



PRÉSIDENTIE FRANÇAISE
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Conseil de l'Europe
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European
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of Justice

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de la Justice



Or. Fr.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with

THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN JUDGES
(CCJE)

AND

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE
(CEPEJ)

7th Intercultural Workshop on Democracy

**THE HIGH COUNCILS FOR THE JUDICIARY (HCJ)
AND
THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY**

**Strasbourg, 28 - 29 October 2019
(Palais, Council of Europe, conference room 2)**

AGENDA

Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean

Funded
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by the Council of Europe

MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2019

09:15 – 09:45 **Opening of the workshop and welcoming remarks**

Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission

Mr Duro Sessa, President of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE); President of the Supreme Court of Croatia

Mr Jean Baptiste Mattei, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe

Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

09:45 – 11:00 **Session I - The constitutional and legislative framework concerning the High Councils for the Judiciary and similar bodies**

Moderator: Mr Duro Sessa, President of the CCJE and President of the Supreme Court of Croatia

Speakers:

- Ms Claire Bazy-Malaurie, Member of the Venice Commission in respect of France – “The Venice Commission and its recommendations concerning the HCJ and similar bodies”
- Mr Orlando Afonso, former member of the CCJE Working Group and Judge of the Supreme Court of Portugal – “CCJE standards and existing models”
- Mr Youssef Bouzakher, President of the High Judicial Council of Tunisia – “Challenges in the recent creation of the HCJ”
- Mr Mohammed Amine Benabdallah, Member of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, Morocco – “Challenges in the recent creation of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary”

Discussions

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee break

11:20 – 13:00 **Session II - The procedure for appointing / electing members of the High Councils for the Judiciary and similar bodies**

Moderator: Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission

Speakers:

- Mr Duro Sessa, President of the CCJE and President of the Supreme Court of Croatia – “CCJE recommendations on the election of HCJ members”
- Mr Ghazi Jeribi, Member of the Venice Commission in respect of Tunisia – “The procedure for the nomination / election of members of the HCJ and similar bodies - the Venice Commission's recommendations and national experiences”
- Mr Mohammad Al Ajarmeh, Judge, Cassation Court of Jordan

Discussions

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 17:30 **Session III - The powers of the High Councils for the Judiciary and similar bodies**

Moderator: Mr Alain Lacabarats, former President of the CCJE and President of the Chamber of the Cassation Court of France

Speakers:

- Mr Alain Lacabarats, former President of the CCJE and President of the Chamber of the Cassation Court of France – “Protection of independence of judges vs evaluation of judges”
- Mr Kamel Feniche, President of the Constitutional Council of Algeria, Member of the Venice Commission
- Ms Magali Clavie, Former President of the High Council of Justice, President of the Commission of opinion and joint inquiry of the HCJ, Belgium “Belgium: Powers of the HCJ and the Executive? Where do the first stop? Where do the latter start?”
- Mr Abdallah Asar, President of the Court of Cassation, Egypt
- Mr Roukoz Rizk, Judge, Member of the High Council for the Judiciary, Lebanon

Discussions

15:45 – 16:15 Coffee break

17:30 Close of the 1st day of the workshop

18:00 Official reception (Palais, Galerie portugaise)

TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2019

09:30 – 13:00

Session IV - The interaction between the High Councils for the Judiciary and similar bodies and the executive and legislative powers

Moderator: Mr Cédric Visart de Bocarmé, Member of the Working Group of the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE), Director of the Support Service of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Belgium

Speakers:

- Mr Abdelilah Lahkim Bennani, Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice, Morocco – “The role of the Ministry of Justice in reforms aimed at strengthening the judiciary”
- Mr Bertrand Mathieu, member of the Venice Commission in respect of Monaco – “Guarantees of non-intervention by the executive power”
- Ms Mireille Najm Chucrallah, Lawyer and University Lecturer “The main challenges in relations between the HCJ and the other state powers in the southern Mediterranean countries”

11:00 – 11:20

Coffee break

- Mr Cédric Visart de Bocarmé, Member of the Working Group of the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE), Director of the Support Service of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Belgium “Dialogue with the Ministry of Justice concerning budgets”
- Ms Sihem Bouajila, Member of the High Council for the Judiciary, Tunisia

Questions and discussions

12:30

Closing remarks

Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission