

Annual Rule of Law Report - Council of Europe contribution

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

2026

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

Portugal

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 [Portugal](#).

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.

Length of proceedings

[Vicente Cardoso](#) group (30130/10) (enhanced supervision): Excessive length of proceedings before civil and administrative and tax courts. The problem has been previously examined under older leading case (now closed) *Oliveira Modesto*.

Latest decisions: [CM/Del/Dec\(2021\)1411/H46-25](#)

Latest submissions: [DH-DD\(2022\)1042](#)

On 21-22 November 2024 the Department of Execution of Judgments carried out a [mission](#) to Lisbon, organised in close cooperation with the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the Council of Europe and the Government Agent before the European Court to discuss various aspects related to the implementation of the European Court's judgments. Among other issues, discussions focused on the status of execution, current obstacles and future perspectives in the implementation of the Vicente Cardoso group of cases.

Ensuring accountability and safeguarding independence in disciplinary procedures involving judges and prosecutors

[*Ramos Nunes de Carvalho e SA*](#) (55391/13) (standard supervision) was closed on 2 April 2025: Lack of public hearing and limited extent of review by the Supreme Court in a case of disciplinary proceedings against a judge. Final Resolution: [CM/ResDH\(2025\)49](#)

II Anti-corruption framework

GRECO

[Fourth Interim Compliance Report](#) (30 July 2025)

4th round: Prevention of corruption in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors

[Compliance Report](#) (2 September 2025)

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

III Media pluralism

EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The increasing number of cases concerning freedom of expression was discussed during the Department's mission to Lisbon (21-22 November 2024) and is the subject of bilateral discussions. There is currently a group of five cases concerning this issue under supervision of execution, the leading case being *Almeida Arroja*.

[*Almeida Arroja*](#) (47238/19) (standard supervision): the case concerns the applicant's criminal conviction for aggravated defamation and causing offence to a legal person.

Latest submissions: [DH-DD\(2024\)1039](#)

[*Ferreira e Castro da Costa Laranjo*](#) (33203/20) (standard supervision) concerns criminal conviction of a journalist for disobedience for having broadcasted images and audio of a hearing, as well as civil liability proceedings.

Latest submissions: [DH-DD\(2025\)1009](#)

IV Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

A new training course on "Artificial Intelligence and Anti-discrimination" was launched in the autumn of 2025 for approximately 100 staff members from equality bodies, public authorities and independent regulators in Portugal. The course covers [EU AI Act](#) and the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and human rights, democracy and the rule of law; European and national legislation on AI, equality and non-discrimination, identification and redress of discrimination in AI systems used in public administration and the private sector. The training also fosters cross-sector exchange and supports a more coordinated approach to AI governance in Portugal.

This training course is developed and delivered in collaboration with The Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (SIC) as part of the project entitled "[Upholding equality and non-discrimination by Equality bodies regarding the use of artificial intelligence in public administrations](#)" which is co-funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument, and implemented by the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the European Commission.