

Annual Rule of Law Report - Council of Europe contribution



2026

Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG I)

Cyprus

I Justice System

CEPEJ

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) regularly collects data on judicial systems concerning efficiency and quality of the justice system. In the framework of the CEPEJ Study for the EU Justice Scoreboard, CEPEJ prepares Country profiles annually, including [Cyprus](#).

The 2024 data have been collected, quality checked and sent to DG-JUST in the framework of the 2026 EU Justice Scoreboard. The publication of the country profiles based on 2024 data will depend on final acceptance of the CEPEJ Study by DG-JUST. The CEPEJ Secretariat (christel.schurrer@coe.int) remains at the disposal of European Commission for any question related to these data.

EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Official statistics on the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are published in the Committee of Ministers [Annual reports on the execution](#) (next edition to be published in March 2026). The Department for the Execution of Judgments can be consulted for any question on statistics: DGI-Execution@coe.int.

Efficiency of justice

[Altius Insurance LTD](#) (41151/20) (*enhanced supervision*): This case concerns the excessive length of civil proceedings in 2004-2017 and the effectiveness of the existing remedies in this respect (violations of Articles 6 § 1 and 13 of the Convention).

Latest decisions: [1545th DH meeting \(2–4 December 2025\)](#) meeting

Latest submissions: [DH-DD\(2025\)1111](#)

[Foutas Aristidou](#) (11990/15) (*standard supervision*): This group of cases concerns the excessive length of criminal proceedings in 2010-2019 and the lack of effective remedies in this respect (the *Irodou* case) (violations of Articles 6 § 1 and 13).

Latest submissions: [DH-DD\(2025\)1116](#)

II Anti-corruption framework

GRECO

[Compliance Report](#) (16 September 2025)

5th round: Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies

III Media pluralism

N/A

IV Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

In its ongoing efforts to support Cyprus in strengthening its National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), the Council of Europe has been instrumental in providing guidance and technical assistance to Cyprus through a joint EU-Council of Europe project “Technical Support for More Effective and Resilient National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM)”.

Under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), states are required to establish independent NPMs to monitor places of deprivation of liberty and prevent ill-treatment. Cyprus has designated the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsperson) as its NPM. However, significant gaps remain, particularly in monitoring police detention, immigration detention centres, psychiatric institutions, and social care homes. Currently, the Cypriot NPM requires reinforced mechanisms and resources to ensure its recommendations are implemented, hampering its effectiveness – which is now being tackled through the mentioned project.

A pressing concern highlighted by recent national partner reports and international bodies is the issue of overcrowding in places of detention. Overcrowding exacerbates risks of ill-treatment and undermines efforts to protect the rights of persons deprived of liberty. Tackling overcrowding must be a core priority in Cyprus’s strategy to strengthen its NPM, and urgent measures are needed to address this systemic problem.

Additionally, the Ombudsperson’s Office is expected to be designated as an independent monitoring mechanism under the EU Screening Regulation. With this expanded mandate – integrating responsibilities from multiple international treaties – it is essential to allocate adequate resources for establishing an effective team structure and to provide clear guidance on methodologies for carrying out these new functions.