

**30th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of justice**  
**“transparent and efficient justice”**  
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**SPEECH**

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**“THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA”**

Honorable Minister of Justice of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Sadullah Ergin,  
Colleagues Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor and pleasure to address you today at this Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Council of Europe. Let me express my gratitude to the Council of Europe and the Turkish Presidency, for the wonderful organization.

The topics that we are discussing today are very important, both on national and on international level. The Republic of Macedonia is undertaking significant activities in these two areas. The progress made in the reform of the judiciary is noted in the CEPEJ Report for 2010.

The reform of the judiciary is high on the agenda of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in ensuring access to justice for all citizens and for the realization of the strategic goal for membership in the European Union.

- 132 (one hundred and thirty two) laws are adopted in the area of judiciary, from 2006 until present.
- In this period, 10 (ten) new judicial institutions were established and they are fully equipped and functional.
- The key laws that would contribute to the increase of the efficiency of the judiciary are the recently adopted amendments to the Law on Litigation and the Law on Criminal Procedure.
- The most significant novelties in the Law on Litigation relate to the introduction of the audio - recording of hearings, the introduction of electronic delivery of writs, determining of deadlines for taking procedural action, increase of the quality of documents.
- A new principle of transparency is introduced with the amendments to the Law on Courts – accordingly, each judge is responsible for publishing the judgment on the website within two days of its pronouncement and for each court to open a public relations office.
- With the amendments to the Law on Courts a carrier system is established, and the competence of courts is extended in order to increase their effectiveness
- The Academy for Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors is training the fourth generation and over 7000 seven thousand participants have participated in the continuous trainings in more than 240 (two hundred and forty) events in 2009

- Alternative mechanisms for resolving cases are introduced through the Law on Mediation, and cases are transferred from the courts to the public notaries and the enforcement agents in accordance with the Council of Europe recommendation.
- In July 2010 the **Law on Free Legal Aid** entered into force
- The 2010 Progress Report for the Republic of Macedonia notes that **the efficiency of the courts is strengthened through advancement of the budget management and decrease of the backlog of cases.**
- Information technology is a key area that directly affects the efficiency and transparency of the judiciary.
- Let me highlight on this occasion the positive experiences that Turkey has offered us in the field of information technology within the grandiose project UYAP (UJAP).
- In the Republic of Macedonia we are successfully implementing the Strategy for IT in the judiciary
- From January 1, 2010, the system for electronic management of court cases is operational and there is electronic registry in all courts in the Republic of Macedonia.
- The Legal Database is available and it contains more than 20,000 (twenty thousand) laws and other regulations from 1944 until today.
- The courts have published on their web pages more than 43 000 (forty three thousand) decisions that are accessible to the general public.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, once again let me express my particular satisfaction to have this opportunity to exchange opinions on these topics of extremely high importance for the rule of law and the functioning of the democracy in our countries

Thank you for your attention!