

## Superior Courts Network Forum<sup>1</sup> 8-9 June 2023

### Agenda

Seminar Room, European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg  
(Zoom connection link will be provided to external participants)

Thursday, 8 June

**9:30**      **Opening of the Forum**

**Síofra O'Leary**, President of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

**Marialena Tsirli**, Registrar, ECHR

**Christophe Poirel**, Director, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG1), Council of Europe

**Session 1**      **Independence of the Judiciary**

Chaired by:      **Marko Bošnjak**, Judge, Section President, ECHR

**10:00-10:20**      **Anja Seibert-Fohr**, Judge, ECHR  
**Protecting Judicial Independence: A Shared Endeavour of European Human Rights Protection**

**10:20-10:35**      **George Lomtadze**, Head of Secretariat, Constitutional Court of Georgia  
**Appointment Procedure of the Supreme Court Judges vis-à-vis Fundamental Rights: the Case Law of the Constitutional Court of Georgia**

*Coffee-break*

**10:55-11:15**      **Celestina Iannone**, Director of the Research and Documentation Directorate of the Court of Justice of the European Union  
**Independence of the judiciary and rule of law in the Union: Transversal considerations in the light of the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union**

**11:15-11:35**      **Florence Powell** and **Harry Balfour-Lynn**, Judicial assistants, Supreme Court of the United Kingdom  
**Judicial independence and populism: the view from the UK**

Questions/Answers

---

<sup>1</sup> The SCN Forum is the annual meeting of the Focal Points of the Network. The [SCN Operational Rules](#) therefore apply to all participants.

**12:00-12:20** **Irina Iatsenko**, Lawyer at the Directorate of the Jurisconsult, ECHR, and **Yücel Arslan**, Deputy Secretary General, Constitutional Court of Türkiye  
**Visiting Professionals Scheme: launching and feedback**

**12:20-12:30** Group photo

**12:30-14:30** Lunch (offered by the Council of Europe)

**14:30-14:50** **Natalia Brady**, SCN Coordinator, ECHR  
**KS and SCN recent developments and plans**

## **Session 2** **Independence of the Judiciary**

Chaired by: **Ilse Freiwirth**, Deputy Section Registrar, ECHR

**14:50-15:05** **Artashes Melikyan**, Head of the Judicial Independence Unit, Legal cooperation division, Secretary of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE)  
**Judicial independence and freedom of expression of judges**

**15:05 -15:20** **Dr. Eva Wendler**, Judge, Federal Administrative Court of Austria  
**Independence of Justice in Austria**

**15:20-15:35** **Vesna Božič Štajnpihler**, Head of Analysis and International Cooperation Department, Constitutional Court of Slovenia  
**Judicial Independence in the Republic of Slovenia: Two Topical Constitutional Issues**

**15:35-15:50** **Sandra dos Reis Luís**, Judge, Supreme Court of Justice of Portugal  
**The irrevocable intangibility of judicial independence**

**15:50-16:05** **Oksana Zhytnyk**, Head of the Comparative Research Department of the Secretariat of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine  
**Legal research: methodology of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine**

Questions/Answers

**16:30** **Closing remarks – End of the first day**

**Anna Austin**, Jurisconsult, ECHR

**19:15-21:30** Dinner

Friday, 9 June

Working Groups:        **Know-How – Legal research and the role of the jurisconsult**

Chaired by:        **Ayşegül Uzun Marinković**, Senior Legal Adviser, ECHR

**9:15**                Introduction to working groups

**9:30-11:00**

Working Group 1 (Focal Points) – chaired by **Fatima Mrdović**, Judge, Supreme Court of the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina; facilitator: **Aida Grgic Boulais** (English speaking group)

Working Group 2 (Focal Points) – chaired by **Stavroula Ktistaki**, Councillor of State, Council of State, Greece; facilitator: **Afroditi Gkagkatsi**, ECHR (French speaking group)

Working Group 3 (Focal Points) – chaired by **Blaž Možina**, Head of Analysis and Research, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia; facilitator: **Ana Vilfan-Vospersnik**, ECHR (English speaking group)

Working Group 4 (Focal Points) – chaired by **Florence Powell**, Judicial Assistant, Supreme Court of the United Kingdom; facilitator: **Rachael Kondak**, ECHR (English speaking group)

*Coffee-break*

**11:30–12:30**        Working Groups review

**12:30**                **Closing/conclusion of the Forum**

**Abel Campos**, Deputy Registrar, ECHR

**Interpretation:** English – French

*The Forum is being organised with support from the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe.*