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# NEWSLETTER HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE

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Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë



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Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë

# JUSTICE INSPECTION INSTITUTIONS OF THE REGION GATHER IN TIRANA



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# JUSTICE INSPECTION INSTITUTIONS OF THE REGION GATHER IN TIRANA

Justice institutions from across the region themes: the principles and functioning of address challenges related to judicial in- integration process. tegrity and discuss their role in the process of European Union integration.

Sarajevo and Skopje.

ence, discussions focused on three major Bogdani.

came together in Tirana on 25-26 Sep- inspection services, their role in safetember 2025 for the conference "Justice guarding democratic standards and pro-Inspection Services and the challenges of moting integrity, and the contribution of integration" to exchange experiences, these institutions in the context of the EU

At the opening session, the conference was addressed on behalf of the Head of The conference was organized as a joint the OSCE Presence in Albania, Ambassaeffort between the Office of the High In- dor Michel Tarran, by Mr. Mauro Puzzo, spector of Justice and the OSCE Presence Head of the Rule of Law and Human in Albania, in cooperation with the OSCE Rights Department at the OSCE, as well as Missions in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, by the High Inspector of Justice, Mr. Artur Metani, the Chair of the High Judicial Council, Mr. Ilir Rusi, and the Chair of the Over the course of the two-day confer- High Prosecutorial Council, Ms. Mirela



# **Full adress of the High Inspector of Justice** I feel deeply privileged to open this two**mr. Artur Metani** day regional conference together with col-

Good morning everyone and welcome to Sarajevo, Skopje and Tirana. Tirana!

Dobro doshli u Tiranu!

Dobre-doj-dovte vo Tirana!

Welcome to Tirana!

day regional conference together with colleagues from Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje and Tirana.

This has been a long-held aspiration of mine, something I have shared with colleagues across the justice system and with international partners for almost two years. Following the exchange visits in Podgorica and Tirana, in Pristina and in Skopje nearly two years ago, it became clear that

Looking around this table today, I am even more convinced that an initiative of this scale has real value for all of us. I believe it will mark the beginning of stronger institutional cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral.

there was a genuine need to meet with our scale has real value for all of us. I believe it regional counterparts, to learn from one will mark the beginning of stronger instituanother's experiences, and to share our vi-tional cooperation, both bilateral and multision for the professional standards that jus- lateral. tice inspection bodies must uphold. Of course, turning this idea into reality re- This gathering has been designed as a foing this initiative, and to the Ambassadors tegration. of the OSCE Missions in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje, whose From the very outset of this idea, I was fully rana.

# Thank you all!

quired significant effort, particularly in rum for professionals: a space to exchange terms of coordination and organization. experiences, to discuss challenges, and, That is why I want to express my sincere when necessary, to share concerns, while gratitude to the OSCE Ambassador to Alba- reflecting together on the role we play in nia, Ambassador Michel Tarran, for embrac- the broader process of European Union in-

support made it possible for delegations aware that our institutions have functional from across the region to join us here in Ti- and institutional differences when it comes to disciplinary investigations and the inspection of judges and prosecutors. Yet I believe we share the same conviction that, despite these differences, what unites us is the Looking around this table today, I am even common interest in the sound administramore convinced that an initiative of this tion of justice, in safeguarding integrity, in-



and prosecutors; in short, in building an er, a new architecture was created, assignefficient justice system that enjoys the trust ing all disciplinary oversight for both judges of the public. Institutions such as those we and prosecutors to a single, independent represent play a central role in this process. institution, the High Inspector of Justice. In

members of the High Judicial Council, mem- ority for all of us. bers of the High Prosecutorial Council and the Prosecutor General, as well as to carry Today every country must intensify its

dependence and accountability of judges eral. With the 2016 justice reform, howevthe following session you will have the op-The High Inspector of Justice in Tirana is a portunity to hear a more detailed presentarelatively new institution, established only tion of the functions and role of the High five and a half years ago as an independent Inspector of Justice. The strengthening of constitutional body. Its mandate is to verify the rule of law, as a key pillar of any democomplaints, investigate disciplinary viola- cratic society and as an essential dimension initiate disciplinary proceedings of each country's profile in the context of against judges and prosecutors at all levels, European Union integration, is a shared pri-

out institutional inspections of courts and efforts not only to reinforce judicial indeprosecution offices. Prior to 2016, discipli- pendence, but also to enhance the efficiennary proceedings were divided among three cy and accountability of justice sector instiinstitutions: the High Council of Justice, the tutions. The two go hand in hand: the more Minister of Justice and the Prosecutor Gen- accountable a magistrate is, the more se-



rights; the more independent a magistrate lish professional and institutional commuis, the more democratic a society becomes. nication, and to cooperate by identifying At the same time, the standards of a func- opportunities for meaningful exchanges tional system of magistrate accountability with one another. make justice more efficient.

In this sense, finding the right balance beaccountability remains a constant professional and institutional challenge.

cure the citizen is in the protection of their gether we will find the right path to estab-

## Distinguished colleagues,

tween, on the one hand, the public inter- Justice plays a vital role in the life and est in the proper administration of justice quality of every society. The creation or and, on the other hand, the independence consolidation of the rule of law is never an of magistrates, remains a permanent chal- easy process. In every country, it is a dylenge, because judicial independence and namic and continuously evolving effort to accountability are dynamic values. Social identify the right mechanisms that guarandevelopments inevitably bring institutional tee respect for the standards and values and economic transformations, and the necessary for an efficient, accountable and independence/ independent justice system.

