



European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

Réseau européen des Conseils
de la Justice (RECJ)

10 September 2025
Brussels and Paris

Dear Lawyer,

I write to you in my capacity as President of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ). I would like to ask for ten minutes of your valuable time.

The ENCJ unites the Councils for the Judiciary and similar autonomous bodies that are responsible for the support of the judiciary in the independent delivery of justice, and it is very much engaged in defending and promoting the independence of the judiciaries across Europe. The ENCJ intervenes when, in specific countries, the independence of the judiciary is endangered, and it has developed indicators to evaluate the actual independence and accountability of the judiciaries across Europe.

Every three years, the ENCJ organises a Survey among judges about their perception of judicial independence in their country. The survey provides an excellent insight into the pressures judges experience and is a critical assessment of the functioning of the Councils and the other judicial authorities. This survey is, however, one-sided and the observations of the lawyers are extremely valuable to get a balanced insight into the independence of the judiciary. Therefore, the ENCJ asked the CCBE to distribute a survey among lawyers on the independence of judges.

In 2019, this lawyers' survey was conducted for the second time (see the Survey Report). The results provided very important insights and offered a unique and valuable perspective on the state of judicial independence and accountability across Europe. The perspective of lawyers proved an essential complement to that of judges. Given the latest developments related to judicial independence in many EU judiciaries, the ENCJ believes more than ever that it is crucial for lawyers to voice their opinion about judges' independence again. Therefore, I would like to invite you personally to participate in the survey. The greater the participation, the more representative and credible the results will be. Each lawyer's opinion matters.

Please [click here](#) to go to the survey on the website of the ENCJ or access it directly through the link in your email. The safety of the link and your anonymity are strictly guaranteed. The survey will be open from **15 September** until **26 October 2025**. The outcome of the questionnaire will be used as the foundation for further debate about the independence of judges across Europe. The results will be published on the ENCJ website. I would be extremely grateful if you would be prepared to spare **ten minutes of your time** to reply to this important survey. Please note that once you start the survey, you should finish it at once, it is not possible to save the replies and continue at a later stage. Many thanks in advance for your time and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Madeleine Mathieu
President of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary