



Statement

On

Judicial Pensions in Romania

The European Association of Judges (EAJ) in its meeting on June 2, 2023 took note of a proposed law¹ in Romania regarding the service pension of judges which dramatically and adversely changes the procedure, the conditions of granting and the amount of service pensions of judges.

The EAJ stresses that what is proposed is incompatible with European and international standards. Thus article 8-3 of the Universal Charter of the Judge provides that a judge is entitled to retirement with a pension in accordance with his or her professional category. European Charter of the Statute of Judges art 6.4 states that judges should be paid a retirement pension, the level of which must be as close as possible to the level of their final salary as a judge. Recommendation 2010/12 paragraph 54, of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe states that guarantees should exist for the payment of a retirement pension which should be in a reasonable relationship to their level of remuneration when working.

The EAJ regards these proposals as infringing these important principles and thus as a threat to the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law. The EAJ therefore urges the Romanian authorities to refrain from implementing such proposals.

¹¹ Registered in the Senate under no. L4/2023.