As I mentioned earlier, in 2016 Albania undertook a profound legal and institutional With this in mind, I sincerely hope that to- reform of its justice system, an ambitious



endeavor aimed at aligning with the stage tions, will, I believe, contribute meaningfulof social development, emphasizing the in- ly to the vision and daily work of the High dependence of magistrates and our joint Inspector of Justice in Tirana. The discuscommitment to meet expectations of citi- sions we hold over these two days will help zens and to strengthen public trust in jus- us adapt good practices from our peer intice institutions. The responsibility for de- spectorates into our own daily work. veloping and implementing this reform rests first and foremost with the actors of Human rights, democracy and the rule of the justice system, but also with other instillaw are key assets for the European Union, tutions, other branches of power, and soci- and therefore also for each of us as aspiring ety as a whole. Implementing such reform member states. From my perspective, these is not easy, but it is certainly possible, and values should not be seen merely as obligaits results are a key benchmark for our tions recorded in the annual progress recountry in negotiations with the European ports of our countries, or more recently in Union.

the European Commission's Rule of Law Report. Rather, this dynamic should be un-In this context, a conference such as to- derstood as a contribution from each of us, day's here in Tirana, bringing together our first and foremost to the societies of our regional counterparts to reflect on both our own countries. This is why I consider toexperiences and the challenges of EU inte- day's joint activity so important. It offers us gration from the perspective of our institu- the opportunity to share our experiences





and perspectives, to discuss each other's serve as the starting point of a strong trabest practices, and, why not, to coordinate dition of cooperation among us. methods of oversight and evaluation of justice institutions in line with our com- Allow me once again to thank each of you that this first-ever gathering in Tirana will and productive conference! not only achieve these goals but will also

mon European values, regardless of our for your presence in Tirana and for your political, legal or social differences. I hope attention, and I wish you all a successful



# PHOTOS FROM THE ACTIVITY









JUSTICE INSPECTION
SERVICES AND
THE CHALLENGES
OF INTEGRATION





# JUSTICE INSPECTION INSTITUTIONS OF THE REGION JOIN EFFORTS IN TIRANA

### 26 september 2025

The regional conference "Justice Inspection Services and the challenges of integration" concluded today in Tirana with the joint position of delegations from Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje and Tirana that the quality and efficiency of justice are non-negotiable criteria for the progress of countries in strengthening the rule of law.

The delegations also underlined that communication, exchange of experiences, and the sharing of professional dilemmas

serve to reinforce their role in safeguarding the integrity of the justice system and public trust, as well as in advancing the European Union integration process.

Presenting the conclusions of the two-day conference, the High Inspector of Justice stated among other things: "From this conference I will take away several personal and professional reflections.

First, our challenge is not simply to win the trust of the public, but to build a justice system capable of generating legitimacy and self-confidence through quality,



have differences, and this is the reason why ble to those of the European Union.

efficiency and transparency. The role of our regional cooperation is not only a wish or a institutions is more than just a profession, matter of goodwill on our part, but I am cerbut a mission directly linked with the high- tain it is a necessity. Only by exchanging exest values of a country's society: justice, the periences, organizing study visits, sharing trust of citizens, and public responsibility. best practices, and continuing such regular Second, we have more in common than we meetings can we reach standards compara-





This first experience, organized in Tirana, is The conference, which brought together concrete results."

clear proof that our regional cooperation justice institutions from six countries of the has real potential to become a lasting tra-region in Tirana on 25–26 September 2025, dition. We can continue this journey in oth- was co-organized by the High Inspector of er cities of the region, enriching it each Justice and the OSCE Presence in Albania, time with new ideas, new experiences, and in cooperation with the OSCE Missions in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo and





Skopje.

For two days, leaders and representatives EU integration process. of justice institutions from the region discussed three major themes: the principles PRESENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF and functioning of justice inspection insti- THE CONFERENCE BY THE HIGH INSPECtutions, their role in safeguarding demo- TOR OF JUSTICE, MR. ARTUR METANI cratic standards and promoting integrity,

and their contribution in the context of the





Dear colleagues,

We have reached the closing moment of change of valuable experiences. I want to which sincerely thank you all for your presence, buildand perhaps also our future coopera-

your contributions, and the dedication you brought to this forum.

this regional conference, which for two full Every discussion, every intervention, and days has engaged us in intensive discus- every experience shared in this event has sions, professional reflections and the ex- enriched the framework of ideas upon we will continue to





tion. The agenda was intense and rich with functioning of democracy and the rule of topics that are truly essential to be ad- law in our countries. We discussed the dressed and debated.

principles and functioning of institutions tasked with the inspection of the work The three pillars on which we based this of magistrates; their role in safeguarding conference are not only important themes democratic standards and promoting the or issues related to the activity of our insti- integrity of magistrates; and the contribututions; they are also key pillars for the tion that our inspection institutions pro-





vide both in the ongoing reform of the jus- its own legal model, our institutions are Union integration.

