



CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

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HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

# THE JUDICIARY AS A GUARDIAN OF DEMOCRACY

8-9 June, 2022, Yerevan, Armenia

Armenia Marriott Hotel Yerevan

Tigran the Great Hall

## CONFERENCE OUTLINE

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Independent and well-functioning judicial system is a prerequisite in a society built on the core values of human rights, democracy, and rule of law. Ensuring institutional independence of the judiciary is a complex process. Complex is the path towards individual judicial independence as well, and these are the prerequisites of ensuring public trust, therefore the trust and independence are highly correlated notions.

Justice is a central part of the rule of law structure and the trust in judicial institutions is of paramount importance. If people have concerns about independence and integrity of the judiciary, about professional competence, corruption, political instrumentalisation, it undermines credibility of the justice system. What is so dangerous is that an erosion of trust in the judiciary is ultimately a democratic problem.

The formal guarantees of independence are important but not enough, the personal character and the professional quality of the individual judge deciding a case are of major importance. An independent judge both institutionally and individually is a guardian of democracy, rule of law and human rights. Judges have a vital mission in protecting individuals against abuses through the affirmation of the rights and freedoms. Without independent courts there can be no correct and lawful implementation of rights and freedoms.

The reform of the judiciary to ensure effective and equal access to an independent judicial system that delivers quality decisions within a reasonable time, is a long process. The Republic of Armenia has initiated an ambitious reform of the justice sector in line with the European standards which addresses the most persistent challenges, including the constitutional reform process, judicial independence, impartiality, and accountability.

The Conference aims to serve as a platform to facilitate the dialogue between the Constitutional Court, courts of different instances and other branches of the power, alongside with the international community and local civil society, regarding modalities and ways in which the independence of the judiciary could be strengthened and public trust increased, as well as taking stock of recent reforms, by highlighting successes and challenges and providing incentives for ongoing reforms. The discussions will be used to highlight the commitment of the Republic of Armenia towards the enhanced partnership with the Council of Europe, in the areas of rule of law, protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, and consolidation of democracy.

# PROGRAMME

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**WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2022**

## **09h30 Registration and welcoming coffee**

### **10h00 Opening event**

- ▶ H.E. Mr Arman DILANYAN,  
President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia
- ▶ H.E. Ms Andrea WIKTORIN,  
Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Armenia, Head of the  
Delegation
- ▶ Ms Martina SCHMIDT,  
Head of the Council of Europe Office in Yerevan
- ▶ Mr Frédéric DOLT,  
Head of Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal  
Co-operation Standards, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law  
(DGI), Council of Europe

### **10h30 Keynote address: The Role of the Judiciary in Preserving Democracy and Democratic Values in the Society**

- ▶ Ms Claire BAZY-MALAUURIE,  
President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice  
Commission)

## **10h45 Protocol photographing**

### **11h00 Panel Discussion I: The Ways to Strengthen Public Trust in the Judiciary**

- ▼ The role of the Constitutional Court in building public trust in the judiciary
- ▼ Judge in the service of the rule of law - a duty or a privilege?
- ▼ The role of the European Court of Human Rights in strengthening democracies  
in the member States
- ▼ Public trust in courts as a condition for the effective activity of the Judiciary

Moderator: Ms Lilit DANEGHIAN,  
Deputy Head of Cooperation Programmes Division, DGI, Council of Europe

Panellists:

- ▶ Mr Arman DILANYAN,  
President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia
- ▶ Ms Lilit TADEVOSYAN,  
President of the Court of Cassation of the Republic of Armenia
- ▶ Mr Armen HARUTYUNYAN,  
Judge of the European Court of Human Rights (online)
- ▶ Ms Danutė JOČIENĖ,  
President of the Constitutional Court of Lithuania (online)

## **12h00 General Discussion**

## **12h45 Lunch break**

## **14h00 Panel Discussion II: Upholding Public Trust Through Accountability and Communication**

- ▼ Ombudspersons as intermediaries between citizens and the state authorities
- ▼ Remedies (civil, criminal and disciplinary liabilities) for judicial errors and enforcement
- ▼ Approaches towards strengthening accountability and trust in the Judiciary

Moderator: Ms Lousineh HAKOBYAN,  
President of Europe in Law Association

Panellists:

- ▶ Ms Kristinne GRIGORYAN, Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia
- ▶ Ms Hanne JUNCHER, Executive Secretary of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), Council of Europe (online)
- ▶ Mr Gerhard REISSNER, Former President of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), Former President of Court in Vienna

## **14h45 General Discussion**

## **15h30 Concluding remarks**

- ▶ Mr Arman DILANYAN,  
President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia

## **19h00 Classical music concert followed by a Reception by the Council of Europe in the framework of the High-level Conference**



*Venue: Aram Khachaturian House Museum  
(address: 3 Zarobyan St, Yerevan, Armenia)*

**09h30 Registration and welcoming coffee**

**10h00 Opening session**

- ▶ Mr Ashot KHACHATRYAN, Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia

**10h15 Panel Discussion III: The Ways to Strengthen Independence of the Judiciary**

- ▼ The role of Judicial Councils: the CCJE Opinion No. 24 (2021) on the evolution of the Councils for the Judiciary and their role in independent and impartial judicial systems
- ▼ The reasoning of the judicial acts as the guarantee of independence of the judiciary
- ▼ Legislative and practical framework of implementation of Protocol No. 16 to European Convention on Human Rights

Moderator: Mr Ashot KHACHATRYAN,  
Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia

Panellists:

- ▶ Ms Anke EILERS,  
President of the Consultative Council of European Judges, Council of Europe
- ▶ Mr Gagik JHANGIRYAN,  
Ad Interim Chairperson of the Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Armenia
- ▶ Mr Yeghishe KIRAKOSYAN,  
Representative of the Republic of Armenia on International Legal Matters

**11h00 General Discussion**

**12h00 Lunch break**

**13h45 Panel Discussion IV: Reforms in the judiciary: a long-term commitment**

- ▼ Interaction with the other branches of Power (safeguards against external pressure)
- ▼ Judicial Strategies: a transparent tool for a dialogue with the society
- ▼ Challenges in Judicial reform Strategy implementation and a way forward

Moderator: Mr Vahe GRIGORYAN,  
Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia

Panellists:

- ▶ Ms Armenuhi HARUTYUNYAN,  
Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
- ▶ Ms Diana KOVATCHEVA,  
Ombudsperson of the Republic of Bulgaria
- ▶ Mr Davit KHACHATURYAN,  
Member of the Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Armenia

### **14h30 General Discussion**

### **15h15 Closing event – Wrap-up and results, ways forward**

- ▶ Mr Arman DILANYAN,  
President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia
- ▶ Ms Martina SCHMIDT,  
Head of the Council of Europe Office in Yerevan

## **CONTACTS**

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