



Court of Justice of the European Union

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Press and Information

Formal sitting of the Court of Justice of the European Union

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## **Entry into office of three new Members of the General Court of the European Union**

By decision of 21 December 2021, the representatives of the governments of the Member States appointed Mr Damjan Kukovec and Ms Suzanne Kingston, who replaces Mr Anthony Collins, for the period from 22 December 2021 to 31 August 2025 and Mr Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, who replaces Mr Dimitrios Gratsias, for the period from 22 December 2021 to 31 August 2022, as Judges of the General Court of the European Union.

A formal sitting of the Court of Justice will take place today on the occasion of the entry into office of the new Members.

The formal sitting will be broadcast live from 12:00 on the following site:  
<https://c.connectedviews.com/cdj>

### **Curriculum vitae of the new Members**

#### **Damjan Kukovec**

Born in 1977 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Mr Damjan Kukovec obtained a law degree at the Faculty of Law of the Univerza v Ljubljani (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) in 2001 and a master's degree in law at Harvard Law School (United States) in 2002. He studied for a doctorate at that university, and defended his thesis there in 2015.

In 2002, he began his professional career as a lawyer at the Višje sodišče v Ljubljani (Court of Appeal, Ljubljana, Slovenia) and held that position until 2004. During 2004, he was a lawyer at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (Freetown, Sierra Leone) and at the Ustavno sodišče (Constitutional Court, Slovenia).

In 2005, Mr Kukovec joined the Court of Justice of the European Union as a lawyer before joining the Legal Service of the European Commission from 2006 to 2018.

At the same time, Mr Kukovec dedicated himself to an academic career through carrying out various teaching activities in EU law. Between 2011 and 2013, he was an assistant lecturer, then a lecturer at Harvard Law School. He subsequently taught at several universities of law worldwide, including the FGV Direito Rio, Rio de Janeiro (Law Faculty of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) in 2014, the University of Kent's Brussels School of International Studies (Belgium) in 2016, the European University Institute of Florence (EUI, Italy) in 2016 and 2017, and the Univerza v Ljubljani between 2018 and 2020. From 2018, Mr Kukovec was also a senior lecturer in law and Associate Director of the PhD programme at Middlesex University in London (United Kingdom).

Mr Kukovec is the author of numerous publications in EU law. He is a regular guest lecturer at universities worldwide.

Mr Kukovec was appointed as a Judge at the General Court on 13 January 2022.

## **Suzanne Kingston**

Born in 1977 in Dublin (Ireland), Ms Suzanne Kingston graduated in law from Oxford University (United Kingdom) in 1998 and obtained a master's degree in law at Universiteit Leiden (University of Leiden, Netherlands) in 2000. She then began to study for a doctorate in law at that university, and defended her thesis there in 2009.

In 1998, she was admitted as a Barrister at the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, London (United Kingdom). In 2002, she joined the Brussels office of an international law firm where she practised law until 2004.

Ms Kingston subsequently joined the Court of Justice of the European Union as a legal secretary to Advocate General Leendert Geelhoed, with whom she worked from 2004 to 2006.

Ms Kingston was admitted to serve as a Barrister at the Honourable Society of King's Inns, Dublin (Ireland) in 2007. She has practised law at the Bar of Ireland since 2007 as a Barrister, then as a Senior Counsel.

In addition, Ms Kingston taught law at the University College Dublin (Ireland) as a senior lecturer from 2007 to 2015, then, from 2015, as professor. During her academic career, she also taught at other universities, in particular at Columbia University (United States), Cambridge University (United Kingdom), Universiteit Leiden, and Osgoode Hall Law School of York University in Toronto (Canada). She is the author of numerous publications in EU law.

Ms Kingston was appointed as a Judge at the General Court on 13 January 2022.

## **Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos**

Born in 1971 in Athens (Greece), Mr Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos graduated in law in 1992 from the Ethniko kai Kapodistriako Panepistimio Athinon (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece) and completed his studies with a master's degree in law which was awarded to him by the Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas (University of Paris II, Panthéon-Assas, France) in 1994.

Admitted to the Athens Bar in 1995, Mr Dimitrakopoulos practised there as a lawyer until 1997.

In 1998, he joined the Symvoulío tis Epikrateias (Council of State, Greece) as a junior officer, where he served as a junior member from 2005 to 2022. In addition to those functions, he was a member of the 'Planning and Organising' committee of the Symvoulío tis Epikrateias from 2009 to 2010. In 2005, he joined the Office of the European Ombudsman for three years (Strasbourg, France), where he was principal legal adviser before returning to the Symvoulío tis Epikrateias in 2008.

Between 2010 and 2020, Mr Dimitrakopoulos also served as Alternate Chairman of the Board of Appeal of the European Chemicals Agency (Helsinki, Finland).

From 2014 to 2015, he was appointed as an assistant judge to the Anotato Eidiko Dikastirio (Supreme Special Court, Greece) and to the Eidiko Dikastirio tou arthrou 88 par. 2 tou Syntagmatos (Special Court established under Article 88(2) of the Greek Constitution). Furthermore, he served as Vice-President of the Association of Judges of the Symvoulío tis Epikrateias between 2014 and 2016.

In addition, Mr Dimitrakopoulos dedicated himself to research and teaching: from 2003 to 2004, he was Senior Visiting Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley (United States) and, in this capacity, taught courses in European environmental law and comparative law. Since 2010, he has also been Professor at the Ethniki Scholi Dikastikon Leitourgon (National School of Judicial Officers, Greece). He is the author of numerous publications, which include, in particular, EU law and fundamental rights.

Mr Dimitrakopoulos was appointed as a Judge at the General Court on 13 January 2022.

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