

<b>Official name in original language</b>	Висш съдебен съвет (ВСС) (VSS)
<b>Official name in English</b>	Supreme Judicial Council (SJC)
<b>Address</b>	Bulgaria, 1000 Sofia, 12, Ekzarh Yosif Str.
<b>Telephone number</b>	(+359 2) 930 49 42
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.vss.justice.bg">www.vss.justice.bg</a>
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<b>Brief history</b>	In order to achieve a democratic and welfare constitutional state, the Bulgarian SJC was established on 27 September, 1991.
<b>Constitutional or legal status/basis</b>	Legal entity seated in Sofia. It shall be represented by one of its elected members, designated by resolution of the Supreme Judicial Council.
<b>Legal acts regulating the Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Bulgarian Constitution</li> <li>- Judicial System Act</li> <li>- Regulation on the Organization of the Work of the Supreme Judicial Council and its Administration</li> </ul>
<b>Composition:</b>	
Total number of members	25 members
Term of office	5 years (for elected members) 7 years (for the ex officio members of the SJC: the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court, and the Prosecutor General)
Is there a possibility to be renewed as a member?	Yes, but not immediately upon expiration of the term of office.
Do the members have a full-time position or not?	Full-time position
Make up	<p>The Council consists of judges, public prosecutors and other legal professionals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>11 members elected by the Judicial system bodies</b> out of their own composition, the judges electing 6, the prosecutors – 4 and the investigating magistrates – 1 of these.</li> <li>- <b>11 members elected by the National Assembly</b> among judges, prosecutors, investigating magistrates, full professors in legal science, attorneys at law or other lawyers.</li> <li>- <b>3 ex officio members:</b> the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court, and the Prosecutor General.</li> </ul>
Is there a majority of Judges?	Yes (14 judges out of 25 members)

<b>Presidency</b>	<p>The meetings of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be presided over by the Minister of Justice, without a right to vote.</p> <p>No Vice-President. The Bulgarian SJC has the figure of representative, which is one of the members and has only representative functions.</p>
<b>Main Competences:</b>	
Career of judges and / or prosecutors	Appointment, assignment, transfer and promotion of judges is a competence of the SJC
Judicial training	<p>The responsibility for the organization of judicial training goes to the National Institute of Justice. The National Institute of Justice shall be headed by a management board, including 5 representatives of the Supreme Judicial Council and 2 representatives of the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>The chairperson of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Chairperson of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Prosecutor General shall be <i>ex lege</i> members of the management board from the quota of the Supreme Judicial Council. The chairperson of the Supreme Court of Cassation shall chair that board.</p> <p>The Supreme Judicial Council shall coordinate the curriculums of the National Institute of Justice.</p> <p>The Supreme Judicial Council shall provide resources required for the delivery of all trainings envisaged in the law to the National Institute of Justice budget.</p>
Discipline	Disciplinary procedure is under the competence of the Council. The Supreme Judicial Council shall impose the disciplinary sanctions of demotion and removal from office on judges, prosecutors, and investigating magistrates.
Ethics	There is a Code of Ethics for the behavior of the Bulgarian magistrates. To promote judicial ethics is a permanent concern of the SJC.
Opinions on legislation / other opinions	The SJC has the competence to issue opinions on legal acts related to the judiciary and the Statute of Judges and, in general, study and propose to the Ministry of Justice legislative measures to improve the efficiency of the judiciary
<b>Status of decisions</b>	Administrative decisions
<b>Budget</b>	<p>The Supreme Judicial Council is an independent budget spending unit and the bodies of the judiciary, which are legal entities – secondary budget spending units.</p> <p>The Supreme Judicial Council organizes the execution of the budget of the judiciary through the Inspectorate to SJC, the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Supreme Administrative court, the courts, the Prosecutor General and the National Institute of Justice. The Supreme Judicial Council distributes the budget of the judiciary according to a full budget classification and by quarters and approves the budget accounts of the bodies of the judiciary.</p>