

**Translation from Finnish****Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish****Ministry of Justice, Finland****Government Decree on the Panel of Experts Preparing the Nomination of Candidates for Positions of Judges and Members of International Courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union**

(179/2017)

By decision of the Government, the following is enacted under section 7 of the 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):

**Section 1****Secretary of the panel**

The Prime Minister's Office appoints a part-time secretary for the panel of experts referred to in section 3 of the 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).

**Section 2****Supplementing the composition of the panel**

If the chairperson, deputy chairperson or some other member or deputy member of the panel of experts dies or resigns mid-term or is permanently prevented from participating in the activities of the panel, the Prime Minister's Office will appoint a new member or deputy member to replace him or her for the remainder of the term of office.

When the Government appoints a new member to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the membership of such a person previously appointed to the panel of experts who represents the same party as the new member appointed to the Court of Arbitration ends without a separate decision. The parties represented in the panel are specified in section 4, subsection 1 of the Act on the Nomination of Candidates for Positions of Judges and Members of International Courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

If the composition of the panel of experts does not comply with the provisions of section 4, subsection 1 of the Act on the Nomination of Candidates for Positions of Judges and Members of International Courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union after the Government has appointed a new member to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Prime Minister's Office will appoint a new member to fill the open position on the panel for the remainder of the panel's term of office.

### **Section 3**

#### **Meetings of the panel of experts**

Meetings of the panel of experts are convened by the chairperson or, when the chairperson is unavailable, by the deputy chairperson.

### **Section 4**

#### **External experts**

The panel of experts may consult external experts while carrying out its activities.

### **Section 5**

#### **Fees and compensations**

The criteria for the fees and compensations payable to the chairperson, deputy chairperson, members, deputy members, secretary and external experts are determined by the Prime Minister's Office.

As for the reimbursement of travel expenses, the collective agreement on the reimbursement of travel expenses in force at any given time is applied.

### **Section 6**

#### **Rules of procedure**

The panel of experts may adopt for itself rules of procedure that lay down provisions on its handling of matters and other work arrangements.

**Section 7****Entry into force**

This Decree enters into force on 1 April 2017.