From the discussions on the organization we learned that although each country has disciplinary institutions are undeniable

tice system and in the process of European very similar when it comes to the fundamental principles of their organization and operation.

and functioning of inspection institutions, The independence and impartiality of our





guarantees for ensuring the integrity and ered on the basis of law, independence credibility of the justice system. This is a and impartiality. clear message to our citizens that inspec-

tion bodies overseeing the work of magis- In the second part, when we discussed the trates are not simply control mechanisms; protection of democratic standards and they are institutions that safeguard public integrity, it was underlined that the indetrust and guarantee that justice is deliv- pendence of magistrates is both a respon-





the strongest messages of this confer- strument to strengthen their responsibilence. An independent judiciary is not a ity and professionalism. This is a delicate privilege of magistrates, but a guarantee challenge, but it is also the only path to for citizens and for the democracy of a building a justice system that is independcountry. Independence must be balanced ent, with integrity, and accountable. with accountability, which cannot be used as a tool of control or pressure over In the third part of the discussions, on the

sibility and a privilege. This was one of the activity of magistrates, but as an in-





contribution of inspection institutions to other international organizations, often for the progress of our countries on their state." path towards the wider European family.

the reform of the justice system and the highlight this fact: "An inefficient justice process of European Union integration, it system is not only an obstacle to the was emphasized that the quality and effi- course of European integration, but also an ciency of justice are non-negotiable criteria obstacle to the trust of citizens in their

Reports of the European Union, but also of This is the reason why our inspection insti-



Justice plays a vital role in the life and quality of every society. The creation or consolidation of the rule of law is never an easy process. In every country, it is a dynamic and continuously evolving effort to identify the right mechanisms that guarantee respect for the standards and values necessary for an efficient, accountable and independent justice system.

integration.

efficiency and transparency.

tutions bear a dual responsibility, both to The role of our institutions is more than exercise oversight and to lead the way to- just a profession, but a mission directly wards the continuous improvement of the linked with the highest values of a counstandards of the rule of law and European try's society: justice, the trust of citizens, and public responsibility.

From this conference I will take away sev- Second, we have more in common than eral personal and professional reflections. we have differences, and this is the reason First, our challenge is not simply to win why regional cooperation is not only a the trust of the public, but to build a jus- wish or a matter of goodwill on our part, tice system capable of generating legitima- but I am certain it is a necessity. Only by cy and self-confidence through quality, exchanging experiences, organizing study visits, sharing best practices, and continuing such regular meetings can we reach





standards comparable to those of the Euro- er cities of the region, enriching it each pean Union.

This first experience, organized in Tirana, is clear proof that our regional cooperation I cannot conclude these remarks without a has real potential to turn into a lasting tra- few special words of thanks. dition. We can continue this journey in oth-

time with new ideas, new experiences, and concrete results.





I wish to thank the OSCE Presence in Tirana, Presence in Albania, who worked tirelessly team, who supported the idea of the High conference possible. Inspector of Justice and helped us bring this conference to life.

I also thank the OSCE Missions in Belgrade, Today I am happy that we succeeded in Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje, gathering for the first time in such an event, who coordinated and ensured the participa- and I am convinced that this is only the betion of the delegations.

HIJ, who worked with dedication, as well as hospitality and the beauty of our country. tion and shared their experience with us.

And a special thanks to the organizing team that we have started together. Mimoza from the Office of the High Inspector of Justice and Luljeta from the OSCE Thank you!

Ambassador Tarran, Mauro and his entire for months to make the organization of this

Dear colleagues,

ginning of a new tradition. I hope that, beyond the intensive work, you will also have A heartfelt thanks to my colleagues at the the opportunity to enjoy a little of Tirana's to all participants who accepted the invita- I wish you a safe journey back to your countries, and I am confident that very soon we will meet again to continue this cooperation

# PHOTOS FROM THE ACTIVITY



# PHOTOS FROM THE ACTIVITY















METANI: COMPOSURE IS THE DUTY OF MAGISTRATES. THE ESSENCE OF THE RULE OF LAW AND EUROPEAN VALUES IS HOW WE BEHAVE WHEN WE DISAGREE WITH EACH OTHER'S DECISIONS

ing and Study Center.

tinction between the independence of the magistrates in their decision-making on

The High Inspector of Justice, Mr. Artur systemic perspective. "Both of these con-Metani, participated in the high-level cepts are essential for an independent meeting with justice institutions on judi- judiciary. The individual independence of cial independence and accountability, or- magistrates should be understood as a ganized by the MATRA project of the Gov- personal value and a prerequisite for the ernment of the Kingdom of the Nether- development of a lawful and fair judicial lands, on launching the two-year project process. In this regard, individual inde-"Strengthening Judicial Integrity", imple- pendence should be understood as a right mented by the Netherlands Judicial Train- of magistrates, but also as their duty, to make decisions objectively, independently from politics but not only from politics; In his address, the High Inspector of Jus- independent for and from everyone, free tice stated that when speaking about in- from any interference or influence, and in dependence, one must first make the dis- accordance with the facts as well as with legislation in force."

concrete cases, and the independence of Mr. Metani also addressed the effect of the judiciary in the context of its organiza- public criticism of judicial decisiontion and functioning from a structural and making: "When criticism goes beyond the



because of the irreplaceable role that the judiciary plays in such a society.

herent their office. spect for freedom of expression in democ- ethical rules."

limits of a different assessment of a judicial racy; it represents a constitutional distance decision, such interventions not only affect from the political nature of other powers. the way magistrates make decisions, but The political deontology must not dictate also undermine public trust in the institu- the behavior of magistrates. In this case, I tions of judicial power. I believe this is the believe that the essence of the rule of law highest cost that the principle of separation and European values is exactly the way we and balance of powers in a democratic so- react, is what we do even when we do not ciety seeks to counterbalance, precisely agree with the decisions of each other."

