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INTRODUCTORY REPORT

Session I

The nomination of judges to the supreme court

(Questions 1-5 of the questionnaire)

Prof. Dr. Klaus Tolksdorf
President of the *Bundesgerichtshof*

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Report on the questionnaire regarding appointment of judges to the Supreme Court

Questions 1-5

1. Are open positions to Judgeships at the Supreme Court publicized?
2. Who can apply to judgeships at The Supreme Court (is there a ratio for candidates not already members of the judiciary)?
3. How is conducted the selection of the applicants to the Supreme Court positions: which body is practically in charge of drawing up the list of candidates? What are the criteria for nomination on the list of candidates (age, seniority, qualifications, etc)? Are those criteria publicized? Is there a hearing of the selected candidates? By whom?
4. Is the Supreme Court (through a specific body of the Supreme Court or in conjunction with other bodies?), and especially its President, involved in the selection process of the applicants? And in the appointment process of those who are selected (proposal, recommendation, requirement of approval, etc.)?
5. Which State bodies (other than Councils for the Judiciary and Supreme Courts) are involved in the selection and appointment process of Supreme Court judges?

Summary of the answers

ad 1)

Only in seven countries vacancies at the Supreme Courts are not publicly advertised.

In the other countries open positions are placed on official web sites either of the Supreme Court or the Ministry of Justice. Quite often this is accompanied by an announcement in an official gazette and/or a central newspaper or journal. Candidates can decide to apply. Only a few reports indicate that an organ of the selecting process approaches possible candidates.

ad 2)

Generally speaking in all countries the criteria a candidate has to meet are written down by law. Some national rulings provide even a very detailed list of conditions whereas most countries only indicate some formal aspects.

Generally – but there are exceptions - the applicants must have a law degree from a university and also must have passed a special professional law examination. Several countries state a minimum of age which is between 30 and 45 years, others request a minimum of legal experience differing from 5 to 15 years. As to this judges quite often need less time of experience than other candidates.

Almost all countries report that one doesn't necessarily have to be a member of the judiciary to become a judge of the Supreme Court. Judgeships are especially also open to professors from universities, in the majority of cases also to lawyers, prosecutors and members of the administrative service. Only three Supreme Courts report a ratio – about 20% - for candidates who are not members of the judiciary.

ad 3)

There has been reported an enormous variety of selection and nomination procedures. Several entities with a variety of functions and different scopes of influence can be involved in the selection of the candidates.

Very often a special election committee or the council of the judiciary draws up a list of candidates. In most countries the proposal is binding, or – if it is not formally binding – it is at least expected to be followed. It is quite uncommon that the election committee or the judicial council is restricted to an advisory role.

The main criterion to be drawn up as candidate is qualification which in usually is verified on the basis of references, in many countries followed by a hearing before the selection organ. In one country applicants even have to pass a special exam which consists of a written and an oral part.

Other common criteria to the selection process are seniority, publications and promotion level. Some countries also indicate the applicants' ethic which may even be opinioned by a special ethic committee as an important criterion.

Only a few countries report the criteria of selection being published.

ad 4)

When it comes to the role of the Supreme Court or its President in the selection process there is also an enormous variety of answers. In some countries a panel of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court in plenary session or the President of the Court have a say in the nomination of new judges. They are involved by drawing up a candidates' list which may even be binding. But there are also Supreme Courts whose opinion is only advisory to the entity which is responsible for the decision.

In some countries the President of the Supreme Court is member of the election committee or the Council of the Judiciary and hereby is involved in the selection process.

Countries where the Supreme Court or its President are not involved in the procedure of selecting a candidate at all are rare.

ad 5)

Finally, the President or members of Government like the minister of justice or the prime minister may have a decisive role during the appointment process, be it through an exclusive right to nominate candidates or through their final decision-making authority.

Overview of the answers

Please note:

The answers to the questionnaire show an overlapping especially to the questions 3a, 4, 5. This is why the following lists which give an overview of the answers in a more detailed way combine the answers 3a, 4 and 5.

Are open positions to Judgeships at the Supreme Court publicized?

