



European Network of Councils  
for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

Réseau européen des Conseils  
de la Justice (RECJ)

**Statement by the Executive Board of the ENCJ  
on financial security in the context of Judicial independence**

In the course of the year, the ENCJ has received information from several Members, regarding the situation of insufficient (inadequate) judicial remuneration. The ENCJ was notified that Judicial Councils of Slovenia and Lithuania regard inadequate judicial remuneration as a threat to Judicial independence. Developments towards a similar situation may also be potentially witnessed in Croatia and Spain.

Taking note of the letter of 19 April 2023 from the President of the Judicial Council of Slovenia (*Sodni svet*) Mr. Vladimir Horvat, the Board expresses regret concerning the current situation to which *Sodni svet* and judges in Slovenia are exposed.

Independent judiciary in each Member State is crucial for ensuring the fundamental values of Art. 2 TEU, on which the European Union is founded. Financial security is an important component of judicial independence. The Court of Justice of the European Union has already stated that the remuneration of judges is directly linked to judicial independence<sup>1</sup>, therefore close cooperation of all state powers in this realm is vital.

The Board believes that judicial independence should include protection against interference with the financial security of the court as an institution. Judicial remuneration should be adequate and preclude exposing judges to the risk of inappropriate pressures and corruption.

While Councils for the Judiciary ensure the final responsibility for the support of the judiciary in the independent delivery of justice and may act as intermediaries between the judiciary and the other branches of power, the element of judicial independence linked to judicial remuneration also rests on the willingness to take positive actions by legislative and executive powers.

The Board underlines that in a state governed by the Rule of Law, all state powers should support each other in carrying out their functions, and all should refrain from interfering with the competence of others. Judicial independence is essential to guarantee the rights of the citizens of the European Union, is essential for mutual respect of the European Union's common values and is essential for mutual trust among European Union judges.

The Executive Board of the ENCJ therefore calls upon everyone in the European Union to stand for the independence of judges.

**The ENCJ Executive Board  
Brussels, 25 May 2023**

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<sup>1</sup> Case C-64/16 *Associação Sindical dos Juizes Portugueses*, §45.