

ECD - PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Conference on the Reform of the Albanian Justice System

A high-level conference on “How to develop the Albanian Justice System towards European Standards” will be organized in the framework of the EU funded project of Assistance to the Albanian Justice System "EURALIUS". The conference will be co-funded by three German institutions: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany (German Embassy), the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

The event takes place

on: **22 October 2009**
at: **Tirana International Hotel
(Balsha Room)**
time: **09:30 hrs - 17.00 hrs**

The purpose of the conference is to see how far the Albanian Justice System has progressed on its way to European Standards and what further steps can be practically taken to continue with necessary reforms of the current justice system in the context of the rule of law and judicial independence.

More than 150 participants from all ranks and institutions of the Albanian Justice System are invited to the conference. The President of the Republic Mr Bamir Topi and the Minister of Justice Mr Bujar Nishani will welcome the participants. Then the Head of the EC Delegation Mr Helmuth Lohan and the German Ambassador Mr Berndt Borchardt will open the conference. The Head of EURALIUS, Mr Roland Miklau, will summarize the current state of progress as well as gaps and needs within the implementation of justice reform. Prof. Winfried Hassemer, the former Vice president of the German Constitutional Court will deliver a speech on “Justice in a European Democracy”. Two former Presidents of Albania will moderate the following panel discussions among Albanian and international experts: Mr Alfred Moisiu will lead the discussion on the “Development of a Justice Reform Strategy”, and Mr Rexhep Meidani will moderate the discussion on the “Efficiency and supervision of courts, judges and prosecutors”. Mr. Christoph Kulenkampff, Advisor to the Albanian Ministry of Justice and former State Secretary, Land of Hesse in Germany and Experts of EURALIUS will analyse different fields of the Albanian Justice system. A guest from Estonia, Mr Martin Hirvoja, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice Department on Criminal Policy and Criminal Justice and former Head Prosecutor of Tallinn, will speak on “Reducing corruption risks by increasing salaries of judges and prosecutors”. Related proposals for Albania will subsequently be discussed by the EURALIUS expert on Judicial Budget Management. The event will be concluded by the EURALIUS head of mission.