Speaking of accountability standards, Mr. Metani listed the measures provided by He underlined that, unlike other powers law as preventive mechanisms and the adand institutions, magistrates and independ- ditional mechanisms for judges and proseent justice institutions bear a limitation in- cutors, with the purpose of further guarancompo- teeing a professional and integrity-based sure. "Composure should not be mistaken judicial system, as well as the oversight for weakness. Despite the statements of function of the HIJ: "The quality of a justice various public actors, magistrates must not system is not measured by its ability to forget that public reactions are not part of punish or sanction magistrates, but by the their function. But composure is! Compo- opportunities, mechanisms and capacity to sure is not a weakness of any kind, but re- prevent behaviors contrary to the law or tional efforts, the High Inspector of Jus- the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Albaary: "Without ever losing sight, through- the Netherlands Judicial Training and loads, the insufficient number of magis- judges and prosecutors through the of the judicial system, the fair and unfair of the Office of the High Inspector of Jusexpectations from the judicial system, I tice. again believe that public trust in the judiciary is the most precious value of justice, Judge Marc Fierstra, member of the Suprecisely finding this fair balance, be- ary. tween the system of accountability and that of responsibility, which is at the same On accountability, impartiality and integtional democracy."

As a common denominator of all institu- nel, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of tice emphasized public trust in the judici- nia, and Ms. Margreet Blaisse, Director of out our working day, of the conditions in Study Center, the implementing partner which magistrates work; the heavy case- of the two-year project for the training of trates in the system, the increase in users School of Magistrates and the inspectors

but also its best protection. This value is preme Court of the Netherlands and Presnot gained with rhetoric, but with con- ident of the Dutch Judiciary Association, crete action and behavior. Our challenge, presented the Dutch experience regardas institutions of the justice system, is ingaccountability and ethics in the judici-

time the greatest challenge of any func- rity in the judiciary from the perspective of their respective institutions, interventions were delivered by: Mr. Ilir Rusi, The activity was greeted by Ms. Asli Ceti- Chairperson of the High Judicial Council;





Ms. Mirela Bogdani, Chairperson of the representative of the Prosecutor General's High Prosecutorial Council; Mr. Sokol Sadu- Office; Ms. Evgjeni Bashari, Director of the shi, Chairperson of the Supreme Court; Mr. High Inspectorate of Declaration and Audit Altin Dumani, Head of the Special Anti- of Assets and Conflict of Interest Corruption and Organized Crime Structure (HIDAACI); and Mr. Sokol Berberi, Head of (SPAK); Mr. Erjon Bani, Acting Head of the Initial Training, School of Magistrates. Special Court of First Instance for Corruption and Organized Crime; Mr. Kosta Beluri,



# PHOTOS FROM THE ACTIVITY





# METANI: PUBLIC TRUST IN THE JUDICIARY IS THE MOST PRECIOUS VALUE OF JUSTICE. BUT ALSO ITS BEST DEFENSE

Full speech of the High Inspector of Justice has had so far in finding a fair balance beability

Greetings once again!

ticipating in this meeting, for discussing a topic that affects us all and raises professional dilemmas for finding the right balance between the independence of the judiciary and its accountability. At the same time, during this reflection, I would like to express some considerations, based not only on the experience of the institution of the High Inspector of Justice, but also on the approach that this institution understood as a personal value and a pre-

at the high-level event on judicial account- tween these two important principles for the rule of law and the existence of a functional democracy in the country.

To have a clear concept of the independ-First, let me thank all the institutions par- ence of the judiciary, first, there must be done the fundamental distinction that exists between the independence of magistrates for their decisions in concrete cases and the independence of the judiciary in the framework of its organization and functioning from a structural and systemic point of view. Both concepts are essential for an independent judiciary. The individual independence of magistrates should be



requisite for the development of a legal and In our country, judicial independence is put fair judicial process. In this case, individual to the test. It is for a long time now that independence should be understood as a magistrates are exposed to and faced with right of magistrates, but also as their obliga- direct public attacks, intimidation or inaption, to make decisions objectively, inde-propriate influences. From anyone. It is for a pendent of politics, but not only of politics, long time now that the judicial system is unindependently for and by all, free from any der pressure, to me an unconstitutional interference or influence, and in accordance one, to exercise or not their duties in a parwith the facts and with the legislation in ticular fashion. From anyone. It is a long force.

