

Questionnaire

(to prepare the Rule of Law Report 2026)

regarding the Stakeholder-Consultation of the EU Commission 2026

Country: The Netherlands – the Dutch Association for the Judiciary (NVvR)

I. JUSTICE SYSTEM

A. Independence

1. Appointment and selection of judges and prosecutors and court presidents (including judicial review)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

In 2025, the selection of new judges was evaluated ([Evaluatie van het selectieproces voor de rio-opleiding](#)), and a report on the training of new judges was also published ([RIO Evaluatierapport](#)). The study into the selection of judges found, among other things, that the selection instruments used to date have proved to be insufficiently validated and/or to offer little to no added value compared in particular to the analytical test. The Dutch Association for the Judiciary (NVvR) has issued a substantive response to this report ([Advies-opleiding-rios-def.pdf](#)) and urges, at the very least, a significant reduction in the administrative burden for practical supervisors. The implementation of both reports is scheduled for 2026.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

2. Irremovability of judges, including transfers (including as part of judicial map reform), dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

3. Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

In 2025, the NVvR made strong efforts to ensure that previously agreed arrangements regarding the number of senior prosecutors were honoured. The objective is for 45% of public prosecutors to attain a senior position. The underlying rationale was the view that a carefully designed career progression policy, approached from an HR perspective, contributes to the retention of experienced public prosecutors by offering them opportunities for substantive advancement within their role. Where prospects for substantive professional development are lacking, there is a risk that experienced public prosecutors may consider transferring to the judiciary or moving into roles outside the judicial system.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

Despite efforts by the Public Prosecution Service to achieve the stated ratio (45–55), the current distribution among public prosecutors stands at 38.8% senior positions versus 61.2% standard positions.

4. Allocation of cases in courts

Neither positive/negative developments since 1.1.2025:

In a number of courts, a so-called team chair who is not a judge is involved in the allocation of cases. The question of whether a non-judge should be permitted to have any involvement in the way cases are distributed among judges is a matter of principle and directly concerns the judicial domain and judicial independence. In practice, sensitive cases are often allocated on an ad hoc basis. This constitutes a potential vulnerability within the system.

5. Independence (including composition and nomination and dismissal of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

In his New Year's address in 2025, the Chair of the Council for the Judiciary stated - and reiterated this in 2026 - that it would be desirable for the Minister of Justice and Security to have less influence over the appointment of members of the Council for the Judiciary. This is a current and ongoing debate in the Netherlands. As the Council appoints court board members, ministerial influence may extend to the appointment of court board members and to the exercise of the Council's powers. The NVvR's position is that the method of appointing members of the Council and court board members should be revised and placed at greater distance from political influence. In addition, the NVvR seeks to codify the arrangements for the appointment of court board members in legislation and wants to remove the minister's power to dismiss court board members.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

6. Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal/civil (where applicable) liability of judges (incl. judicial review).

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

In 2025, a working group of the NVvR, composed of judges, worked on the drafting of a new judicial code. This code is expected to be formally adopted in January 2026.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

7. (deleted/transferred (see question 13 below)

8. Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

Severe ICT disruptions are significantly hampering the work of public prosecutors. It is expected that it will take at least another five to seven years before these problems are resolved. In addition, budget cuts are being implemented at the public prosecution offices, including a recruitment freeze. The NVvR has expressed its concerns on these issues to the College van Procureurs-generaal (Board of Procurators General) ([Taakstelling-OM-en-ICT-brief-11-11-2025-def.pdf](#)).

9. Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

On 12 March 2025, the Committee of Ministers, the decision-making body of the Council of Europe, adopted the European Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer. By signing this Convention on 13 May 2025 in Luxembourg, the Dutch government, together with a large number of other European countries, affirms the need to protect lawyers as a prerequisite for the proper administration of justice and the defence of fundamental rights within the rule of law. At the same time, the Convention constitutes an important legally binding instrument to better safeguard citizens' rights, by enabling lawyers to carry out their work independently.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

There is a growing shortage of legal aid lawyers. This is partly, and in particular, attributable to budget cuts to publicly funded legal aid, which have significantly reduced the attractiveness of the profession. In addition, on the eve of the House of Representatives elections in October 2025, an independent committee established by the Netherlands Bar Association assessed the election manifestos of the political parties. A record number of manifestos (twelve out of fifteen) were found to contain proposals that are at odds with the rule of law or directly in conflict with it. Examples include restricting the right to demonstrate and questioning international treaties or the independence of the judiciary ([NOvA-Toets-Verkiezingsprogramma's-2025 \(1\).pdf](#)).

10. Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

The democratic rule of law and the threats to it are prominent topics in the current public debate. These issues are widely discussed in newspapers and journals, various courts organise events on the subject, and consideration is being given to how the public can be better informed about the values of the democratic rule of law and the rule of law itself.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

In 2025, some politicians once again openly criticised judicial rulings and questioned the independence of certain judicial institutions. For example, the political leader of the governing party BoerBurgerBeweging (BBB) claimed that the Council of State was politically biased and contained many members affiliated with D66. This claim proved to be factually incorrect. The Council of State is the principal advisory body on legislation. Its Administrative Jurisdiction Division (separate from the advisory body) acts as a court of appeal in administrative law matters, in particular in immigration cases and environmental issues. Research by the investigative journalism platform The Investigative Desk shows that the term "D66 judge" has become established among the general public. The term carries a negative connotation and is used primarily to criticise judicial decisions ([Hoe de 'D66-rechter' mainstream werd - The Investigative Desk](#)).

In February 2025 a Dutch judge was threatened after ruling that a decision by the Minister of Justice and Security and the Minister for Asylum and Migration was insufficiently substantiated. Subsequently, a member of the Senate shared the name of the judge concerned and that of the judge's partner on social media. The NVvR publicly objected to these threats and expressed its support for the judge concerned ([NVvR steunt rechter na uitspraak inreisverbod omstreden predikers -](#)).

11. Other developments since 1.1.2025, which may have an impact on the independence- please specify

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

B. Quality of Justice

12. Accessibility of courts (e.g. court/legal fees, legal aid, language)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

As already noted in response to question 9, social legal aid practice in the Netherlands is under pressure. To address this and to encourage more young lawyers to pursue a career in social legal aid, the Legal Aid Board reimburses, subject to certain conditions, the costs of professional training for trainee lawyers working in a social practice. In addition, Tilburg University has launched an extended Master's programme in social legal aid. There is also increased attention to the funding of publicly subsidised legal aid, although a funding shortfall persists.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

The existing problems relating to court interpreters (insufficient availability and inadequate remuneration) were not resolved in 2025.

13. Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material), remuneration/bonuses/rewards for judges and prosecutors including observed changes (significant and targeted increase or decrease over the past year)

(Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities. Financial resources include salaries of staff in courts and prosecution offices.)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

In principle, staffing levels within the Public Prosecution Service are adequate, as there are now sufficient public prosecutors following investments in training in previous years.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

- a. The judiciary continues to experience difficulties in recruiting a sufficient number of judges; shortages are emerging in particular within tax law.
- b. The remuneration of honorary judges has been under discussion for several years between the NVvR and the Minister for Justice. The judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union of June 2024 ([\(EUR-Lex - 62023CJ0041 - EN - EUR-Lex\)](#)) provided new impetus for these ongoing discussions. The Council for the Judiciary supports the NVvR's request to increase the level of remuneration. The Minister has undertaken to present an outline for more adequate remuneration to the NVvR in the spring of 2026.
- c. The rapid turnover of supporting legal staff (court lawyers and prosecution secretaries) is a cause for concern. Although most courts and public prosecution offices are still able to attract (young) lawyers to these roles, they tend to rotate relatively quickly and subsequently move on to other organisations. This is due, among other factors, to the level of remuneration associated with these positions.

14. Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, clerks/trainees)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

Once again, more judges (and public prosecutors, see question 13) were trained than in previous years. One of the aims is to mitigate the potential impact of workforce ageing.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

As already noted under A1, the training of judges has now been evaluated. A similar review is also being conducted of the training of public prosecutors. The current training programme for judges is bureaucratic and imposes a substantial administrative burden on practical supervisors, who are already under significant workload pressure. The NVvR is urging that this burden be reduced.

15. Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, including electronic communication and AI tools within the justice system and with court users, procedural rules, access to judgments online)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

In December 2025, the Council for the Judiciary introduced its own AI tool, *RechtspraakGPT*. This AI assistant supports, among other things, the drafting, editing and summarising of memoranda, policy documents, presentations and other documents. *RechtspraakGPT* is explicitly not intended for tasks related to judicial decision-making, human resources matters, confidential documents or personal data.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

The ICT systems of, in particular, the Public Prosecution Service are outdated and cause significant operational problems in practice. In the summer of 2025, the Public Prosecution Service was moreover affected by a cyberattack, as a result of which calendars were inaccessible, email systems were disrupted, and public prosecutors were required to work exclusively from fixed workstations. It is expected that it will take several more years before the ICT infrastructure is fully modernised.

