

## THE HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE PRESENTS THE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

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Therefore, for the High Inspector of Justice, what is important is that every judge and prosecutor of the Republic clearly understands and feels that their work is subject to review, that allegations concerning their work are verified one by one, and that no one has evaded investigation or disciplinary proceedings when they have deserved them



### HIJ in numbers

Out of **154 cases reviewed**, **79 decisions were rendered**:  
55 archiving decisions after initial review  
24 archiving decisions after verification

**25 verification decisions**

- **1 decision on the conclusion of a disciplinary investigation** concerning 1 magistrate (Member of the High Prosecutorial Council)
- **1 request for the initiation of disciplinary proceeding** concerning 1 magistrate (Member of the High Prosecutorial Council)

#### **1 completed inspection:**

- “On the processing of the indictment material by the prosecutor, within the framework of the elements defined in the Code of Criminal Procedure. Inspection carried out in the Prosecutor’s Offices at the Courts of First Instance: Korçë, Saranda, for the period 01.01.2024-31.12.2024.”

### The citizen at HIJ

#### During June 2026:

- Welcomed **44 complainants**, which were present personally at the premises of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice;
- Has had **26 phone calls** from citizens, who requested information on the stage of their complaints or information on completing the complaint form;
- **10 requests** for information were received.



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## THE HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE PRESENTS THE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS



The High Inspector of Justice, Mr. Artur Metani, presented the 2025 annual activity report of the institution before the Committee on Legal Affairs, Public Administration and Human Rights of the Parliament of Albania. During the presentation, he outlined the institution's main achievements, the challenges and issues encountered in carrying out the functions of the High Inspector of Justice and responded to the questions and inquiries of the Members of Parliament.

### Full remarks of the High Inspector of Justice, Mr. Artur Metani:

Honourable Chairman Manja,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

It is a pleasure to present the report to the committee, not only as an elegance of a constitutional obligation of the High Inspector of Justice, but also as a very good opportunity, as it has been these 6 years, (whenever the High Inspector of Justice has reported), to also exchange views with the honorable members of parliament, but also to share suggestions or remarks regarding the work done by the justice institutions. Even though 15 minutes is the speaking limit, I think it is an opportunity and it is the only opportunity to express also the opinions we have in relation to each other's work, the trust we have in each other's work and the respect we have for each other's work. Secondly, you made the presentation. I am accompanied in this reporting by the Secretary General Dëshira Pasko, but also Ms. Pelushi, who was recently elected as the Deputy High Inspector of Justice. After 6 years, the office now has a Deputy High Inspector of Justice, as a legal obligation that follows after the fulfillment of certain criteria that the candidate had to meet, so I wanted to introduce to you the Deputy High Inspector of Justice in this capacity.

In presenting the report, I have decided to focus on two main aspects: *first*, the level of implementation of the recommendations of the Assembly Resolution for the year 2025 and the measures undertaken by the Office of the High Inspector of Justice in order to fulfil them; *and second*, several issues identified during the exercise of the institutional activity, identified through citizens' complaints, disciplinary investigations and thematic and institutional inspections carried out by the Office of the High Inspector of Justice throughout 2025.

For the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, the Assembly addressed 8 (eight) recommendations for the year 2025, which relate to strengthening the effectiveness of inspections, monitoring the implementation of recommendations, inter-institutional cooperation, the digitalization of processes, the analysis of citizens' complaints, public communication, and the assessment of the impact of the inspection activity carried out by the institution of the High Inspector of Justice.

An analysis regarding their level of implementation shows that all recommendations have been fulfilled, accompanied by concrete administrative, organizational and regulatory measures. In this context, throughout 2025, High Inspector of Justice approved internal acts for the monitoring of recommendations and reporting through measurable indicators, provided for and planned the calendar for follow-up inspections, and strengthened the mechanisms for analyzing the issues identified through citizens' complaints.

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Particular attention has also been devoted to the recommendation concerning inter-institutional cooperation with the governance bodies of the justice system and other institutions, especially with regard to access to electronic systems and the development of digitalization processes, by participating actively and proactively in cooperation with the Councils and with the Prosecutor General concerning the identification of needs and the provision of data regarding access to the electronic systems of the courts and prosecution offices. Concrete steps have also been taken towards establishing the electronic case management system of the High Inspector of Justice, with the aim of increasing the efficiency, transparency and traceability of the complaint review, investigation and inspection processes.