On the other hand, structural and organizational independence has an institutional nature, which aims to ensure the individual independence of magistrates through the ence is not only rhetorical in nature. way the judicial power is organized and functions. This way of organization and Personally, I am among those people who functioning should serve as a protective barbelieve that the freedom to speak on issues rier against any kind of influence on the ac- of justice, governance and public officials is tivity of the judicial power, or unfair inter- the foundation on which the political and ference with the decision-making process social development of a country is built. Jufor individual judicial processes.

time now that insults for magistrates constitute the most significant part of the rhetoric when it comes to criticizing the judicial power. Naturally, this puts magistrates to a difficult test, but clearly, the test of independ-

dicial decisions, without question, must be

Composure is not a weakness of any kind, but respect for freedom of expression in democracy, is a constitutional distance from the political nature of other powers. The political deontology in relation with the judicial power, must not affect the behavior of the magistrates.

appealing decisions that are not liked.

On the other hand, no matter how difficult it is or how difficult it may seem to face the criticism and the attacks on the work of justice institutions, magistrates are obliged to render decisions, magistrates must be prepared that their decisions will be criticized, but they must not be influenced, because their compass and defense are the constitution and the law.

However, when criticism goes beyond the limits of a different assessment of a judicial decision, then these interventions not only affect the way magistrates make decisions, but also undermine the public trust in the institutions of judicial power and I believe that this is the biggest cost that the principle of separation and balance of powers in a democratic society tries to balance. Exactly because of the irreplaceable role that the judicial power plays in such societies.

Unlike other powers or institutions, magistrates and independent justice institutions have a kind of limitation, which comes with

implemented, but if the public is not satis- the duty to show composure, even when fied with a judicial decision or decisions of they are unjustly attacked. Amidst strong the justice system, everyone should be free public voices, this makes them be perto say so publicly, but certainly also by fol-ceived as weak, but this is not the case at lowing the path that the law provides for all. Composure should not be confused with weakness. Despite the statements of various public actors, magistrates should not forget that public reactions are not part of their function. But composure is! Composure is not a weakness of any kind, but respect for freedom of expression in democracy, is a constitutional distance from the political nature of other powers. The political deontology in relation with the judicial power, must not affect the behavior of the magistrates. In this case, I believe that the essence of the rule of law and European values is exactly the way we react, is what we do even when we do not agree with the decisions of each other.

> On the other hand, nowadays the phrase "Judicial Independence" and the use of this important constitutional principle has acquired such a symbolic status, where its mere evocation is enough to close a discussion or a constitutional debate on a very important issue such as: "The presence, or existence of an excessive and unchecked independence of the judicial power on the one hand and the lack of a fair and effective accountability system on the other

true that there can be no democracy if the ment. judicial power is not independent of other powers, but also there can be no justice if the judicial power is not accountable. This is the goal of the rule of law: "Building a strong, independent and accountable judiciary."

In this case, the fundamental issue that is When we talk about responsibility standraised for discussion is the identification of the best legal mechanisms and standards on how the accountability system of the such as: judicial power is organized and how it functions. The accountability system is the basis and an important cornerstone for building a

hand", can bring serious consequences for fair, effective and trustworthy judicial powthe society of a country, as well as the very er, by the public. However, this is a long system of law that a society has chosen to and dynamic process, which requires a operate. Finding the right balance between combination of clear legal mechanisms and independence and accountability, not only standards with a preventive character of does not pose a risk to judicial independ- accountability, as well as in special and exence. But, but in a rule of law system, it is ceptional cases of responsibility or punish-

> Here I would like to make an overview or explanation of how the accountability system is built. This system consists of two pillars or two divisions: responsibility standards and liability standards.

> ards, we have in mind a preventive mechanism through the application of measures

Recruitment or selection of magistrates based on merit, as well as their profes-



In this case, the fundamental issue that is raised for discussion is the identification of the best legal mechanisms and standards on how the accountability system of the judicial power is organized and how it functions. The accountability system is the basis and an important cornerstone for building a fair, effective and trustworthy judicial power, by the public.

sional qualification.

- Substantive independence, structural and financial independence.
- Immunity and physical integrity.
- The exercise of control by the higher courts based on the principles of internal independence of magistrates, as well as the exercise of informal control between international jurisprudence or legal doctrine.
- The establishment of a system of ethical and professional evaluation of the work of magistrates.

At the same time, in order to further guarantee a professional and integrity-based judicial system, several additional mechanisms are applied, such as:

- Magistrates at different stages of their careers such as recruitment, appointment, or promotion are subject to checking of assets and background.
- Magistrates at all levels are subject to

periodic declaration of assets, financial obligations and conflict of interest.

- For magistrates who exercise functions at the Special Structure against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK), as well as the Special Courts for Corruption and Organized Crime, there is a higher level of checking where, in addition to periodic checking of assets and background, checking is also exercised over their personal telecommunications or those of their family members.
- Magistrates have only a functional immunity, against criminal and civil proceedings that are directly related to the exercise of their functions. However, this immunity is not absolute.

If these tools are not effective, then in exceptional cases, and depending on certain circumstances, measures or means that relate to the "liability system" of magistrates and that are related to their criminal, civil or disciplinary liability are applied. In support of the provisions of Albanian legislation:

The magistrate may be prosecuted, according to the provisions of the Criminal



ject of its investigation.

