



European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

Réseau européen des Conseils de la Justice (RECJ)

The General Assembly of the ENCJ Meeting

Rome 11-13 June 2014

THE ROME DECLARATION

The members of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (the “ENCJ”) gathered in **ROME** between 11th and 13th June 2014 on the occasion of its 10th anniversary **HEREBY DECLARE** that:

1. In its first 10 years, the ENCJ has achieved its principal objective of improving cooperation and mutual confidence between the Councils for the Judiciary and the judiciaries of EU member states and candidate member states. The ENCJ is continuing this work.
2. The ENCJ plays a crucial role in the maintenance of judicial independence, which is as much a central protection for the rights of citizens of Europe in 2014 as it was in 2004.
3. The ENCJ will continue to be the unique representative for the institutions that organize the justice systems of the EU, and to promote their relationships with the European Commission and other European institutions.
4. Looking to the future, the ENCJ will:
 - (i) continue to uphold the importance of Councils for the Judiciary which are independent of the executive and legislature of national governments;
 - (ii) cooperate with the European Commission both generally and specifically in relation to the Justice Scoreboard and other pan-European initiatives;
 - (iii) forge closer ties with other European judicial organisations;
 - (iv) improve the independence and accountability of justice systems and judges across Europe;
 - (v) promote public confidence in the justice systems in Europe;
 - (vi) support Councils for the Judiciary and similar independent bodies in the EU and in candidate and prospective candidate states especially where such bodies face challenges to their justice systems,

all of which is designed to improve on the timely and effective delivery of independent and high quality justice for the benefit of all the citizens of Europe.

Done in Rome, 13 June 2014