



# Central & Eastern European Moot Competition

## 2024 COMPETITION RULES

### Contents

1. Competition and important dates:	1
2. Participating Teams	2
3. The Stages of the CEEMC	2
STAGE 1: Submitting written pleadings	3
STAGE 2: Day 1 of Oral Pleadings	3
STAGE 3: Day 2 of Oral Pleadings (8 selected teams only)	4
STAGE 4: Final (2 selected teams only)	4
Post-final: awards ceremony	5
4. Fees	5
5. Organiser's Bank details	6
6. The organiser: Juris Angliae Scientia	6

### 1. Competition and important dates:

This 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the CEEMC takes place in Prague. It is co-hosted and co-organised by Charles University and the Prague Municipal Court.

The CEEMC competition began in 1995. Since then, it has been held in multiple cities and countries throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The CEEMC enjoys extremely close links with many of the judges, Advocates General and referendaires of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), some of whom are regular members of the CEEMC's judicial panel. We celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the competition at the CJEU in Luxembourg in May 2019. After being forced to cancel the moot in 2020 event and holding it online in 2021 (both due to the covid-19 pandemic), we were delighted to return to face-to-face mooting in Budapest in 2022, and then in Dubrovnik in 2023. Now Prague awaits us...

The CEEMC is held under the auspices of the University of Cambridge and the Court of Justice of the European Union, both of which host prizes awarded to the best speakers/team. The participating teams and mooters have included *inter alia* those from Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Hungary, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The CEEMC question, which is prepared by a committee of organisers and external experts (including from the CJEU itself) aims to reproduce, as closely as possible, the discussion and argument of a genuine preliminary referral to the CJEU. The bundle of supporting materials and authorities which is provided alongside the CEEMC question includes all of the authorities to which that teams are permitted to refer to during the competition. In other words, a

team's written or oral pleadings cannot refer to any legal sources other than those contained in the bundle.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Teams must register online at the [CEEMC website](#) or by sending an e-mail to the [organising committee](#) ([organisers@ceemc.co.uk](mailto:organisers@ceemc.co.uk)). They must then pay the competition fees and submit written pleadings. The relevant dates for each step are given below:

**Date for registering a competing team:** **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**

NB. The organising committee may, at its absolute discretion, consider applications from teams who have not registered by this date. To enquire about the possibility of late registration, please contact us at [organisers@ceemc.co.uk](mailto:organisers@ceemc.co.uk) as soon as possible, entitling your mail 'CEEMC- Late registration request'. We will inform you of our decision by email.

**Fee Payment deadline:** **11<sup>th</sup> February 2024** (see section 5 below for details of the organisers' bank details). If you have difficulty in meeting this deadline, please email us at: [organisers@ceemc.co.uk](mailto:organisers@ceemc.co.uk)

**Deadline for submitting written pleadings:** **8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

## **2. Participating Teams**

The CEEMC is open to teams comprising 3 or 4 members (mooters). Each team member must also:

- be enrolled as a full-time student on a university course (inc. Erasmus students) at a university in an EU candidate country, an Eastern Partnership Country or a Member State that acceded to the EU after 2004; and:
- be 30 years old or younger; and
- *not* be a qualified and practising lawyer; and
- *not* have previously participated in the CEEMC

A participating university may register more than one moot team, provided that each team submits a separate set of written pleadings and pays a separate registration fee. Teams should notify us if they are aware that their University intends to submit two teams.

A CEEMC team may include participants from various Universities (i.e. a mixed team), but any team wishing to register as a mixed team must clearly inform us of this when registering.

## **3. The Stages of the CEEMC**

The CEEMC question is based on an area of European Union substantive and/or procedural law, involving a preliminary reference to the Court of Justice of the EU under Article 267 TFEU. Each competing team must submit written pleadings (by the date indicated above) and participate in the oral pleadings at the CEEMC location.

Each team must submit written pleadings on behalf of *both* the applicant and the respondent. Likewise, during the oral rounds, each team will (in different rounds) act as both applicant and the respondent.

The team with the highest overall score wins the CEEMC competition. A team's score is calculated as the aggregate of its scores granted for four separate stages, described below.

The CEEMC's official language is English. It is the only language used in each of the stages described below.

