

Official name in original language	Conseil Supérieur de la Justice (CSJ) – Hoge Raad voor de Justitie (HRJ)
Official name in English	High Council of Justice
Address	Rue de la Croix de Fer - Ijzerenkruisstraat 67, 1000 Brussels
Telephone number	+32 2 535 16 16
Website	http://www.csj.be
e-mail	info@hrj.be
Brief history	<p>In order to enhance the confidence of the people in the Belgian justice system, the High Council was set up pursuant to Article 151 of the Constitution, brought into effect by the law of November 20th, 1998. The Council is fulfilling its mission effectively since August 2nd 2000.</p> <p>In order to execute its tasks in all independence, the Council is embedded in the Belgian Constitution and is not part of the executive, legislative or judicial powers.</p>
Constitutional or legal status/basis	An independent constitutional body. Article 151 §2 of the Constitution
Legal acts regulating the Status	Article 259bis of the Judicial Code
Composition:	
Total number of members	44 members
Term of office	4 years
Is there a possibility to be renewed as a member?	Yes, for 1 successive term
Do the members have a full-time position or not?	Full-time position for the 4 members of the bureau only
Make up	<p>22 judicial members elected by their peers - each linguistic college comprise at least 1 judge and 1 prosecutor.</p> <p>22 non-judicial members appointed by the Senate – each linguistic college comprises at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 lawyers member of the bar for at least 10 years, - 3 university or college of higher education professors having at least 10 years of professional experience and - 4 members who hold an university or equivalent degree as well as 10 years of relevant professional experience.
Is there a majority of Judges?	According to the law half of the Council is composed of judicial members
Presidency	Presidency is exercised in turn by each member of the bureau for 1 year

Main Competences:	
Career of judges and prosecutors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Admission to the profession of judge and prosecutor - Presentation of candidates to be nominated as a judge or prosecutor and presentation of candidates to be designated as head of court or chief prosecutor - Drawing up of the general profiles of heads of court and chief prosecutors.
Judicial training	Determines the general guidelines for the training of members of the judiciary
Discipline	The Council has no disciplinary authority. Nevertheless if the Council rules that a member of the judiciary has perpetrated a disciplinary violation, the competent disciplinary authority will be notified and asked to take action.
Ethics	<p>A code of conduct, called <i>"Guide for the magistrates, principles, values and qualities"</i> has been issued by the Council in June 2012. This guide was inspired by the guidelines issued by the ENCJ.</p> <p>The Council promotes judicial ethics through its legal competences in training, advices and proposals and the external control on the judiciary.</p>
Opinions legislation / other opinions	Delivering recommendations, opinions and advices on proposed legislation regarding the general functioning and organization of the judiciary
Other competencies	<p>External control on the general functioning of the judiciary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - general surveillance and promotion of the use of internal control tools ; - receive and assure the follow up of complaints regarding the functioning of the judiciary and investigation into this functioning
Status of decisions	The decisions regarding the access to the judicial profession are binding.
Review	<p>The decisions of the High Council are not subject to review.</p> <p>The proposal of a candidate judge or prosecutor by the High Council can be refuted by the King within 60 days by a reasoned decision, in which case a new candidate will be proposed by the Council. In case of a renewed reasoned refusal by the King the entire procedure of nomination is reopened.</p>
Budget	The High Council is not accountable to any other body or power. However, the Council presents its annual report to both Chambers of Parliament and its annual budget has to be approved by the Chamber of Representatives. The budget allocated to the Council is to cover the expenses related to its functioning in the exercise of its competences.