



Palazzo di Giustizia - Piazza Cavour - 00193 Roma - Italia

RESOLUTION
CONCERNING THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN JUDGES
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Prague (Czech Republic), 12-13 May 2000

In some respects integration in Europe has already gone much further than most people would have dared to predict only a few years ago. But whilst in this process, powers of the executive and the legislative have increased, judicial powers have lagged behind. For example where co-operation between judges from different European countries is required, procedures remain time-consuming and unnecessarily complex.

The pace of political change demonstrates that a strong and independent judiciary is vital in any country which respects the rule of law. It is vital that this principle be recognised throughout Europe. It is desirable that the position of judges in Europe should be strengthened by ensuring that their voice is heard by all authorities who deal with the training, appointment, responsibilities and working conditions of the judges. Even in matters of integration, the experience of judges is vital, not in the interests of judges themselves but in the interests of the citizens of each country, all of whom have the right to rely upon an independent and effective judiciary.

The European Association of Judges, which is a non-political association representing judges from 31 European countries, strongly supports the decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to establish a consultative council of European judges, and has both the experience and the expertise to assist and become a member of the new consultative council.