

# **The 11th CONFERENCE OF THE BALKAN AND EURO - MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF THE COUNCILS FOR THE JUDICIARY**

## **DECLARATION**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of The Balkan and Euro - Mediterranean Network of the Councils for the Judiciary was held in Rome on 13 – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The two main topics of the conference were *“Internal independence of the Judges and Prosecutors as a factor of increasing efficiency in the Judiciary”* and *“The role of media in the independence of the Judiciary”*. The members elaborated these topics and adopted some recommendations.

The network would like to establish itself as a legal entity in order to better its organization and be able to pursue its own institutional purposes.

Nevertheless the network is strongly committed in involving the Balkan countries which did not adhere to the organization at this stage. This will be the major aim of the Network members in the near future. Subsequently the aim could be to enlarge the Network to the Southern Mediterranean countries, which are not currently represented. In this regard the members discussed two main objectives. Firstly, to involve more countries in the network and in this regard the members were very pleased for the attendance of Serbia, FRY of Macedonia and Greece as guests. Secondly to strengthen and develop more the relations between BEMNCJ and ENCJ in order to better address the issues related to accountability and independence of the judiciary.

Moreover, in the Rome Conference members re-elected Mr. Gjin Gjoni as President of the Network for a term of one year. It was decided to change the mandate of the president from one year to two years starting from 2017. Also, the official logo and the Annual Working Plan of 2016-2017 of the BEMNCJ were approved.

In conclusion the next year conference will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria and the following topics were selected:

1. Impartiality and the Code of Ethics
2. The role of the Councils of the Judiciary in the fight against terrorism and the security of the judges.