In certain areas, such as WOZ assessments, so called Mulder-fines, and tax-cases on cars and motorcycles, it appears that lawyers are submitting objections and subsequent appeals that are drafted using AI. Courts report being inundated with this type of case, creating a risk that back-office operations may become blocked. This development may jeopardise the ability, in other cases, to obtain a judicial decision within a reasonable time.

16. Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems, including AI-based systems, for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

17. Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization, in particular specific courts or chambers within courts to deal with fraud and corruption cases

Positive developments since 1.1.2022: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2022: -

18. Other developments, which may have an impact on the quality of justice - please specify

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

The workload of Dutch judges and public prosecutors remains excessively high. As a follow-up to the report by Jaap Winter (de Verkenner), both the Public Prosecution Service and the judiciary have conducted an inventory of all measures taken to reduce workload. An important component of these measures relates to the development of soft skills. The impact of other measures on the overall workload of public prosecutors and judges remains uncertain.

18a. Specialisation (of judges/specific courts/chambers within courts) and training for the judiciary to deal with commercial cases, as well as alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and mediation as regards commercial cases.

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

In the Netherlands, a separate court, the Centrale Raad van Beroep, hears appeals in matters relating to social security law. The number of appeal cases in the field of social security law has declined significantly in recent years. This may be a consequence of changes in the way public authorities (such as municipalities and benefit agencies) respond to first-instance judgments, possibly linked to the so-called Childcare Benefits Scandal (*Toeslagenaffaire*).

While this is in itself a positive development, it has implications for the composition of the court, which can now operate with fewer judges. Alternative positions are being sought for the surplus judicial capacity. The NVvR is closely involved in this change process in order to safeguard the interests of the judges affected.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

C. Efficiency of the justice system

19. Developments related to efforts to improve the efficiency of the justice system (e.g. as regards length of proceedings, to address backlogs)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

The *Tijdige rechtspraak* ("Timely Justice") programme was launched in 2020 with the aim of reducing case processing times and clearing backlogs. The programme was concluded in 2025, without the available data demonstrating a substantial improvement in processing times across many categories of cases. This is attributed to persistent backlogs and ongoing capacity constraints. As no thorough evaluation has taken place, it is difficult to assess the precise causes of the limited results achieved. The special "Inloopkamer" that was established to address backlogs is being discontinued. The experience gained with an alternative form of cooperation with court lawyers may serve as a best practice for all courts. However, as noted, backlogs have not yet been fully resolved and waiting times still differ significantly between courts. As a result, there remains a need for other forms of cooperation in this area. In practice, courts assist one another where necessary in order to reduce backlogs.

(20 deleted)

II. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO CHECKS AND BALANCES

A. The process for preparing and enacting laws

21. Framework, policy and use of impact assessments and evidence based policy-making (which includes also the consultation of social partners), stakeholders/public consultations (including rules and practices on the transparent participation of civil society to policy development and decision-making processes), and transparency and quality of the legislative process both in the preparatory and the parliamentary and implementation phase (including guidance on how to implement legislation)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

In 2025, the Scientific Committee of the NVvR issued twelve requested advisory opinions on proposed legislation. One key opinion concerned so-called constitutional review. The Committee was positive about the proposal to lift the constitutional prohibition on judicial review of legislation. It did, however, draw attention to the distinction between classical and social fundamental rights, which the Committee considers to be more blurred than suggested by the Minister. In addition, the Committee questioned whether certain fundamental rights should be protected by an “eternity clause”. According to the Committee, such protection would benefit not only the legal protection of individual citizens but also the democratic rule of law as such. ([Constitutionele toetsing](#) -).

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

It is customary for new legislative proposals to be submitted for advice to designated advisory bodies. The NVvR also has such an advisory role. In 2025, however, the customary advisory bodies were not always consulted, or the request for advice was limited to only a small number of bodies. In addition, it emerged that in some cases the government departed from the advice of the principal advisory body, the Council of State, without providing further justification.

