

# **BALKANIC AND EURO -MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF COUNCILS FOR THE JUDICIARY**

## **DRAFT CHARTER OF THE NETWORK**

The councils for the judiciary from the Balkanic and euro- Mediterranean area agree to continue their cooperation in the form of a network as the successor of “The Conference of Regulatory Judicial Authorities of the Balkan Area ”, which shall be governed by the following principles.

### **Article 1- Name**

The name of the Network shall be “*The Balkanic and Euro -Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary*”.

### **Article 2- Aims and Objectives**

The main objectives of this Network are;

- to improve cooperation among its members with a view to strengthening the independence and impartiality of the judiciary as a safeguard of the rule of law in the region,
- to safeguard and strengthen the status of judges and prosecutors,
- to improve confidence in the judiciary,
- to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of judiciary,
- to strengthen the institutional capacity of the councils for the judiciary,

### **Article 3- Membership of the Network**

Membership is open to all councils for judiciary or organs performing similar functions from the Balkanic and Euro-Mediterranean region, which are independent of the executive and legislature or which are autonomous.

Application for membership shall be made to the secretariat, which shall be submitted to the approval of the plenary of the Network. Admission of a new member shall require the **unanimous (or simple/qualified majority)** decision of the plenary. Members are free to withdraw from the membership of the Network at anytime.

The Plenary may expel a member from the network by unanimous decision if the member is considered to have lost the conditions in the first paragraph of this article.

## **Article 4- Organs of the Network**

The Network shall operate through a plenary, a president/presidency, an advisory board and a secretariat. Each member of the network should appoint a contact person to work with the secretariat to ensure efficient communication and exchange of information.

## **Article 5- The Plenary**

The Plenary shall comprise representatives of all the members of the Network, which shall convene at least once a year.

The plenary is endowed with all the powers necessary to realize the aims and objectives of the network.

## **Article 6- The President**

**Option 1-** The president shall be elected by the qualified majority of the plenary for a term of one/two year (s).

**Option 2-**The president is ensured on rotating basis by the members of the network in alphabetical order for a term of one year. If a member is not willing to take the presidency, the next member in the alphabetical order shall take the presidency.

The president shall convene and chair the plenary and prepare the agenda with the secretariat for the plenary. The president shall represent the Network.

## **Article 7- The Advisory Board**

The Advisory board shall consist of five representatives from the members of the Network elected by the simple majority of the plenary for a term of two years. The advisory board shall convene at least once a year.

The advisory board shall prepare the draft annual working program and submit it to the plenary for approval.

## **Article 8- The Secretariat**

The secretariat is the administrative unit of the network. It supports the presidency and the members of the Network. The secretariat shall work with a view to realize the aims and objectives of the Network and to implement the annual working program.

The secretariat shall be responsible for managing the daily coordination of the network and especially for operating the website of the Network.

**Option 1-** The secretariat shall be fixed in one of the members of the network. The resources needed to run the secretariat shall be made available by that member.

**Option 2-** The secretariat shall be in the member presiding the network during the course of the term of presidency. All the resources needed to run the secretariat shall be made available by the presiding member.

## **Article 9- Activities**

In order to realize the aims and objectives of this charter, the Network may

- organize regional and international conferences, seminars, workshops and etc.
- run projects, researches and surveys,
- prepare reports and publications,
- organize working groups, study visits and internship programs,
- facilitate cooperation among national and international judicial organizations

## **Article 10- Financial Issues**

The expenses to be incurred for all the activities shall be met by the member organizing the event. The accommodation and international travel expenses shall be covered by each member.

Contributions in kind and money for specific projects and activities will be fixed by individual agreements between participants in the projects. All such agreements shall be brought to the knowledge of all members.

## **Article 11- General Matters**