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**Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament**

***Transfer to the General Court of jurisdiction at first instance in EU civil service cases***

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Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, for the first time, any modification of the statute of the General Court has to be adopted in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure.

The proposal with which we cope today meets the immediate efficiency and performance-related needs of the General Court.

Going beyond, it seeks to strengthen the effectiveness of the European Court System as a whole in a sustainable manner.

I trust that its adoption will contribute to reducing the length of proceedings before the General Court.

This, in turn, will reduce the risk that the Union is found in breach of its duty, set out in Article 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, to rule on cases within a reasonable time.

Furthermore, only one jurisdiction, the Court of Justice, will be responsible for ensuring uniform interpretation of the law by hearing all appeals.

This will simplify the judicial structure of the Union, enhance its overall efficiency and promote consistency in its case law.

It is therefore important that the European Parliament supports the current proposal in order to allow the European Court System to work in a more efficient manner.