Austria	yes
Bulgaria	no
Croatia	yes
Cyprus	no
Czech Rep.	no
Denmark	yes
Estonia	yes
Finland	yes
France	no
Germany	no
Hungary	yes
Ireland	generally yes
Italy	no
Latvia	no
Lithuania	yes
Luxembourg	the general prosecutor notes the vacancies to the members of the judiciary and the members of the prosecution
Netherlands	yes but not for every single vacancy
Norway	yes
Poland	yes
Portugal	yes
Romania	yes
Slovakia	yes
Slovenia	yes
Spain	yes
Sweden	yes
United Kingdom	in practice yes

2. Who can apply to judgeships at the Supreme Court (is there a ratio for candidates not already members of the judiciary)?

Austria	candidates must have at least four years of professional experience, including at least one year as a candidate of judgeship and they must have passed a formal exam; this is not necessary for professors of civil or criminal law
Bulgaria	it is required that the applicants have Bulgarian citizenship; have completed their higher education in Law; have a standing of duration determined by the law; have acquired certificate of qualification as a lawyer; possess the necessary moral and professional qualities corresponding to the Code on ethical behaviour of the Bulgarian magistrates; have no previous convictions for premeditated crimes irrespective of possible exoneration; have not been dismissed for breach of discipline during tenure of elective office as a member of the SJC for undermining the authority of the Judiciary; have not suffered from a mental condition. Applicants eligible for judgeships to the Supreme Court of Cassation shall have at least 12 years of standing. The periods of holding an office or practising a profession for which a degree in law is required count as acceptable experience as well as the term of office of investigating officers with higher education in law that have graduated from the Ministry of Interior Affairs' institution, investigating officers of higher education in law from the Ministry of Defence' frame or investigating customs officers to the Customs Agency. An equal standing may be considered the period spent holding an office within the bodies and institutions of the European Union and the international organisations that administer justice established by virtue of international treaties to which Bulgaria is a contracting state, if a higher education in law is a requirement for holding such an office. the Supreme Judicial Council determines by lot 20 percent of the vacant positions in the Supreme courts to be taken by way of competition for primary appointment to which are allowed candidates that have not previously been members of the Judiciary
Croatia	persons with minimum of 15 years of working experience as a judicial official (judge), attorney at law or public notary, as well as university professor of the legal science with passed bar exam and minimum 20 years of working experience and who has proven him/herself by professional work on certain legal field and who's expert and scientific works were published
Cyprus	no application can be filed Judges are as a rule, selected from among the most senior of the judges serving in the lower courts, but the President may appoint anyone who is a lawyer of high moral standard and with at least 12 years practice.
Czech Rep.	applicants must have the Czech citizenship, full legal capacity, no criminal record, experience and moral qualities guaranteeing the proper exercise of the judgeship, minimum 30 years of age, her/his consent with appointment to judgeship at a particular court, master university degree in the field of law achieved at a university in the Czech Republic, passing of the specialized judiciary examination. Furthermore the candidate has to exercise legal activity for at least 10 years and his/her high professional knowledge and experiences must guarantee the proper exercise of the judgeship at the Supreme Court. There is no ratio for candidates who are not already members of the judiciary.
Denmark	candidates who have passed a judicial exam (master of laws) can be appointed judge. Everybody with a judicial exam can therefore (in theory) apply for a judgeship at the Supreme Court. There is no ratio for candidates not already members of the judiciary. There is however a general aspiration of employing judges with various professional backgrounds in the judiciary system
Estonia	any person who is an experienced and recognized lawyer may be appointed as a justice of the Supreme Court. Pursuant to the Courts Act a citizen of the Republic of Estonia may be appointed as a judge if he or she • has acquired at least Master's Degree in law; • has proficiency of the Estonian language at the advanced level; • is of high moral character; • has the abilities and personal characteristics necessary for working as a judge. The following will not be appointed as judge • persons who are convicted of a criminal offence; • persons who have been removed from the office of judge, notary or bailiff; • persons who have been expelled from the Estonian Bar Association; • persons who have been released from the public service for a disciplinary offence.
Finland	there are no restrictions or quotas. Anyone meeting the general qualifications may apply.

