



"THE ROLE OF JUDGES IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE RULE OF LAW"

International conference

organized by MEDEL and the Bulgarian Judges Association

Friday, November 16th 2018

Sofia Balkan Hotel

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/soflc-sofia-hotel-balkan-a-luxury-collection-hotel-sofia/>

9:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:30 Welcome / Opening remarks

Atanas Atanasov – Chairman of the Board of the Bulgarian Judges Association

Justice Lozan Panov - President of the Bulgarian Supreme Court of Cassation

Filipe Marques – President of the Board of MEDEL

10:30 – 11:20 - Judge's duty and responsibility to engage in activities / to publically address issues concerning the Rule of law even when they fall outside of their judicial activities

Moderator: Atanas Atanasov;

Professor Hans Petter Graver – Oslo University, Author of the book "Judges against Justice" /

<https://www.springer.com/la/book/9783662442920/>

Professor Jacek Barcik – University of Silesia in Katowice

11:20 – 11:45 - Discussion

11:45 – 12:00 – Coffee break

12:00 – 13:10 - Attacks on judges and against judiciary as a trend / The public attitudes towards judges

Moderator: Bilyana Gyaurova-Wegertseder – President of Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives (BILI) - <http://www.bili-bg.org/2/page.html>



- Attacks against judiciary, selected examples:

Bulgaria – Galina Gerginova, Judicial Reports legal website

Poland – Monika Frackowiak, judge at the District Court of Poznan

Italy – Carlo Sabatini, judge at the Tribunale di Roma

- Mrs. Zdravka Kalaydjieva - Bulgarian Judge at ECHR (2008 – 2015)

- Ivanka Ivanova – Law Program Director at Open Society Institute – Sofia

13:10 – 13:30 – Discussion

13:30 – 14:30 – Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 - On the Safeguard for Judicial Independence - Best and Possible Practices:

Moderator: judge Nelly Kutzkova – Sofia Appellate Court, member of the Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria (1999 – 2003)

- Mr. Kees Sterk - President of the European Network for Councils for the Judiciary

- Mr. Gabriele Fiorentino – Judge at Tribunale di Roma, Deputy Secretary General of the Italian High Council of the Judiciary (*Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura*)

- Mr. Kalin Kalpakchiev – Judge at Sofia Appellate Court, Member of the Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria (2011 – 2016)

15:30 - 16:00 – Discussion and conclusions