



National Office for the Judiciary

President

16. Szalay utca, 1055 Budapest
t. +36 1 354 4108 f. +36 1 332 6312 e. obh@obh.birosag.hu
www.birosag.hu

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**European Association of Judges
General Secretariat**

26th November 2018

Regarding your letter dated on the 22nd of October 2018 we inform you about the following:

Article 13 of the statute of the International Association of Judges (IAJ) regulates the monitoring procedures. According to this regulation, the Presidency Committee may be seized with a request for a report concerning a member association – which in Hungary would be the Hungarian Association of Judges (Magyar Bírói Egyesület – MABIE) – and at the request of the Presidency Committee, the member shall submit a report on the situation of the judiciary in its own country. The president of the MABIE officially informed the president of the National Office for the Judiciary (NOJ) that no such request has been sent by them and the MABIE did not delegate any of its members to the general assembly of the IAJ held in Marrakesh on the 17 of October 2018.

Despite these facts it is important to emphasize that rule of law and judicial independence are effectively guaranteed by the legal regulations concerning the judiciary. The aims that were set by the IAJ and the European Association of Judges (EAJ) are also shared by the NOJ, which is a body independent from the legislative and executive branches of power and is responsible for the central administration of the court system. Six strategic aims were set by the NOJ in 2012 and among those the first states that the courts shall fulfil their constitutional role, as independent judges shall adjudicate cases on a high professional level and in a timely manner.

Transparency and predictability of the court administration is also one of the strategic aims. To achieve this the NOJ publishes news and information on the central website and intranet site of the courts. Furthermore, representatives of the NOJ and court executives – who are judges themselves – meet their colleagues and the representatives of judicial associations on a regular basis, as well as they attend other judicial forums.

The NOJ has been carrying out the administration of the court system within the provided legal framework and aiming to fulfil its strategic aims. During this work there has been constant cooperation between the central and local administration, between the different judicial bodies, associations and other stakeholders of the justice system.

As a result of this cooperation we elaborated the concept of the Judicial Careerline. Results for the judges and judicial employees have already been achieved deriving from it, related to their remuneration, training opportunities, working environment, availability of IT devices, international relations, recreational opportunities and ethical recognitions. Regarding the effectiveness of the judicial system the CEPEJ report and the Justice Scoreboard of the EU may be used as information tools. The Hungarian judiciary is ranked in most categories among the 1-5. countries, but mostly among the first third of the countries of the EU.

Neither the MABIE nor other Hungarian judicial association requested information from the NOJ regarding the topics mentioned in your letter. It would be disrespectful towards the MABIE if a substantive answer would be sent or a meeting with the representatives of the EAJ would be arranged before an opportunity is given to the MABIE to address their complaints and suggestions to the NOJ or to other court executives. Representatives of the NOJ meet the president of the MABIE on a monthly basis and the president of the NOJ invited the presidents of the courts and the national level representatives of the MABIE on the 28th of May 2018 to a consultation about the current situation of the judiciary.

We were informed by the alleged request mentioned in your letter from the press as a website related to the right-wing political party JOBBIK published the speech of a member of parliament (member of the JOBBIK party) on the 7th of November 2018. The MABIE itself made an announcement on its own website stating that “the source of the information appearing in the media is not the MABIE”.

You may find detailed information about the judicial application process and the appointment procedure of court executives on our [website](#) (also available in English).



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Dr. Tünde Handó'.

dr. Tünde Handó