

21.10.2015

A8-0296/12

**Amendment 12**

**Sajjad Karim**

on behalf of the ECR Group

**Recommendation for second reading**

**A8-0296/2015**

**António Marinho e Pinto**

Court of Justice of the European Union: number of judges at the General Court  
09375/1/2015 – C8-0166/2015 – 2011/0901B(COD)

**Council position**

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*Proposal for rejection*

***The European Parliament rejects the  
Council position at first reading.***

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*Justification*

*The proposed doubling of the number of judges at the General Court will cost an additional 20 million Euros per year. At a time of drastic reduction in public spending in the Member States and a shortage of resources to tackle problems at a European level, such a large increase in recurrent expenditure requires clear justification. Such justification has not been forthcoming. No impact study was prepared prior to the proposal being submitted in October 2014. Since then the General Court has provided information to show that, in 2015, it ruled upon more cases than the number of cases it received and that the average duration of proceedings before it continues to decline. Moreover the figures provided by the General Court regarding its workload contradict those submitted by the Court of Justice in support of the proposal. Given the unprecedented improvement in the General Court's productivity, there is no urgent need to double the number of its judges. Yet this legislative proposal has been forced through without any debate or involving relevant stakeholders. The abolition of the Civil Service Tribunal in effect amounts to abandoning the system of specialist courts provided for in the Treaties of Nice and Lisbon. Yet the consequences of such a fundamental constitutional change of the EU Court system have neither been considered nor discussed. In the prevailing economic and political circumstances adopting a measure that results in considerable additional annual expenditure and constitutional change without the clearest of justifications will bring this Parliament into disrepute, not least with citizens of Member States, who are at least entitled to expect the close scrutiny of such measures. Adoption of the proposal as it stands can only increase the cynicism and disillusionment of citizens with the European Union.*