



THE 10TH CONFERENCE OF THE BALKAN AND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF THE COUNCILS FOR THE JUDICIARY

Minutes

Date: 27-29 May 2015

Venue: Tirana

Plenary session, Thursday 28 May

9.30 Mr. Xhezair Xaganjori, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Albania welcomed all the participants and gave the floor to the President of the Republic of Albania to give a welcoming speech.

H.E. Mr. Bujar Nishani welcomed all the participants and acknowledged the importance of the Judicial Councils in their respective Countries.

The Conference continued with the speeches of Mr. Clive Rumbold, Head of Political, Economic and Information section, European Union Delegation in Albania; Mr. Nasip Naço, Minister of Justice; Mr. Rainer Deville, Team Leader, EURALIUS IV; Mrs. Tünde Handó, President of the National Office for the Judiciary of Hungary, according to the agenda.

10.30 Coffee Break. The president leaves the conference

11.00 Mr. Horatiu Dumbrava, Member of the Superior Council of Magistracy of Romania, Member of the Executive Board of the ENCJ, chaired the first plenary session “The Contribution of the Councils for the Judiciary of South-East Europe in guaranteeing the Independence and Accountability of the Judiciary and strengthening the Rule of Law in the Region” and gave the floor to all the scheduled key-note speakers according to the agenda. Mr. Levente Simon, Member of the National Judicial Council of Hungary;. Mrs. Paola Balducci, Member of the Superior Council of Magistracy of Italy;. Mr. Selahattin Doğan, Judge, High Council of Judges and Prosecutors of Turkey; Mrs. Karolina Nedelcheva, Member of the Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria and Mr. Gjini Gjoni, Member of the High Council of Justice of Albania gave their respective presentations.

12.15 There was a round de table where all the participants gave their suggestions for the topic of the next year Conference, as follows:

Albania	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal independence of the judges. 2. The role of the media in the independence of the Judiciary Councils 3. Balanced budget and the financial independence
Bosnia & Herzegovina	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accountability of the members of the Judiciary Councils in appointing Judges 2. Is it possible to revoke one of the members of the Judiciary Councils
Bulgaria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding of the Judicial System and the transparency of funding 2. Reconsideration of the judicial map
Hungary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contribution of the conference in the independence of the Judiciary. 2. Measuring criteria for the evaluation of the Judges
Italy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal independence of the Judges and Prosecutors considering the set of rules and jurisdictional aspects
Kosovo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget – appropriate finance 2. The composition of the Council (which body is charged to entitle/nominate members)
Macedonia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The funding of the Judicial Council
Moldova	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The auto governance of the judicial system against Executive Power 2. The role of the Media (the press) in the independence of the judges.
Montenegro	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Transparency work in the judicial Councils (over Europe) 2. The influence for the judiciary of the general Media and social Media.
Romania	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the integrity in the Judiciary 2. Fighting corruption within the judicial system
Turkey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal independence of the Judges and Prosecutors 2. Improving the accountability standards of Judges and Prosecutor within the Independence and fairness framework

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Dr. Guenter Woratsch, Hon. President of the International Association of Judges (IAJ-UIM), Representative of European Association of Judges (EAJ-AEM) Regional Group of IAJ-UIM, chaired the second plenary session “Codes of Ethics and the disciplinary regulations applied in the Judiciary”. It was decided that only three key note speakers would take the floor and the conference would continue with the welcoming of the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Election process. Dr. Guenter Woratsch gave to floor to Ms. Ružica Jukić, Vice-President of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mr. Balázs Rozsnyai, National Office for the Judiciary of Hungary and Mr. Rumen Boev, Member of the Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria for their respective presentations.

15.00 Mr. Horatiu Dumbrava took the floor to invite Kosovo Judicial Council’s President Mr. Enver Peci to sign the Charter of the Network. It was decided by the majority of the participating members that Kosovo Judicial Council can be a member of the Network and a Decision reflecting that position was adopted. Moreover, Mr. Dumbrava gave the floor to Mrs. Balducci. Mrs. Balducci expressed the willingness of Italy to host the 11th edition of the Conference in Rome, Italy, next year. The works of the Conference continued with the Elections of the structures of the Network. All the interested countries made their official requests to be considered for the Board, Secretariat and the position of the President.

It was decided by a unanimous consent from all the participating members that Mr. Gjin Gjoni, Member of the High Council of Justice of Albania, will be the President of the Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of the Councils for the Judiciary.

It was decided by a unanimous consent from all the participating members that the Secretariat will continue to be held in Hungary.

It was decided by a unanimous consent from all the participating members that Board Members will be the following Countries:

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. Bulgaria
3. Italy
4. Moldova
5. Turkey

It was decided by a unanimous consent from all the participating members that the Secretariat should have a term of 3 years and not 2 years so a decision was adopted to reflect the changes in the Charter.

17.00 End of the first working day

Plenary session, Friday 29 May

9.00 Dr. Guenter Woratsch, welcomed all the participants in the second day of the works of the Conference and chaired the second part of the plenary session “Codes of Ethics and the disciplinary regulations applied in the Judiciary”. Dr. Guenter Woratsch gave to floor to: Ms. Violeta Cojocaru, Member of the Superior Council of Magistracy of Moldova; Mrs. Galya Georgieva, Member of the Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria; Mr. Selim Ademi, Deputy Chair of the Judicial Council of Macedonia and Mr. Albert Avdiu, Director of the Secretariat of the Judicial Council of Kosovo.

10.00 Mr. Gjin Gjoni took the floor to read the minutes of the first day and continued to chair the discussion session. The participants discussed the topics and they decide that the topics for the 11th edition of the Conference, which will be held in Rome, will be the following:

1. Internal independence of the Judges and Prosecutors as a factor of increasing efficiency in the Judiciary.
2. The role of media in the independence of the Judiciary.

11.30 The works of the Conference continued with discussions to draft some guidelines for preparing a Questionnaire for Internal Independence. Hungary, Romania and Turkey will collaborate to draft these guidelines.

11.50 A declaration was read by the newly elected president Mr. Gjin Gjoni.

12.00 End of the second working day.