

Translation from Finnish**Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish****Ministry of Justice, Finland****Act on the Nomination of Candidates for Positions of Judges and Members of International Courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union***(676/2016; amendments up to 37/2019 included)*

By decision of Parliament, the following is enacted:

Section 1**Scope of application**

The procedure laid down in this Act is followed when Finland nominates one or more national candidates for vacant positions for judges and members of international courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Section 2**Announcing vacant positions**

Vacant positions for judges and members of international courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union for which Finland will nominate one or more candidates shall be announced before the candidates are nominated. The announcement of the vacant position shall be published in an appropriate manner. Only a person who has registered his or her interest in the position may be nominated as a candidate.

The procedure laid down in subsection 1 above may be deviated from for a reason arising from international obligations binding on Finland or for another compelling reason.

Section 3**Panel of experts**

Upon the proposal of the Prime Minister's Office, the Government appoints, for six years at a time, a panel of experts to prepare the nomination of candidates for positions of judges and members of international courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Section 4

Composition of the panel of experts

The panel of experts has nine members. The panel consists of a representative from the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, the Supreme Administrative Court, and the Office of the Prosecutor General, a representative from the units engaged in legal research and education at universities, a representative from the Finnish Bar Association, and a person appointed separately in each case by the ministry that will present the nomination matter in question to the Government. Each member has a personal deputy. (37/2019)

Persons appointed by the Government as members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration under Article 44 of the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes (Treaty Series of the Statute Book of Finland 11/1924) are members as referred to in subsection 1.

The member representing the Prime Minister's Office acts as the chairperson of the panel and his or her deputy as the deputy chairperson. However, when a nomination matter is to be presented to the Government by some other ministry than the Prime Minister's Office, the panel member representing the ministry in question will act as the chairperson and his or her deputy as the deputy chairperson.

Section 5

Quorum of the panel of experts

The panel of experts has a quorum when the chairperson or deputy chairperson and at least half of the other members or deputy members are present.

Section 6

Appointing authority

Finland's national candidates for the positions referred to in this Act are nominated by the Government, unless they are nominated in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Statute of the International Court of Justice (Treaty Series of the Statute Book of Finland 1/1956).

Section 7**Authority to issue decrees**

Further provisions on the appointment and activities of the panel of experts referred to in section 4 above may be issued by government decree.

Section 8**Entry into force**

This Act enters into force on 1 January 2017.

Where a reference is made in other legislation to a provision of the Act on Judicial Appointments (205/2000) in force upon entry into force of this Act, a corresponding provision of this Act shall be applied instead.