For example, in 2025 the Minister for Asylum and Migration submitted two legislative proposals (the Asylum Emergency Measures Act and the bill introducing a two-status asylum system and tightening the requirements for family reunification) despite the explicit negative advice of key advisory bodies.¹ The advisory bodies, including the NVvR, warned the Minister, among other things, of implementation problems, also in light of the European Asylum and Migration Pact. The Scientific Committee of the NVvR, in particular, cautioned the Minister about the already significant capacity shortages within the courts. The implementation of the proposed legislative measures could lead to serious problems throughout the entire asylum and migration chain.²

22. Rules and use of fast-track procedures and emergency procedures (for example, the percentage of decisions adopted through emergency/urgent procedure compared to the total number of adopted decisions).

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

¹ Advies van de Raad van State [Meer informatie Asielnoodmaatregelenwet en Wet invoering tweestatusstelsel - Raad van State](#)

Advies van de Raad voor de rechtspraak [Ook in aanvullend advies uit Rechtspraak zorgen over wetgeving asielmaatregelen](#)

² Advies van de wetenschappelijke commissie van de NVvR [840.-Advies-asiel-en-migratiepact-def.pdf](#)

22a. Rules and application of states of emergency (or analogous regimes) including judicial review and parliamentary oversight.

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

22b. Safeguards to ensure legal certainty, the stability of the legal framework and non-discrimination

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

Following media reports suggesting that judges may also have blind spots with regard to discriminatory treatment of certain (groups of) defendants³, increased reflection has emerged within the judiciary. Four judges, including the Chair of the Council for the Judiciary, have since acknowledged in a national newspaper that they, too, may discriminate unconsciously and unintentionally.⁴ Awareness alone, however, is not sufficient. For this reason, training programmes are currently being offered to help prevent unconscious discrimination.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

Earlier research has shown that female and male judges were for a long time graded in a manner that can be considered discriminatory. The grading system has since been adjusted accordingly; however, some female judges - those who entered training before 1 July 2023 - are still not receiving adequate recognition in this regard.

23. Regime for constitutional review of laws.

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

See also the response to question A21. In the Netherlands, constitutional review of Acts of Parliament is constitutionally prohibited (article 120 of the Constitution). In July 2025, the then Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations submitted a draft bill proposing to abolish this prohibition and to allow judicial review against the classical fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. The Scientific Committee of the NVvR expressed a positive view on this proposal. The proposal to lift the prohibition on constitutional review is also in line with the recommendations of the State Commission on the Rule of Law (2024).

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

Following the fall of the cabinet and the calling of new elections, no further progress has been made on the draft bill mentioned above.

24. *deleted in 2022*

B. Independent authorities

25. Independence, resources, capacity and powers (including effective access to relevant data) of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies, if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions;

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

³ [Laagopgeleiden met migratieachtergrond bijna drie keer vaker celstraf – De Groene Amsterdammer](#)

⁴ [Rechters over hun vooroordelen: 'Had ik dit met een witte, hoogopgeleide jongen hetzelfde aangepakt?' - NRC](#)

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

26. Statistics/reports concerning the follow-up of recommendations by National Human Rights Institutions, ombudsman institutions, equality bodies and supreme audit institutions in the past ~~two~~ years.

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

26a. Safeguards to ensure the effective independence of supervisory and regulatory authorities with a direct impact on economic operators such as national economic oversight, enforcement and competition authorities.

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

C. Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

27. Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and respect of the good administration principle (including the obligation of the administration to give reasons for decisions)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

As noted in the response to question 4, the number of appeal cases in the field of social security law has declined dramatically. Whereas there were still 8,607 cases in 2014 (with no budget deficit), this number had fallen to 2,940 by 2024, accompanied by a budget shortfall of €4 million at the Centrale Raad van Beroep.

In a sense, this decline may be viewed as a positive development, as administrative authorities appear more inclined not to pursue an appeal when a first-instance decision is unfavourable to them. This is also in line with one of the recommendations of the State Commission on the Rule of Law, which in 2024 urged public authorities to focus on conflict resolution in their interactions with citizens and to maintain this approach during the objection phase as well. This entails respecting the principles of hearing both sides and conducting a genuine reconsideration of the intended decision. In this way, unnecessary recourse to the courts can be avoided as far as possible.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

27a. Judicial review of administrative decisions: short description of the general regime (in particular competent court, scope, suspensive effect, interim measures, and any applicable specific rules or derogations from the general regime of judicial review)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

27b. Rules and practices related to the application by all courts, including constitutional jurisdictions of the preliminary ruling procedure (Art. 267 TFEU)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

Dutch judges make extensive use of the preliminary ruling procedure under Article 267 TFEU. This applies both to courts adjudicating at last instance and to other courts.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

27c. Safeguards (other than judicial review) regarding decisions or inaction of administrative authorities, including remedies (e.g. administrative review)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

Where a decision is not forthcoming, an appeal may be lodged and a penalty payment may be claimed.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

28. Implementation of final judgments by the public administration and State institutions and follow-up given to supranational judgments including decisions from the European Court of Human Rights court decisions, as well as available remedies in case of non-implementation.

