

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE ITALIAN JUDICIARY

The Association of Portuguese Prosecutors (SMMP) publicly expresses its deep concern over the approval of the constitutional reform of the judiciary in Italy, which establishes the separation of the careers of public prosecutors and judicial magistrates.

This represents a structural change to the traditional principles of independence and self-governance of the judiciary.

We observe with unease that, in this context, efforts to delegitimize and publicly attack the judiciary have intensified, with judges and prosecutors being targeted by rhetoric that undermines their role as guarantors of fundamental rights, freedoms, and constitutional legality.

We emphasize that judicial decisions—especially those concerning the protection of human rights and the application of international conventions—must be respected and safeguarded, under penalty of eroding the democratic foundations of society and the rule of law.

We recognize that the Italian model has always been an example of balance between the functional autonomy and constitutional independence of magistrates, distinguished by a robust normative framework that ensured, on the one hand, the magistrates' freedom to act in the conduct of proceedings and, on the other, effective protection against possible external interference, including political interference, thus guaranteeing that the judicial function was exercised with full impartiality and in strict observance of the principles of the rule of law.

The imposition of political control over the judicial system constitutes a serious threat to pluralism, weakens the institutional mechanisms of checks and balances, and jeopardizes the effective protection of citizens' fundamental rights against potential abuses of executive power.

We note with particular concern that the attacks on the Italian judiciary are not an isolated phenomenon, but part of a global trend of democratic backsliding and autocratization that threatens the pillars of the rule of law in several European countries.

We express our full solidarity with Italian magistrates, who continue to perform their duties with integrity and respect for their constitutional mandate, despite the orchestrated campaigns of intimidation and delegitimization against them.

The protection of fundamental rights, the safeguarding of freedoms, and the building of public trust in the judicial system depend on firm opposition to any attempt at politicization or weakening of the judiciary. In the name of justice and the democratic rule of law, we reiterate our support for the Italian magistrates and reaffirm that their resistance is also the defense of all European citizens.

The Executive Board of SMMP