France	generally speaking only members of the judiciary may apply for a judgeship at the Supreme Court but it sometimes happens that a candidate who is not member of the judiciary is appointed. He/She has to show 17 years of experience in legal fields. A civil servant who passed l' Ecole nationale d'administartion may also apply.
Germany	nomination is open to Germans, qualified to hold judicial office, at least 35 years of age. It is possible to be nominated without being a member of the judiciary. There is no ratio for those candidates though. In practice the overwhelming majority of the judges of the Supreme Court have been members of the judicial service before.
Hungary	<p>only persons having reached the age of thirty years may be appointed judges, provided they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are Hungarian citizens, b) have proper capacity, c) have a university degree in law, d) have passed the professional law examination, e) agree to issue a declaration of property in line with the provisions of the Act, f) have, for a minimum of one year, fa) worked as an officer of the court, vice-prosecutor, lawyer, notary, or legal counsel, fb) worked as a government or civil servant at a central administrative body or in a position requiring an administration or legal examination, fc) worked as a constitutional judge, judge, military judge or prosecutor, fd) administered justice at an international organization or any body of the European Union, or have conducted activities related to the administration of justice, g) are suitable to hold judicial office based on the results of the professional aptitude test. <p>(2) Persons may not be appointed as judges who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) have a criminal record, b) are prohibited from professions requiring a university degree in law, c) have no criminal record, but whose criminal liability for committing an offence has been declared in a final decision by the court ca) have been sentenced to at least five years' imprisonment for intentional offences, for twelve years from the exemption, cb) have been sentenced to a maximum of five years' imprisonment for intentional offences, for ten years from the exemption, cc) have received a suspended sentence for intentional offences, for eight years from the exemption, cd) have been sentenced to community service or payment of a financial penalty for intentional offences, for five years from the exemption, ce) have received a suspended financial penalty for intentional offences, for three years from the exemption, cf) have been sentenced to a maximum of five years' imprisonment for unintentional offences, for eight years from the exemption, cg) have been sentenced to suspended imprisonment for unintentional offences, for five years from the exemption, ch) have been sentenced to community service or payment of a financial penalty for unintentional offences, for three years from the exemption, d) have been placed in a psychiatric institution by the court, for three years from when the end of the placement in a psychiatric institution becomes binding, e) have been on judicial probation, if the term is extended, for three years after the termination of the extended probation period, f) are under criminal proceedings, not including proceedings initiated by private prosecution or substitute private prosecution indictment, until the legally binding termination of the criminal proceedings, g) have received the highest administrative penalty in a disciplinary procedure as judge, prosecutor, government official, civil servant, notary, lawyer, bailiff, public sector employee, professional member of any armed organization, court worker, deputy prosecutor, prosecutor apprentice, trainee lawyer, or deputy notary as long as the administrative penalty applies. <p>There is no such ratio for candidates not already members of the judiciary.</p>
Ireland	Judges from other courts, namely the High Court and a Judge of the Circuit Court of two year's standing may apply. Also, a practising barrister of twelve year's standing and a practising solicitor of twelve year's standing with experience as an advocate or in instructing counsel (i.e. a barrister) in the High Court and in the Supreme Court, is qualified for appointment to the Supreme Court. There is no such ratio for candidates not already members of the judiciary.

