

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN JUDGES (CCJE)

Statement of the CCJE on the European Day Against the Death Penalty 10 October 2025

On the occasion of the European Day Against the Death Penalty, which coincides with the World Day, the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) wishes to express its strong, resolute commitment to the abolition of the death penalty.

The CCJE welcomes the fact the Council of Europe has created a death penalty free zone in its 46 member states where capital punishment has not applied for nearly thirty years, in line with Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights.

The CCJE entirely supports the Council of Europe in its resolve to resist any attempt to reintroduce the death penalty and strongly favours its universal abolition, as emphasised in the Reykjavík Declaration adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (16-17 May 2023).

In circumstances where the next World Congress against the Death Penalty is to be held in Paris in June 2026, with a focus on the role of judges, the CCJE stresses the important contribution already made by judges towards its universal abolition. They do so, for example, by refusing to extradite persons to countries where they are at risk of being

sentenced to death,¹ by speaking up against capital punishment and advocating alternatives when participating in discussions within international judicial networks and other fora.

Therefore, the CCJE, as a body comprising judges from across Europe, wishes to mark the European Day against the Death Penalty by expressing its unequivocal support for the abolition of the death penalty and underscoring the significant role of judges in advancing an end to capital punishment.

¹ The refusal to extradite persons to countries where they are at risk of being subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment including, but not limited to cases where they can suffer death, remains also relevant.