

Press Release

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Council of Europe publishes an Opinion on the quality of judicial decisions

Strasbourg, 19.12.2008 – The Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), the Council of Europe's advisory body on issues relating to the independence, impartiality and competence of judges, has just adopted an opinion on "the quality of judicial decisions".

Quality of judicial decisions is a major component of the quality of justice. The Opinion focuses on quality of judicial decision only and does not challenge the principle according to which the quality of each judicial decision is primarily a matter for the legal remedies established by law.

A high quality judicial decision also leads to establishing case law and ensuring social harmony. The judges who are members of the CCJE urge the States to improve the conditions under which judges have to give their decisions.

The quality of judicial decisions depends both on the external environment (legislation and economic and social context), proper resources, legal training, relations to the other players of the justice system and on the internal environment (professionalism of the judge, procedure and case management, hearing process and decision). In the Opinion, most important and core elements are the clarity and the reasoning of the judicial decision. Of crucial importance is also the enforcement of a judicial decision. The second part of the Opinion is devoted to the evaluation of the quality of judicial decisions.

For more information, see www.coe.int/ccje

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