Italy	Generally speaking candidates have to be evaluated four times before applying. (Evaluation takes place every fourth year why it comes to a minimum of sixteen years of experience). Professors from Universities and advocates of the Cour de Cassation with at least 15 years of experience may also apply.
Latvia	persons meeting following requirements may pretend for a vacancy of the judge: Judge of the first or second instance, of district (city) court having at least 10 years work experience in post of a judge or at least 3 years of experience in the post of the judge and Master or Doctor Degree; Person having at least 15 years of work experience in the post of academic staff in High-School in Law program or sworn advocate or prosecutor; Person that worked in the post of the judge of the Constitutional Court, international or transnational court.
Lithuania	candidates may be Judges of a regional administrative court or of a regional court with at least eight years of experience Judges of the Supreme Administrative Court and judges of the Court of Appeals with at least five years of experience Persons having the degree of the Doctor or Habilitated Doctor of Social Sciences and at least 15 years of legal pedagogical work
Luxembourg	nomination is open to persons at a minimum of 35 years who have been working in judicial function for at least seven years. There is also the possibility to select an advocate who has been working at the bar for at least seven years. There is no ratio.
Netherlands	candidates must have Dutch nationality. A candidate has to have a university degree in law and once nominated he is not allowed to practice as an attorney at law or as a public notary and he is not allowed to be a member of parliament. There is no ratio for candidates not already members of the judiciary.
Norway	only Norwegian citizens with a right to vote may be appointed. Supreme Court Justices must have a law degree with proved excellent legal skills, and no one can be appointed as a Supreme Court Justice before he or she is 30 years of age. Among the sitting Justices there are former lawyers, former members of the prosecuting authority, former judges of the lower courts, former university professors and former public administration executives.
Poland	Generally speaking any person who is a Polish citizen and enjoys full civil and public rights; is a person of integrity; has completed the higher school of law in Poland and has obtained a master's degree or has completed the higher school of law abroad which has been recognised in Poland; distinguishes himself or herself by a high level of juridical knowledge; is fit, as regards his or her state of health, to perform the justice's duties; has at least ten years' work experience as a judge or public prosecutor or has worked in Poland as an advocate, legal adviser or notary public. There is no ratio.
Portugal	The eldest judges of the cours d'appel with very good evaluation, procureurs généraux adjoints with at least the same term in office and jurists with reputation and at least 20 years of experience
Romania	There is no ratio. Judges and prosecutors with at least five years of experience at special courts, very good evaluations, no discipline sanctions and all together at least 15 years of experience as a judge may apply.
Slovakia	To judgeship at the Supreme Court can apply a judge with legal practice of at least 15 years. It can also be a person who is not yet a judge, however has performed legal practice for at least 15 years and meets preconditions of the appointment to the judicial office.
Slovenia	Citizen of the Republic of Slovenia and has an active command of Slovenian language; he/she has the capacity to contract and is generally in good health; he/she is at least thirty years of age; he/she has obtained the professional title of a graduate lawyer in the Republic of Slovenia or has acquired equivalent education abroad, recognised pursuant to the Recognition and Evaluation of Education Act; he/she has passed the lawyer's state examination; he/she is personally suited to holding judicial office. He/she has successfully held judicial office for at least 15 years or have at least 20 years of working experience in legal work after passing the lawyer's state examination or is a University lecturer in law provided they have been elected to at least a title of associate professor.

Spain	It is necessary to be member of the judiciary, judge senior with at least 15 years of activity; one of each five posts is aimed to jurists not members to the judiciary
Sweden	Candidates should be Swedish citizens with a master of law. The candidate should not be in bankruptcy and not have a trustee. There is no special ratio for candidates not member of the judiciary.
United Kingdom	<p>Applicants must have held high judicial office for at least two years. ('High judicial office' is defined to include High Court Judges of England and Wales, and of Northern Ireland; Court of Appeal Judges of England and Wales, and of Northern Ireland; and Judges of the Court of Session.)</p> <p>Alternatively, applicants must satisfy the judicial-appointment eligibility condition on a 15-year basis, or have been a qualifying practitioner for at least 15 years.</p> <p>A person satisfies the judicial-appointment eligibility condition on a 15-year basis if he/she has been a solicitor of the senior courts of England and Wales, or barrister in England and Wales, for at least 15 years; and has been gaining experience in law during the post-qualification period.</p> <p>A person is a qualifying practitioner if he/she is an advocate in Scotland or a solicitor entitled to appear in the Court of Session and the High Court of Justiciary; or he is a member of the Bar of Northern Ireland or a solicitor of the Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>There is no ratio.</p>

3. How is conducted the selection of the applicants to the Supreme Court positions:

a. which body is practically in charge of drawing up the list of candidates?

b. What are the criteria for nomination on the list of candidates (age, seniority, qualifications, etc)? Are those criteria publicized?

c. Is there a hearing of the selected candidates? By whom?

