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Brussels, 26 – 27 February 2019

(Presidents of Courts and Chiefs of Prosecution Offices)

Résidence Palace - International Press Center. 155 Rue de la Loi B-1040 Brussels Belgium

The Rule of Law:  
Independence and Accountability of the Judiciary and Effective

Judicial Protection

[RoL/2019/02]

With financial support from the Justice

Programme of the European Union

Background:

Required profile of the participants:

* Presidents of Courts and Chiefs of Prosecution Offices
* Good command of the English language
* Willing to participate actively in discussions and to share experiences in the field of judicial independence

The goals of the seminar:

* To enhance the knowledge of the participants about the rule of law in the light of independence, accountability and effectiveness considering the relevant international documents (international and European binding rules as well as soft law instruments, such as CCJE/CCPE opinions, recommendations of the Council of Europe, Magna Charta of Judges, Rule of Law checklist Venice Commission), national legislations and the case law of the ECHR and the CJEU;
* To promote a common understanding of the values associated with the Rule of Law principles;
* Raising awareness among judges and prosecutors on the effective protection of fundamental rights as a relevant component having a state governed by rule of law;
* The duty of the participants arising out of the principle of the Rule of Law;
* To enhance the understanding of the participants on how to apply these standards mentioned above in practice and to identify the practical aspects encountered in their daily lives and their daily activities of courts/prosecutor offices/councils and find common solutions or different solutions (considering the different background of countries) using each other’s experience.

After the seminar it is expected the participants:

* to acknowledge the concepts, to foresee, if it is possible, and avoid the problems (especially those related to the independence of the judiciary), to identify the problems and find the proper remedies

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| **Draft Programme** | | | |
| **Day-and-a-half training comprised of four lectures and twelve workshops. Participants to this event will devote their time to exchange of knowledge and best practices between Presidents of courts and Chiefs of prosecution offices** **from across the EU and the Western Balkan states.** | |  | |
| **XX February 2019**  **Moderator:** | | | |
| 09.00-09.20 | Arrival and Registration of the participants | | |
| 9.20-9.30 | Welcome by the hosting institution |  | |
| 9.30-9.40 | Welcome by EJTN |
| 9.40-9.50 | Welcome by TBC |
| 9.50-10.00 | Opening by the activity coordinator |
|  | **FIRST SESSION**  **Independence**  **comparative perspectives**  **Chair** |
| 10.00-10.30 | Plenary:  Speech 1  The rule of law. The independence of the Judiciary. |
| 10.30-11.00 | Plenary:  Speech 2  The rule of law. The independence and autonomy of prosecutors. |
| 11.00-11.15 | Debate |  | |
| 11.15-11.30 | Coffee break | | |
| 11.30-13.00 | (division of participants in four groups coordinated by four facilitators, according to the snowball methodology)  Group 1: Allocation of cases to judges. Non-voluntarily transfer of judges to different tasks  Group 2: How ensure consistency of case law. Guidelines. Best practices  Group 3: Assignment and re-assignment of cases to prosecutors. Non-voluntarily transfer of prosecutor to different tasks  Group 4: Effective organization of prosecution offices. Hierarchical structure. Instructions. | Group 1: TBC  Group 2: TBC  Group 3: TBC  Group 4: TBC | |
| 13.00-14.15 | Lunch Break (TBC) | | |
| 14.30-15.00 | **SECOND SESSION**  **Accountability**  **comparative perspectives**  **Moderator: TBC** |  | |
| 14.15-14.45 | Plenary:  Speech 3  Judicial accountability |  | |
| 14.45-15.00 | Debate |  | |
| 15.00-15.30 | Coffee Break | | |
| 15.30-17.00 | (division of participants in four groups coordinated by four facilitators, according to the snowball methodology)  Group 1: Ethics  Group 3: How to deal with citizens’ complaints  Group 4: Individual professional assessment for judges  Group 5: Individual professional assessment for prosecutors | Group 1: TBC  Group 2: TBC  Group 3: TBC  Group 4: TBC | |
| 17.00 | End of First Day | | |
| 19.30 | **Official Seminar Diner @ (TBC)** | | |
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| **XX February 2019**  **Moderator:** | | | |
|  | **THIRD SESSION**  **Effectiveness**  **comparative perspectives**  **Chair TBC** |  | |
| 09.00-09.30 | Plenary:  Speech 4 Quality in the organization of judicial offices.  The external communication |  | |
| 09.30-11.00 | (division of participants in four groups coordinated by four facilitators, according to the snowball methodology)  Group 1: Plans for reduction of backlog and duration of trials. Planning and reporting.  Group 2: Transparency and external communication. Social balances  Group 3: Leadership and human resources. Organisational well-being.  Group 4: Leadership and change management. | Group 1: TBC  Group 2: TBC  Group 3: TBC  Group 4: TBC |
| 11.00-11.15 | Coffee break | |
| 11.45-13.00 | Renditions form the groups ‘works (7 minutes per reporter)  Q&A - Discussion | **TBC** |
| 13.00-13.15 | **Closing Words ‘Bringing it all together’ and Evaluation of the Training by the Participants (Submission of Evaluation Forms)** | |
| 13.15-13.30 | **Final remarks (by EJTN/host/chair of the seminar), Next steps of the project** | |
| 13.30 | Departure of the Participants | |

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| **TENTANTIVE SPEAKERS** | |
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