



RESOLUTION
on the
current situation in Albania

1. At its meeting in Baku on 14 October 2025 the European Association of Judges (“EAJ”) was informed by its member the Albanian Union of Judges of the recent murder of a judge in an appeal court in Albania, Astrit Kalaja, who was shot while delivering a judgment. The delegates present were shocked to hear of this news and express their condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the judge.
2. The delegates were also extremely concerned to learn of the background against which this event took place. In addition to the judicial system being under pressure as a result of a shortage of judges following vetting procedures, judges have recently been the subject of abusive public attacks in the media from high-ranking political figures. These have gone so far as to single out individual judges for insult and denigration, including posting photographs of them on social media accounts. Repeated calls from the Albanian Union of Judges and the High Council for the Judiciary for a halt to such public attacks on members of the judiciary have gone unheeded and consequently public trust in the judicial system continues to be eroded and judges are required to work in an environment of public hostility.
3. The unacceptability of such conduct is self-evident. European standards are clear: -
 - (i) “While objective criticism of courts and their decisions is permissible, it is not acceptable for other powers in the state to criticize the judiciary in a manner that undermines its independence, judicial authority, or public confidence in the judiciary and encourages disobedience and even violence against judges”¹.
 - (ii) “The executive and legislative powers are under a duty to provide all necessary and adequate protection where the functions of the courts are endangered by physical attacks or intimidation directed at members of the judiciary.”
4. The EAJ therefore calls upon the government of Albania
 - to guarantee respect for judicial independence
 - to stop undue criticism of, and threats and attacks against judges; and
 - to take effective means to safeguard the security of judges.

¹ Recommendation CM/Rec (2010)12 on judges: independence, efficiency and responsibilities, para 18; CCJE, Opinion No. 18(2015) "The position of the judiciary and its relation with the other powers of state in a modern democracy", para 36.