

Tirana, on 18 July 2024

Honorable Presidents and esteemed colleagues,

It is my special honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to address you this first message in the capacity of the President of the Constitutional Court of Albania as the presiding court of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts for the period 2024 – 2027. Our Court is privileged to organize and host the upcoming XXth Congress of this Conference.

I would like to reassure you of my commitment, as well as that of the entire Court, to uphold the continuity and tradition of the European Conference. We are dedicated to further advancing and promoting the principles and objectives that underpin its entire activity.

As you are well aware, in conformity with Article 11 of the Regulation of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts, the Circle of Presidents, gathered on 22 May 2024 in Chisinau, on the occasion of the XIXth Congress, decided to establish a committee that will examine the request for membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo in this Conference.

According to Resolution III adopted by the Circle of Presidents, this special committee will prepare a report on the application for membership submitted by the Constitutional Court of Kosovo, in the following composition:

- 1. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Italy,
- 2. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia,
- 3. The Constitutional Court of Belgium,
- 4. The Constitutional Council of France,
- 5. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye,
- 6. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania,
- 7. The Supreme Court of Principality of Monaco.

Regarding the organization of the first meeting of this Committee, I would propose to be arranged as an *online* session, to accommodate and fit with our busy institutional agendas. I would suggest scheduling this meeting for the first days of September (possibly September 4, 2024), to allow for the review of materials sent by the Constitutional Court of Kosovo and to consider any additional necessary materials suggested by the committee members.

We would highly appreciate if the above-mentioned member courts constituting part of this committee would confirm their availability to attend the *online* meeting, preferably by the end of July 2024, at the Secretariat of the Conference: email—<u>CECC@gjk.gov.al</u>, or at the Chief of Staff: email—<u>vilma.premti@gjk.gov.al</u>.

Furthermore, in pursuance of Articles 9 and 12 of the Statute of the Conference, and Article 9 of the Conference Regulations, I would like to recommend that the Preparatory Meeting of the Circle of Presidents for the upcoming XXth Congress of the CECC, be held in Tirana, Albania, during the second half of February 2025. This meeting will serve as an opportunity to deliberate on priorities, Congress theme(s), and the organization of the Congress in 2027.

Please kindly note that a Voting Protocol proposing two alternatives dates within the aforementioned period (specifically February 21st or 28th, 2025) is hereby attached and we would be grateful if you could return it **by September 15th**, 2024.

All detailed information related to the organization of this Preparatory Meeting in Tirana, in February 2025, will be communicated to you in due course. We shall remain at your disposal should you have any further suggestions or proposals.

I take this occasion to reiterate our profound gratitude and appreciation for the faith and support extended to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania, which is fully dedicated to accomplish this important task also in cooperation with all esteemed member courts of the CECC.

Respectfully,

Polia Zacaj, LL W.

President of the Constitutional Court of Albania