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

The interim relief judge of the District Court of Rotterdam ruled that the Municipality of Vlaardingen must provide accommodation to a displaced Ukrainian. If the municipality fails to do so, it will be required to pay a penalty payment ([ECLI:NL:RBROT:2026:215, Rechtbank Rotterdam, ROT 25/10158](#)).

The Municipality of Vlaardingen has disregarded this ruling. ([RM Stand van zaken nareizigers Mrija.pdf](#)). This is the first time that a lower-level public authority has decided to ignore a judicial ruling.

28a. Oversight, including by courts, of the use of intrusive surveillance software by national authorities.

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

Five years after the introduction of the Computer Crime Act III, it appears that the Act is indeed being actively applied. The legislation provides expanded powers for the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime and other forms of serious crime. At the same time, several points of attention have been identified, as evidenced by a study conducted by the Research and Data Centre (WODC).⁵

Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

D. The enabling framework for civil society

29. Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations and human rights defenders (e.g. legal framework and its application in practice incl. registration, transparency and dissolution rules)

⁵ [Nieuwe mogelijkheden aanpak computercriminaliteit worden daadwerkelijk benut | WODC - Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Datacentrum](#)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -
Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

30. Rules and practices having an impact on the effective operation and safety of civil society organisations and human rights defenders. This includes measures to protect them from attacks – verbal, physical or online –, intimidation, legal threats incl. SLAPPs, negative narratives or smear campaigns, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc. It also includes measures to monitor threats or attacks and dedicated support services, as well as available remedies.

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

In the Netherlands, debate has arisen about the concept of “interested party” in administrative law, particularly following the introduction of the Environment and Planning Act (*Omgevingswet*). There appears to be a discernible trend towards narrowing the scope of who qualifies as an interested party.

30a. Organisation of financial support for civil society organisations and human rights defenders (e.g. framework to ensure access to funding, and for financial viability, taxation/incentive/donation systems, measures to ensure a fair distribution of funding)

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

Upon taking office in 2024, the Cabinet (kabinet Schoof) announced substantial budget cuts, including to development cooperation and the public broadcasting system. These cuts were partially implemented in 2025 and have led to drastic reorganisations across various civil society organisations, including the independent press.

31. *-(31 deleted)*

E. Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

32. Measures to foster a rule of law culture, please specify, which (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, contributions from civil society, education initiatives etc).

Positive developments since 1.1.2025:

As also noted in the Rule of Law Report 2024, the democratic rule of law is a topic that frequently features in the media and is repeatedly highlighted during public debates and meetings.

Negative developments since 1.1.2025:

A number of European countries expressed criticism, in a joint letter, of judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights. The Netherlands did not sign the letter; however, it did give rise to debate on the manner in which the Court adjudicates certain cases, particularly in the field of migration law.

33. Other issues, which may have an impact on institutional aspects related to checks and balances, - please specify

Positive developments since 1.1.2025: -
Negative developments since 1.1.2025: -

Additional questions to help EAJ to draft a comprehensive over-all report:

34. Has the over-all situation of the justice system in your country during the last year

- ☐ improved
- ☒ deteriorated
- ☐ remained the same

35. What are the three most urgent challenges/needs to improve regrading the justice system at the moment:

1) The procedure for the appointment of members of the Council for the Judiciary should be revised in order to ensure a greater degree of institutional distance from the Minister.

2) The ICT infrastructure, particularly within the Public Prosecution Service, requires substantial additional financial investment. The current systems are vulnerable and give rise to unacceptable working conditions for public prosecutors. Moreover, the judiciary is currently insufficiently equipped to address the increasing use of artificial intelligence by litigating parties.

3) The workload of judges and public prosecutors remains unacceptably high. The judiciary and the Public Prosecution Service should be provided with a stable and robust long-term budgetary framework, capable of adequately absorbing fluctuations in, inter alia, caseload volumes.