

**Priority question for written answer P-000258/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Access to information on facts concerning the exercise of the judicial function

In Slovenia, information has come to light suggesting that Branko Masleša, a judge at, and former President of, Slovenia's Supreme Court, does not have the necessary legal training.

When asked about the validity of Mr Masleša's judicial qualifications and his bar exam, the Supreme Court responded by threatening to bring a lawsuit against the journalists concerned. In that same statement the court also said that any action would find in favour of the judge in question.

Slovenia's Judicial Council took the view, however, in a public statement, that the manner of communication by the judicial administration of the Supreme Court was inadequate and that it was required to provide the public with all relevant information relating to the exercise of the judicial function.

Trust in justice is a key element of the rule of law, as is the right to a lawful judge. However, despite the fact that the individual in question is a high-ranking representative of the judiciary, the public has not received full answers for two months.

We would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. Does it consider that information about a judge's training is public information and that the competent authorities should make it available to the public without delay?
2. Does it consider that in this case Slovenia's Supreme Court and Judicial Council should provide unequivocal clarification regarding the training of the Supreme Court judge in question?