4. Is the Supreme Court (through a specific body of the Supreme Court or in conjunction with other bodies?), and especially its President, involved in the selection process of the applicants? And in the appointment process of those who are selected (proposal, recommendation, requirement of approval, etc.)?

5. Which State bodies (other than Councils for the Judiciary and Supreme Courts) are involved in the selection and appointment process of Supreme Court judges?

	3 a.+ 4. + 5	3 b.	3 c.
Austria	Members of the Supreme Court are nominated by the Federal Government. The nomination procedure of the Government is initiated by a proposal made by the Federal Minister of Justice. Prior to that, a special committee ("Personalsenat") of the Supreme Court makes a formal non-binding proposal. The committee consists of the President, the Vice-President and three elected Judges of the Supreme Court	qualification	Yes by the members of the special Supreme Court committee
Bulgaria	The competition jury (judges of the Supreme Court chosen by the assembly are members) holds hearings or exams (s. 3.c.), the Committee on professional ethics and corruption prevention drafts opinions on the three best candidates; upon these information the Committee on proposals and assessment of judges files a reasoned proposal for the promotion. The Supreme Judicial Council in which the President of the Supreme Court is a sitting member appoints the judges.	professional and moral qualification	Yes promotion: by the competition jury first appointment: written and oral exam
Croatia	State Judicial Council, neither the Supreme Court nor its President are involved	s. question 2	Yes By the State Judicial Council
Cyprus	Supreme Court Judges are appointed by the President of the Republic following a recommendation from the Supreme Court.	-	-

Czech Rep.	President, Vice-President and Judicial Council of the Supreme Court offer judges of lower courts an internship at the Supreme Court; if the candidate fulfills expectations the President of the Supreme Court makes a proposal to the Minister of Justice.	practice at the appellate court quality of decision-making publishing/lecturing activity general knowledge expertise in particular field of law	No
Denmark	The President of the Supreme Court submits – after consulting the other judges of the Supreme Court – a recommendation to the Judicial Appointments Council. Nominations are made by the independent Judicial Appointments Council (1 Judge of Supreme Court, 1 judge of court of appeal, 1 judge of a city court, one practicing lawyer and 2 public representatives) which gives its recommendation to the Minister of Justice	no formal criteria judicial and personal qualifications	the candidate must pass a test by rendering his/her opinion on four cases in the Supreme Court
Estonia	The Supreme Court and the Chief Justice are the sole institutions to select the appropriate candidate to be presented for the position of a justice. The justice is appointed to the office by the Estonian Parliament, the Chief Justice proposes only one candidate to the <i>Riigikogu</i> . The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court first considers the opinion of the Supreme Court <i>en banc</i> and the Council for Administration of Courts.	see question 2	Yes One before the Council for Administration of Courts and one before the General Assembly of the Supreme Court
Finland	The Supreme Court, in plenary formation, itself is in charge of evaluating the candidates and deciding which candidate should be appointed, The Supreme Court makes a formal proposal regarding the person. The proposal is submitted through the Ministry of Justice to the President of the Republic.	qualifications; the general qualifications are set out in a statute	no formal requirement of an oral interview
France	The Conseil supérieur de la magistrature is the body in charge to draw up the candidates list. The Conseil consists of the First President, one judge of the Supreme Court, six elected judges and persons from outside the courts.	judicial knowledge ability to work in a scientific way	There is no rule that indicates a hearing, but in practice the CSM interviews the candidates
Germany	The judges of the Federal Court of Justice are elected by the Election Committee which has 32 members. It is composed of the Ministers of Justice of the 16 federal states and another 16 members who are selected by and usually but not necessarily are members of the Bundestag (German Federal Parliament). The Committee is chaired by the Federal Minister of Justice. Both the Minister and the Election Committee members are entitled to nominate candidates. Before the election the Presidential Council of the Federal Court of Justice – a special representative body for the participation of the Court's judges in the appointment of new judges and composed of the President, The Vice President and five elected judges of the Federal Court of Justice makes a non-binding proposal on every candidate.	personal and professional qualifications equitable representation of the federal states in proportion to their population.	Yes by the Presidential Council of the Federal Court of Justice

