



European Association of Judges

RESOLUTION

on
Armenia

At its meeting in Cape Town on 18 October 2024 the European Association of Judges (EAJ) noted with great disappointment and concern that its resolution passed at its meeting in Athens on 2 June 2023 and its letter of 14 July 2023 concerning misuse of disciplinary procedures against judges had not been followed by any improvement in the state of affairs which prompted the resolution and the letter. Indeed, the EAJ was informed that matters had deteriorated further.

Therefore, EAJ reminds that:

- It is an infringement of the independence of judges and undermines the rule of law if in disciplinary procedures the procedural rights of the judge concerned are not fully respected.
- It is an infringement of the independence of judges and undermines the rule of law if media and social media are used by officeholders of the administration of judges to bring claims against judges to the public in order to base disciplinary procedures.
- It is an infringement of the independence of judges and undermines the rule of law if those who initiate the disciplinary procedures directly or indirectly influence those who decide those procedures.
- It is an infringement of the independence of judges and undermines the rule of law if evaluation of judges is carried out by a body with a majority of non-judges.
- It is an infringement of the independence of judges and undermines the rule of law if permanent pressure is exercised on judges by too frequent cycles of evaluation and unduly extensive reporting systems.

The EAJ therefore:

expects the Armenian authorities to refrain from such measures;

invites the competent organs within the Council of Europe and other bodies authorized to follow developments in Armenia to press for improvements; and

expects the recommendations of the Venice Commission regarding evaluation and disciplinary procedures to be followed and not circumvented.