

May 6-7, 2013

VIIIth International Conference of Regulatory Judicial Authorities of the Balkan Area

DECLARATION

Being aware of the judicial reforms in the countries participating at the conference;

Reaffirming the statements and declarations adopted at the Conference of Budapest, 11-12 June 2007, Velingrad, 2-3 June 2011 and Istanbul, 29-30 May 2012;

Considering that the independence of the judiciary is the cornerstone of the rule of law;

Being aware of the fact that the participant countries have their unique judicial systems and respecting their reformation process;

Willing to deepen the present framework of cooperation with clearer rules of operation;

Taking into account the responses to the questionnaire circulated among the members of the conference and the following discussions during the Rome Conference;

The authorized Representatives of the participant countries at the VIIIth International Conference of Regulatory Judicial Authorities of the Balkan Area held on May 6-7, 2013 proclaimed the following

ROME DECLARATION

1- All the members of the Conference should encourage and urge all the countries of the Balkan area to participate and to be more actively involved in the Conference.

2 - Under the present circumstances it would be better to continue with the existing framework of the Conference model as the more appropriate one for our cooperation.

3 – However it would be necessary to come up with some rules of our continuing cooperation framework in the form of a memorandum of understanding.

4 – A working group will be set up in order to draft the memorandum of understanding. Currently the working group is composed of representatives of the following countries: Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and Turkey.

5 – The working group will prepare in due course the draft memorandum of understanding and circulate it to all members of the Conference and submit the final draft for approval at the next Conference.

6 – The memorandum of understanding will provide for the aims and objectives of the Conference, its modus operandi, management including Presidency, Board and Secretariat, main activities and any other business.

7 – The working group will also be responsible for communication and exchange of information among the members of the Conference throughout the year and will decide how it will operate (place, time and frequency of meetings).

8 – Each member of the conference shall appoint a national contact point to ensure efficient communication and exchange of information.