Hungary	<p>The department concerned of the Curia gives an opinion of the candidate. The panel of judges of the Curia (7 judges) grades the candidates and draws up a list.</p>	<p>result of professional evaluation of term of experience as a trainee judge and a court secretary or term of service as a judge; in the case of a candidate with no judicial practice, evaluation of former employer, term of practical experience or term of service after passing the professional law examination, in the case of a candidate applying for a position at a tribunal, court of appeal or the Curia ("senior judicial position"), opinion of the relevant department, result of professional aptitude test, result of the professional law examination, academic degree, specialisation in law or any other post-graduate degree (relevant to position), studies completed abroad in area of specialisation after acquisition of law degree, language skills, publications in the field of law, results achieved in mandatory training courses organised as part of an occupation in the field of law tied by law to a bar examination and participation in optional training courses, other extra professional activities that may be relevant to the fulfilment of the given judicial position.</p>	<p>Yes the department concerned of the Curia holds a hearing a second hearing is held by the panel of judges of the Curia the President of the curia hears the candidates as well</p>
Ireland	<p>The Judicial Appointments Advisory Board to which the President of the Supreme Court and also of the High Court – who is ex officio a judge of the Supreme Court – are members draws up a list of maximum seven candidates without ranking them and presents it to the Minister of Justice and Equality.</p> <p>The Government may recommend a person for judicial appointment to the President of Ireland without consulting with the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board.</p>	<p>Education, professional qualifications, experience and character</p>	<p>The Board may arrange for interviews</p>

Italy	The selection of the candidates is made by the Conseil Supérieure de la Magistrature. The commission ad hoc which is an organ of the Conseil Supérieure de la Magistrature drafts an opinion on each candidate. By being member of this commission judges of the Supreme Court may in an indirect way be involved in the selection process.	Seniority, publications, diligence, qualification The criteria are stated by law	No
Latvia	In the 1 st round competition committee (the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Heads of Departments of the Senate, the Head of the Administration) reviews applications and evaluate if a candidate meets all criteria stated. Judicial Qualifications Committee gives its statement about candidates who meet legal requirements. Competition committee interviews candidates who received positive statement in the 2 nd round of competition. The Candidate is appointed by ruling of the Parliament.	Latvian citizen — highly qualified and honest lawyer; Minimum age of a candidate – 40 years; see question 2 for answer about work criteria	Yes by the competition committee
Lithuania	Candidates are selected and nominated by the President of the Supreme Court (non-binding). The nomination is submitted to the President of the Republic who also gets an advice from the Judicial Council of which the President of the Supreme Court is member ex officio. The appointment of judges is carried out by the Parliament.	age, seniority, scientific-pedagogical degree, professional qualifications the criteria are publicized	Yes By the President of the Supreme Court By the Judicial Council which gives an opinion to the President of the Republic By the President of the Republic to evaluate the candidates he picked himself By Parliament
Luxembourg	The Supreme Court holds a general assembly and draws a list of three candidates which it passes to the government. The later makes a proposal of nomination to the Grand-Duc.	See question 2	no

