, inter alia by national courts and tribunals, thus leading to an increase in the number of procedural documents lodged through that channel. It may be expected that the percentage of documents lodged before the Court of

Justice by e-Curia will progressively approximate the percentage of documents lodged by that channel before the General Court (93% in 2019), thus contributing both to the speediness and security in the exchange of procedural documents and to the reduction of postal costs and of the environmental footprint of the institution.

As far as the privacy of users is concerned, all measures have been taken by the institution in order to ensure both the protection of the personal data of the users and the confidentiality of the documents exchanged through e-Curia. The personal data of the users (name, address and contact details) – which are a prerequisite for getting a personal e-Curia account – are kept in a safe place at the registries of the two courts and are never communicated to third parties, while all documents exchanged through e-Curia are encrypted and are only accessible to the parties to the case concerned.

56. Since the introduction of e-Curia, what changes have you observed concerning postal costs? What other efforts have you made to achieve widespread digitalisation of all stages of the judicial process?

The introduction of e-Curia, in November 2011, has had a major impact on the reduction of postal costs. Whereas those costs amounted to EUR 720 598.95 in 2011, they amounted only to EUR 89 954.3 in 2019, thus representing a reduction of more than 87% over 8 years. The remaining costs are attributable to the cases in which all or some parties do not have an e-Curia account (see the answer to question 55) and to some postal dispatches not connected with the treatment of cases.

In addition to the efforts made by the institution in order to promote the use of e-Curia, the institution is also fully committed to the establishment of an integrated case management system (better known under its French acronym "SIGA", standing for "Système intégré de gestion des affaires"), implying the digitalisation of all stages of the judicial process. For more information, please see the answer to question 53.

57. Has the CJEU considered the use of open-source technology, using software and hardware in order to prevent vendor lock-in, retain control over its own technical systems, provide stronger safeguards for user's privacy and data protection, increase security and transparency for the public?

The CJEU has a flexible approach, considers both open-source technologies and off-the-shelf (COTS) software and hardware, depending on the needs.

ANNEX I - COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION - DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF - 31.12.2019

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	BUDGETARY LINE	BUILDING	SURFACE AREA ABOVE-GROUND 2020 (in m²)	CONTRACT TYPE	BUDGET 2020 (EUR)	DRAFT BUDGET 2021 (EUR)
2000	Rent					
	OFFICE SPACE	T-Tbis	0	Lease	€0	€ 0
	Sub-total office space		0		€0	€0
	'NON-OFFICE' SPACE	T-Tbis Data Center	0 100	Lease Lease	€ 0 € 120.000	
	Sub-total 'non-office' space		100		€ 120.000	€ 130.000
TOTAL LINE 2000			100		€ 120.000	€ 130.000
2001	Lease-purchase					
	OFFICE SPACE	Renovated 'Annexes' ABC	23.164	Lease-purchase	€ 1.949.255	€ 1.950.923
		New Palais complex	49.551	Lease-purchase	€ 11.198.718	€ 10.049.359
		5th extension - under construction	30.400	Lease-purchase	€ 5.407.547	€ 5.052.095
	Sub-total office space		103.115		€ 18.555.520	€ 17.052.377
	NON-OFFICE' SPACE	Renovated 'Annexes' ABC New Palais complex	26.126 33.444	Lease-purchase Lease-purchase	€ 3.600.366 € 15.674.498	
		5th extension - under construction	12.046	Lease-purchase	€ 2.142.740	€ 2.001.892
		Security updating project (CJ10)	n/a	Lease-purchase	€ 102.876	€ 366.508
	Sub-total 'non-office' space		71.616		€ 21.520.480	€ 20.037.623
TOTAL LINE 2001			174.731		€ 40.076.000	€ 37.090.000

Remarks

- (1) Having regard to the time required to implement the rules of the new measuring code for the buildings of the institutions and other bodies of the European Union of 29/11/2019, the areas are still calculated in accordance with the **common methodology approved** at the meetings of the Committee on budgetary and financial questions (CPQBF) of 7/11/2009 and 18/1/2010:
- The OFFICE space includes the areas allocated to offices, corridors, lifts, toilets, archives, meeting/training rooms, cafeterias/restaurants, etc.
- The 'NON-OFFICE' space includes specific areas such as court rooms, conference rooms, central archives, data centres, etc.

For information and in accordance with the methodology adopted, the 'non-office' space does not include underground and parking areas although the annual budgetary cost indicated also takes the cost of those areas into account.