



Palazzo di Giustizia - Piazza Cavour - 00193 Roma - Italia

The European Association of Judges

Statement

In view of the recent personalised attacks and offensive criticism directed at Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly reportedly emanating from sections of the Polish media, the European Association of Judges expresses its total solidarity to all Irish Judges and, in particular, to the concerned Colleague.

The European Association of Judges (EAJ) wishes also to strongly and unreservedly condemn the unacceptable references to Ms Justice Donnelly's personal and private life. In a democracy any citizen is entitled to criticise a ruling of a court. However, the disapproval should not be addressed in a manner that encourages a culture of disrespect for the judiciary and, in any case, should never be directed at a judge personally but to the decision itself.

Finally, the European Association of Judges would like to emphasize the vital importance of the independence of Judges in making decisions in a vibrant and plural democracy which promotes equality and diversity.