- least gross negligence.
- councils, the Prosecutor General, and shall be subject to disciplinary liability if, duties, they undertake actions that conlegal provisions in force.

Code and the Code of Criminal Proce- In the analysis of these legal provisions, the dure. Specifically, the Special Structure responsibility of magistrates is the highest against Corruption and Organized Crime level of their internal accountability, that is, (SPAK), which investigates criminal from within the system. This means that reoffenses in the field of corruption, has in sponsibility is not only an individual moral several cases had magistrates as the sub- issue, but also an institutional obligation.

This is a dynamic process, which requires A magistrate shall not be subject to civil preventive mechanisms, continuous profesliability for the exercise of his or her sional development, as well as an institufunction, unless he or she has shown at tional culture based on strong ethical rules and self-restraint. The responsibility of a magistrate does not end at the moment of Magistrates of all levels, members of his recruitment, but it continues uninterruptedly throughout the magistrate's career members of the Constitutional Court through continuous professional training and development, guarantees of structural during or outside the exercise of their and financial independence, as well as a system of periodic ethical and professional stitute disciplinary violations under the evaluation, which is not only formal in nature, but serves as a mechanism for re-



rity of the magistrate's work.

functions fully, fairly and effectively, then the judiciary will be organized and will function on a stable basis of professionalism, legitimacy and integrity. Otherwise, if this system does not work, the application of the system of liability of magistrates (sanctioning) may be a delayed mechanism. This requires a comprehensive and careful and reaction, not playing a preventive role, approach, extending from the first processbut only a punitive one, and resulting in not es of fair and meritocratic recruitment of only undermining public trust in the judici- magistrates by the School of Magistrates; to ary, but also the legitimacy or authority of their treatment, career and continuous prothis power.

the quality of a justice system is not meas- in exceptional cases, depending on certain ured or assessed by the ability to punish or circumstances, and only within the framesanction magistrates, but is measured by work of a due process of law, other

flecting on the quality, efficiency and integ- the possibilities, mechanisms and capacity to prevent behaviors contrary to the law or ethical rules. At the same time, we must all In this context, if the responsibility system consider the fact that several issues may require a clear addressing and careful solution, in a systemic aspect and cannot be addressed only by the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, as is constantly claimed, on the role and functions of this institution.

fessional development; or periodic ethical and professional evaluation by the Councils. Therefore, it is essential to emphasize that If these means do not prove effective, then late to the system of liability of magistrates the increase in users of the judicial system, and that are related to their criminal, civil the fair and unfair expectations from the or disciplinary liability.

Justice, which in these 5 years has been committed to maintaining his institutional This value is not gained with rhetoric, but independence, being an important contrib- with concrete action and behavior. Our utor to guaranteeing the independence of challenge, as institutions of the justice systhe judiciary.

In order not to become a tool of pressure on magistrates and the judiciary, the HIJ is trying to implement the highest standards of due process, to ensure transparency in independence of the entire judicial system. not an unchecked one.

plementing it.

Dear Colleagues!

Keeping in mind, at any moment of our working day, the conditions in which magistrates work, the heavy caseload, the insuffi-

measures may be applied, those which re-cient number of magistrates in the system, judicial system, I again believe that public trust in the judiciary is the most precious Here it is the turn of the High Inspector of value of justice, but also its best protection.

> tem, is precisely finding this fair balance, between the system of accountability and that of responsibility, which is at the same time the greatest challenge of any functional democracy.

the procedures developed by it, as well as In these times, our highest responsibility is to demonstrate integrity in every decision- to build a justice system that is independmaking, since the disciplinary proceedings ent, but that does not serve itself. Conseof a magistrate are not simply an individual quently, the mission of all our bodies is measure, but a test and indicator of the clear, to build an independent judiciary, but

Every disciplinary process against a magis- Let us build a disciplinary system that does trate is a test not only for the magistrate, not punish only in order to interfere with but for the entire justice system, because it the independence of the judicial power, is related to the creation and strengthening but to educate magistrates, and through of public trust in the justice system. Every our actions, our activity, our independence disciplinary procedure developed in a fair, but also our functionality, our working extransparent and impartial manner is a clear amples, let us build a culture of professionmessage to society that no one is above the all and moral integrity of magistrates, law, not even the magistrates themselves, where justice is not seen as the power of who are tasked with interpreting and im- the magistrate, but as a right of the citizens.

Thank you!



#### WELCOMING SPEECH BY HIJ ARTUR METANI AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON JUDICIAL **ACCOUNTABILITY**

#### Good morning, everyone!

event, with colleagues from justice institutions, international partners who have been assisting us for years, and representatives with the aim of ensuring the long-term susof civil society, on a topic that I think is close to our hearts, independence and accountability which are the two of the di- cutors with the School of Magistrates, so mensions of judicial integrity.

level meeting with authorities of justice institutions, which in the next two years will focus, together with the team of inspectors meeting last year in his office at the Su-

and assistant inspectors at the HIJ, on discussions and trainings on improving the It is a special pleasure for me to be at this ethical standards of magistrates and promoting transparency, through the exchange of knowledge with Dutch judicial experts, tainability of judicial reforms in Albania. They will also work with judges and prosethe impact is expected to be wide-ranging.

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank you to Ms. Cetinel as the representathank the MATRA project of the Kingdom of tive of the embassy, Ms. Blaisse from the the Netherlands for organizing this high- School of Magistrates of the Netherlands, who will moderate the meeting today, and Judge Fierstra, whom I had the pleasure of preme Court in Hague, and who will bring jects, suggestions, and continuous commuus today the Dutch perspective on ac- nications, an added value I think for every countability and ethics in the judiciary.

public institution.

Netherlands, as well as the other partners tions of our institutions on judicial acwe have here today, I take this opportuni- countability and independence, which we ty to greet them because they have always will share today with each other and all of been fellow travellers of the Office of the you, are a good opportunity to clearly un-High Inspector of Justice and the justice derstand more the dimensions of everyinstitutions, courts and prosecution

strengthen professional capacities, through continuous training with the best common interest in improving the efficienwork standards.

Likewise, the Civil Society Organizations, which have been close to our professional growth processes, through various pro-

To the Embassy of the Kingdom of the I am confident that the professional reflecone's work, starting from our daily work practice despite different public percepoffices, on the journey to increase and tions, on oversight, transparency and professional standards, as elements of our cy of the justice system and strengthening public trust, the main reason for which the justice reform in Albania was undertaken and approved.





#### HIJ ROUNDTABLE: JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE FUNCTION OF INSPECTIONS

function of judicial inspections.

The activity was designed as an open exchange with two Spanish magistrates in with long-standing experience inspections and disciplinary matters: Judge In his remarks, Mr. Metani underlined the Juan Martínez Moya, with a 38-year successful cooperation of HIJ with RESIJ, in career, member of the Spanish Supreme which Judge Moya has been an active

High Inspector of Justice, Mr. Artur Court, former member of the General Metani, accompanied by the unit of Council of the Judiciary of Spain, former Inspectors and the unit of Assistant President of the High Court of Murcia, Inspectors of the Office of the High contributor to the establishment of the Inspector of Justice, took part in the European Network of Justice Inspection roundtable discussion on the role of Services (RESIJ) and to the drafting of the judges in a democratic society and the European Charter of Professional Ethics for Magistrates; and Judge Ricardo Conde Díez, with a 30-year career in the judiciary, currently Promotor of Disciplinary Action in Spain.



member. inspection body would engage in a broad experiences. discussion on the role of judges in relation to society, drawing on practical

He stressed that the HIJ cases from the Spanish magistrates

Mr. Metani highlighted the importance that HIJ attaches to striking a balance



between judicial independence and the He elaborated on the standards of judicial legitimate public interest administration of justice, as well as the independence and the rule of law, the "continuous efforts to mechanisms for accountability, not as a level of guarantees, and the conditions for tool of control, but as a means to exercising the judicial function; safeguard the integrity and efficiency of dimensions that run in parallel with judicial activity, while respecting the accountability principles of justice and separation of indispensable elements of independence. powers."

success story for the Network, having oversight of jurisdictional performance. advanced from observer status to a full member with equal rights.

in the independence, focusing on the concept of develop reasons for judicial independence, the and transparency

Meanwhile, Judge Ricardo Conde Díez Judge Martínez Moya expressed his focused on disciplinary responsibility and gratitude to the High Inspector of Justice judicial independence, the distinction and emphasized the cooperation within between inspections and disciplinary RESIJ, pointing out that HIJ stands out as a measures, the limits of inspection, and the

> The event was organized within the framework of the EU4Justice project, conceived as an open and constructive





dialogue between Spanish experts and the Judicial inspections were highlighted as a HIJ inspection body, on the role of judges in key mechanism for protecting the integrity a democratic society, with particular and efficiency of judicial activity, while emphasis on safeguarding judicial respecting the principles of justice and the independence, ensuring accountability, and separation of powers.

maintaining public trust in the judiciary.





#### THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE RECEIVES MAXIMUM ASSESSMENT FOR THE QUALITY OF ITS INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM

counting of the Ministry of Finance.

During the first week of June 2025, the Minprocesses at the High Inspector of Justice (HIJ), analyzing and thoroughly assessing the tems. The review covered the control environment, risk management, control activities aimed at reducing risks, information and communication, as well as monitoring; in other words, the entirety of processes for reviewing the institution's activity by examining the documentary basis for each rubric internal control system are identified."

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice of the control checklist. At the conclusion of was subject to an internal control system this monitoring and analysis process, the rereview by the Directorate of Harmonization port of the Financial Control Directorate of of Financial Management, Control and Ac- the Ministry of Finance gave the highest evaluation, based on the answers to 59 questions regarding the HIJ, stating that: "The internal control system in the High Inistry of Finance team monitored the work spector of Justice institution is assessed as effective, with a total of 59 points completed from the checklist, accompanied by supstate of the institution's internal control sys- porting documentation." The report notes that, according to the Methodology for Assessing the Quality of the Internal Control System in General Government Units, "The Internal Control System is considered effective when no weaknesses or only very few deficiencies in the implementation of the

### HIJ DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice Sector will be in charge of the administration informs the citizens that even during the of written communications with the Office of month of August, will not stop working, re- the High Inspector of Justice. garding the administration process of complaints by citizens or by institutions.