## STAGE 1: Submitting written pleadings

Each team must prepare written pleadings on the following basis:

- Each team prepares one set of written pleadings (dealing with *all* of the referred questions) for the applicant and a separate set of written pleadings for the respondent;
- The maximum permissible length of each set of pleadings is 10 pages (Times New Roman font, size 11), excluding the accompanying bibliography of legal authorities relied upon in the pleadings;
- Pleadings should contain clear headings/sub-headings and each paragraph of the pleadings should be consecutively numbered;
- Arguments contained in the pleadings should be supported, insofar as is possible, by reference to existing legal authorities (i.e. cases/legislation);
- Any legal authorities referred to in written/oral pleadings must be contained or referred to in the moot bundle;
- When referring to legal authorities, ensure that you reference the paragraph of the case (or number of the Article in legislation) and to refer to the page of the CEEMC bundle on which it can be found;
- The written pleadings must be sent by email to us at: [organisers@ceemc.co.uk](mailto:organisers@ceemc.co.uk)
- The written pleadings must be sent by the end of the day indicated in section 1 above (**Competition and important dates**)
- The organisers will confirm the receipt of your team's pleadings within 3 days of submission.
- A maximum of 20 points are awarded for each team's written pleadings
- A prize is awarded for the best written pleadings, sponsored by Clifford Chance law firm.

## STAGE 2: Day 1 of Oral Pleadings

At the moot venue, each team participates in oral pleadings *twice* on the first day (Saturday) – i.e. in one moot as the applicant, and in the other moot as the respondent. In each of the two moots on Day 1, your team will most probably moot against different opponents. You will be informed about the timings of your moots (and in which of those moots you will act for the applicant or respondent) and the identity of your opponents in the mooting timetable. This will be provided at the opening ceremony on the Friday preceding Day 1 of the oral pleadings).

During Day 1 of the oral pleadings, all team members must actively submit pleadings (i.e. speak). However, it is *not* necessary for all team members to speak in *each* of the two separate moots on Day 1 (e.g. a team with 4 people may decide that 2 team members shall plead for the applicants in moot 1, while the other 2 shall plead for the respondent in moot 2). The crucial thing is that, by the end of Day 1, all team members must have delivered oral pleadings.

### *Timings:*

The following timings apply to all moots except the final.

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Pleadings for applicant:</b>  | Max 20 minutes (for dealing with all questions that will be mooted on that day)       |
| <b>Pleadings for respondent:</b> | Max 20 minutes (for dealing with all questions that will be mooted on that day)       |
| <b>Reply for applicant:</b>      | Max 5 minutes (limited to commenting on matters raised in the respondent's pleadings) |
| <b>Rejoinder for respondent:</b> | Max 5 minutes (limited to commenting on matters raised in the applicant's reply)      |

If these time limits are exceeding, it is entirely at the discretion of the court whether a team will be granted extra time

(normally not exceeding 5 extra minutes) in order to continue their pleadings.

NB. The clock stops 'running' when a judge asks a question or makes a comment, but continues to 'run' again when the judge finishes.

NB. The timings for the final are explained below.

*Scoring Criteria:*

The following scoring criteria are applied by the judges to each individual moot during the CEEMC's oral-pleading stages (i.e. to all moots on Day 1 and Day 2, including the final):

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Awarded</b>
Style and quality of presentation in oral arguments	30
Effective and accurate use of provided materials	30
Team-work	10
Ability to respond effectively to judges' questions.	10
Effectiveness of reply/rejoinder	20
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>100</i>

**STAGE 3: Day 2 of Oral Pleadings (8 selected teams only)**

Eight teams are selected from the Day 1 of oral pleadings to progress to Day 2 (Sunday). During Day 2, the qualifying teams moot different questions to those mooted on Day 1. Details of which questions will be mooted on Day 1 and Day 2 are indicated at the end of the moot question.

After Day 1 has finished, the CEEMC judges may decide that they also wish one/more of the Day 1 questions to be mooted again during Day 2. If this is the case, information will be provided to the 8 teams which progress to Day 2.

Each of the 8 teams competing in Day 2 will again have two moots (mooting once as applicant, once as respondent). However, a key difference from Day 1 is that, on Day 2, *each and every team member must speak (plead) during BOTH of the team's two moots* (i.e. if a team has 4 members, all 4 must speak when the team acts on behalf of the applicant and all 4 must speak when the team acts on behalf of the respondent).

At lunchtime on Day 2, after each of the 8 remaining teams has mooted twice, the judges will announce the two teams which will compete in the final.

**STAGE 4: Final (2 selected teams only)**

At lunchtime on Day 2 (Sunday), two teams are chosen (from the 8 teams which mooted on Day 2) to face each other in the final. The role to be played by each finalist (applicant or respondent) is chosen by lot. The judges will announce which questions they wish to be mooted during the final. These may be a mixture of any of the questions mooted during Day 1 and Day 2.

Each and every member of the team must speak (plead) in the final. It is permitted for a particular team member's

speaking role to be limited to only a small fraction of the team's overall speaking time (e.g. by dealing only with a sub-part of one question, or saying very little during the reply/rejoinder), but this may lead to the judges to draw adverse inferences regarding the team's overall quality and team-work.

The scoring criteria that apply to the final are identical to the other rounds (as described above) but the timings are adapted as below:

<b>Pleadings for applicant:</b>	Max 45 minutes (for dealing with all questions to be mooted on that day)
<b>Pleadings for respondent:</b>	Max 45 minutes (for dealing with all questions to be mooted on that day)
<b>Reply for applicant:</b>	Max 10 minutes (limited to commenting on the respondent's pleadings)
<b>Rejoinder for respondent:</b>	Max 10 minutes (limited to commenting on the applicant's reply)

*No time extensions will be granted in the final.*

#### Post-final: awards ceremony

Following the CEEMC final, the awards ceremony will be held. During this ceremony, each team member will receive a participation certificate signed by the CEEMC President. Special prizes will also be awarded to:

- the winning team
- the person chosen as best speaker (this can be a person who mooted at *any stage* on Day 2, not necessarily someone who appeared in the final)
- other individual speakers whom the judges feel deserve special recognition
- best written pleadings

## 4. Fees

The CEEMC fee for 2023 is **EUR 1,500** per team<sup>\*</sup>. This includes the fee for accommodation<sup>\*\*</sup>, sustenance and participation in the competition<sup>\*\*\*</sup>.

<sup>\*</sup> Each team may include 3 or 4 mooting team members and one accompanying coach. An extra fee of EUR 250 per person applies to any team wishing to send an extra coach or observer. Please inform us as soon as possible if this applies to your team, and in any case by no later than **11 February 2024**.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Each team will be allocated a number of beds in the 2-person or 3-person rooms available at the CEEMC accommodation venue, corresponding to the number of people in the team (inc. coach[es]). If any team member or coach wishes to have a single room, an additional fee of €40 per night will be payable. Please inform us as soon as possible if this applies to your team, and in any case by no later than **11 February 2024**.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Each team is individually responsible for other costs, including travel to/from the competition and any administrative or visa charges to the CEEMC location (please contact us if you need additional support when applying for a visa).

The competition fee must be paid by bank transfer and received by no later than the date specified in Section 1 above **Competition and important dates**). If your university prefers to pay by credit card, please contact us at: [organisers@ceemc.co.uk](mailto:organisers@ceemc.co.uk)

When registering your team on the website, please contact us if you wish to receive an official invitation, which may

be useful to apply for university funding or a visa (where necessary).

## 5. Organiser's Bank details

<b>Recipient name:</b>	Juris Angliae Scientia Ltd
<b>Recipient address:</b>	Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge, 10 West Road, Cambridge United Kingdom, CB3 9BZ
<b>Account no: (this is a Euro account)</b>	PL90 1750 0009 0000 0000 4001 2915
<b>BIC/SWIFT code:</b>	PPABPLPK
<b>Bank name:</b>	BNP Paribas

NB. Please ensure that we receive all payments in full (net) in EUR currency.

## 6. The organiser: Juris Angliae Scientia

The CEEMC is organised by the British Law Centres of the English charity *Juris Angliae Scientia* (JAS). In addition to the CEEMC, JAS also organises a [Diploma in English Law & Legal Skills](#) ("DELLS"), which can be studied at a range of [locations](#) or 100% online. We also organise a [Commercial Law Diploma](#) ("CLD") as a follow-on from DELLs.

If you think your University may be interested in British Law Centre visiting to teach our courses, please contact us at: [s.terrett@britishlawcentre.co.uk](mailto:s.terrett@britishlawcentre.co.uk).

For details of how to apply for the DELLs course, which begins each academic year in October, please visit: <https://www.britishlawcentre.co.uk/apply/>



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