Netherlands	<p>The Supreme Court notifies the Lower House, providing a list of six recommended candidates. Number one mentioned on this list is the candidate the Supreme Court wishes to be appointed, according to its own needs and wishes. The same notification is being forwarded to the special commission for judicial matters of the Lower House.</p> <p>The President and the Procurator general of the Supreme Court are then being invited by the special committee for judicial matters of the Lower House for a hearing, in the course of which they explain the reasons of the Supreme Court to mention a certain candidate as number one on the list and to mention the new candidate(s). The special commission of the Lower House interviews draws up a binding list of 3 nominees, which is being sent to the Lower House. The Lower House sends this binding list of 3 nominees to the Minister of Justice. After consulting the Council of Ministers (the Netherlands government) a candidate from this list of 3 nominees is being chosen. A royal decree is then being prepared for the official nomination.</p>	Legal qualities and expertise	Yes By the special committee for judicial matters of the Lower House
Norway	The Judicial Appointments Board (three judges, one lawyer, one civil servant and two public representatives) is in charge to draw up the candidates list. It passes its recommendation to the Ministry of Justice. The Chief Justice gives an opinion on the selected candidates. The appointment is carried out by the King.	<p>There is no exam</p> <p>There is a tradition for considering the political views as well as an outspoken aim to seek a good balance between male and female. It is considered important that experience from different parts of legal professions is represented in the Supreme Court.</p>	Yes By the Judicial Appointments Board attended by the Chief Justice and one judge of the Supreme Court
Poland	There is a Supreme Court internal qualification procedure: The relevant Supreme Court Chamber gives a non-binding vote on the candidate, the General Assembly takes a final vote. This vote is submitted to the National Council of the Judiciary. The appointment is carried out by the President of the Republic.	qualification	Yes By the relevant Supreme Court chamber
Portugal	The selection of the candidates is made by the Conseil Supérieure de la Magistrature of which is chaired by the President of the Supreme Court.	The criterion of seniority is written down	Yes by a special jury of the Conseil Supérieure de la Magistrature
Romania	The selection of the candidates is made by the Conseil Supérieure de la Magistrature. On its proposal the candidate is appointed by the President of the Republic. The collège de direction of the Supreme Court gives an advisory opinion on the qualifications of a candidate to the Conseil Supérieure de la Magistrature.	<p>Seniority, qualification</p> <p>The criteria are written down</p>	Yes by the Conseil Supérieure de la Magistrature the applicant also has to give a written statement

Slovakia	The Selection Committee (one member is elected by the parliament, one by the Judicial Council, one by the Council of the Judges of the Supreme Court and two members are appointed by the Minister of Justice) performs the selection process.	Professional skills, general overview, ability of creative thinking, speed of thinking and ability of taking decisions, verbal skills, personal assumptions, health condition and knowledge of foreign languages	The selection process consists of the case study, elaboration of judicial decisions, translation from the foreign language, psychological assessment and the oral part. In case that a judge applying for the vacant judicial position at the Supreme Court has last been evaluated as "excellent", he/she shall discharge only the translation from the foreign language, psychological assessment and oral part of the selection process
Slovenia	The list of candidates is drawn by the Ministry of Justice in accordance with the applications. The applications are sent to the President of the Supreme Court to formulate an argued opinion on the suitability of each candidate. The opinion of the President together with the eventual candidate's comments is sent to the Judicial Council. It is the Judicial Council that selects the candidate that it proposes for election to the National Assembly. However, the Judicial Council is not obliged to follow the proposal of the President of the Supreme Court.	See question 7	Hearing can take place but there are no specific provisions
Spain	A committee selects three candidates; the Council of Judiciary (of which the President of the Supreme Court is member) is in charge to nominate and appoint a candidate.	CV, profile demanded by the vacant office	Yes By the Council of Judiciary
Sweden	The President of the Supreme Court forwards a ranking of the candidates to the Judges Nomination Board (The Board) in Sweden which prepares matters concerning the nomination of judges. The Board decides on the final ranking and submits the ranking to the government which carries out the appointment.	The criteria taken into consideration are competence and skills (e.g. legal skills, analytical ability, judgment, independence and integrity etcetera). The criteria skills and merits are regulated in law.	Yes Board selects the applicants to be interviewed by the President of the Supreme Court together with a representative from the Board.

United Kingdom	<p>An ad hoc selection commission is established to consider each vacancy for the Supreme Court. . The comprises the President and Deputy President of the Supreme Court along with a representative of the Judicial Appointments Commission in England and Wales, the Judicial Appointments Commission in Northern Ireland, and the Judicial Appointments Board in Scotland. The selection committee submits a recommendation to the Lord Chancellor, in effect the Minister of Justice. Once a recommendation has been accepted the Lord Chancellor notifies the recommendation to the Prime Minister who makes the formal recommendation to Her Majesty The Queen.</p>	<p>All applications and comments are then considered against a set of published criteria.</p>	<p>Yes The leading candidates are invited for an interview before a final decision is made.</p>
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