Public Relations sector will continue to be from citizens or institutions. available to the citizens, every working day from Monday to Friday, from 09.00 to 14.00. These are the figures for the month of Au-

As we have informed, during the month of August the Office of the High Inspector of As usual, members of the Complaints and Justice was open to administer complaints

gust.

Similarly, employees of the Archive-Protocol



## SEPTEMBER OF HIJ IN NUMBER

During **September 2025**, the Office of the High Inspector of Justice administered **133 complaints which were submitted by 131 citizens and 2 (two) by institution.** The Office ensured the standardized confirmation process of receiving complaints for newly submitted complaints in accordance with procedural requirements.

Complaints involving judges and prosecutors were assigned to Inspectors and are currently at different stages of processing, including initial review, archiving, verification, or draft decision issuance.

ARCHIVED	VERIFICATION	DISCIPLINARY PROCESS
Out of 55 cases reviewed, 80 decisions were rendered:  • 38 archiving decisions after initial review  • 17 archiving decisions after verification	• 9 verification decisions	<ul> <li>1 request for the initiation of disciplinary proceedings concerning one magistrate (prosecutor)</li> <li>1 decision for closing the disciplinary investigation for one magistrate (prosecutor)</li> </ul>

### COMPLAINT PROCESS AT HIJ

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice con- **Building no.13, Tirana**. tinues with intensive work to confirm the com- It can also be completed by being present perplaints carried and those administered since sonally at the Office of the High Inspector of February 1, 2020, when it was established as Justice and if necessary, asking assistance by an institution.

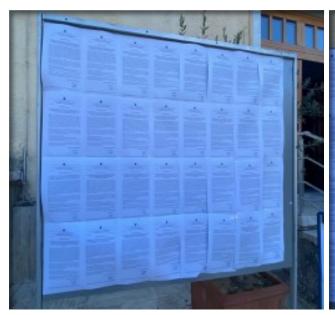
- site a special complaint form, which:
- •Can be completed directly and submitted online:
- dress Boulevard "Dëshmorët e Kombit",

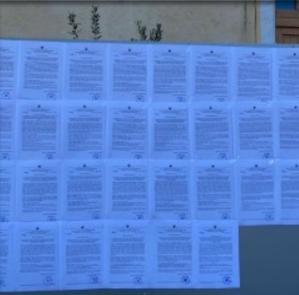
the team of the Complaints and Public rela-•To facilitate this process for interested per- tions Office. Within 5 days Upon receiving the sons, HIJ has published on the official web- complaint, the High Inspector of Justice confirms in writing its receiving.

The criteria for the admissibility of the com-•Can be downloaded, completed and sent by plaint are published on the official website of email to info@ild.al or by mail at the ad- HIJ www.ild.al, in the section "How complaints are accepted".

### PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISIONS

Even during the month of September 2025, the Office of the High Inspector of Justice made public announcements of archiving decisions for 6 complainants, who were unreachable at the addresses communicated by them. In addition to the stands of the HIJ, according to the law, these announcements are also found on our official website and posted in the stands of the municipalities where the complainants come from.







While assisting the complainants

The team of complaints office welcomes citizens-complainants every working day from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm, while for increased communication with interested citizens, in addition to communication through

the website and official address, the Office of the High Inspector of Justice has made available the phone number +355 4 2217217. Coordinator for the right to information is part of this sector.





**During the month of June 2025,** the Complaints and Public Relations Sector:

- ⇒Welcomed 45 complainants, who were present personally at the premises of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, and
- ⇒Has had 25 phone calls from citizens, who requested information on the stage of their complaints or Information on completing the complaint form.



#### COORDINATOR FOR THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION

In accordance with the principles and rules provided for in law no. 119/2014 "On the right to information", the coordinator for the right to information in the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, enables every applicant the right to be familiar with public information, as well as communicates according to the need with the applicant regarding the processing of the request for public information.

Requests for information are filed by

citizens, legal entities, interested groups, and can be send through the "Albanian Post", e-mail at the address: info@ild.al, as well as the e-mail of the coordinator for the right to information: amanta.jasa@ild.al.

The information provided in the transparency program is published and continuously updated in the register of requests and responses, within the legal deadline.

#### **MONTHLY NUMBERS**

During **September 2025**, at the Office of High Inspector of Justice, **26 requests for information** were received, which were processed in all cases within 5 days (the law provides that a response must be return to the applicant within 10 days).

### HIJ ON TWITTER

Services and the challenges of integration "" concluded today in Tirana with the participation of delegations from Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje and Tirana. #HIJ

@OSCEinAlbania



METANI: BESIMI I PUBLIKUT TEK GJYQËSORI ËSHTË VLERA MË E ÇMUAR E DREJTËSISË, POR DHE MBROJTJA MË E MIRË E TIJ



From ild.al

Justice institutions from across the region came together in Tirana today for the conference "Justice Inspection Services and the challenges of integration" #HIJ @OSCEinAlbania



1840 in processing

√127 in verification process after initial review

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# September 2025

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<u>Kliko</u> për të ndjekur spotin prezantues të ILD



Më skano!