



## **THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE BALKAN AND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF THE COUNCILS FOR THE JUDICIARY**

### **DECLARATION**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Balkan and Euro – Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary was held in Tirana on 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 with special focus on the role of the Judiciary Councils in the member states, in the protection and the strengthening the independence and the impartiality of the judiciary.

The Judiciary Councils of the Member States has the aim to protect and guarantee the independence and the accountability which consequently will reflect the strengthening of the rule of law. Furthermore, this will affect not only the Member States, but also the whole region. It will also contribute in the unification of the standards and best practises in the participating states, aiming at ethics and the disciplinary process against judges and prosecutors.

This conference held in Tirana elected its governing bodies, the President of the Network, and the board which are going to contribute in the efficiency of the Network's functioning, in accomplishing its vision and the purpose of which it stands. Also, it was decided from all the participating members that Hungary will continue to have the Secretariat of the Network.

The request of Kosovo to participate in the Balkan and Euro – Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary was accepted and the Judicial Council of Kosovo signed the Charter of the Network. Also, it was decided to extend the mandate of the Secretariat of the Network from 2 years to 3 years, a decision was signed from all the participants to reflect that. Moreover, the next Conference will be held in Rome, Italy.

In conclusion, the following topics were selected for the next year Conference:

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.