It is important to emphasize that, in implementing the Assembly's recommendations, the *analytical dimension* of the institution's activity has also been strengthened through the drafting of reports on the themes of complaints, while the public communication and legal education activities have been expanded. At the same time, a comprehensive analysis of the inspections carried out during the period 2020–2025 has been completed, providing an assessment of the issues identified, the impact of the recommendations, and the needs for the further development of the activity of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, in accordance with the state of organisation and functioning of the judicial power during this period.

Therefore, the recommendations made by the Assembly have not only been fulfilled by the institution of the High Inspector of Justice, but have also produced improvements in work processes that further highlight the activity of the High Inspector of Justice.

From the perspective of the High Inspector of Justice, this report does not merely constitute an overview of the quantitative indicators of the institution's activity, but also an opportunity to assess the functioning not only of the mechanisms of accountability and responsibility of magistrates, but also the effectiveness and quality of the functioning of the judiciary in Albania today. In this regard, I believe that the assessment of the activity of the High Inspector of Justice during 2025 can and should go beyond the number of processed complaints, inspections carried out, investigations conducted, disciplinary proceedings initiated, or disciplinary measures imposed on magistrates. Although, even in this aspect, the work of the High Inspector of Justice has produced results this year as well.

During 2025, a total of 3,272 complaints were administered (1,792 new complaints and 1,480 carried over), half of which were reviewed during the reporting year 2025. During 2025 alone, 1,635 complaints were processed. The number of complaints processed is high, showing that the mechanism for verifying complaints and for verifying the work of judges and prosecutors functions properly. Here, there may also be a question or concern that the number of complaints processed is very high compared to the number of initiated disciplinary investigations conducted or requests for disciplinary proceedings.

However, as I have also emphasized on previous occasions before this Committee, the ratio between the number of processed complaints reviewed and the investigations (12), or disciplinary proceedings (8), does not in itself constitute an indicator that the disciplinary process for magistrates is not functioning.

On the contrary, this ratio clearly demonstrates that the complaint-reviewing process functions very well as a filtering mechanism, or preliminary stage for examining allegations against the activity of magistrates, aiming to distinguish unfounded complaints from those containing sufficient factual and legal elements to initiate an investigation or disciplinary proceedings.

The examination and verification of allegations concerning approximately 1,650 work files of judges and prosecutors, through the issuance of full and reasoned decisions regarding those allegations, demonstrate that magistrates feel the weight of the verification of their work, in accordance with the constitutional protocol and the law. It is important to emphasize here that investigation and disciplinary proceedings are not "emotions" of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, but standards that have been followed since the very first day of work, maintaining the same working principle in verifying allegations concerning the work of judges and prosecutors. It should also be emphasized in this regard that the standards established by law for investigations and the evidentiary requirements during disciplinary investigations and proceedings are very high, with the aim of guaranteeing the rights and independence of magistrates.

Therefore, for the High Inspector of Justice, what is important is that every judge and prosecutor of the Republic clearly understands and feels that their work is subject to review, that allegations concerning their work are verified one by one, and that no one has evaded investigation or disciplinary proceedings when they have deserved them. At the same time, however, High Inspector of Justice respects the constitutional protocol, not as an inability or a desire to shield magistrates from responsibility, but as a standard established by the Albanian legislator, as well as by legislators throughout the democratic world, in order to preserve a proper balance between independence and accountability.

The data show that today, after six years since the establishment of this Office, for approximately 8,000 complaints handled by the High Inspector of Justice, the institutions reviewing the decisions of the High Inspector of Justice, such as the Councils, Appeal Chamber, and even the European Court of Human Rights, have not found in any case that the verification of complaints or the investigations conducted by the High Inspector of Justice were incomplete, unprofessional, or based on double standards because, from the perspective of the High Inspector of Justice, the rigorous application of constitutional standards, rather than the personal professional opinions of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, is the only way to build an independent justice system. I believe this is the greatest contribution that an institution such as the High Inspector of Justice can make.

At the same time, in this regard, it should also be emphasized that the analysis concerning the disciplinary measures proposed by the High Inspector of Justice, or imposed by the Councils, should be analyzed and assessed in the spirit of the principle of proportionality. Disciplinary measures against magistrates are intended, first and foremost, to prevent and educate magistrates, and not necessarily to impose the maximum punishment. The proposal of a disciplinary measure by the High Inspector of Justice is based not only on objective criteria relating to the seriousness of the disciplinary violation, but also on the principles of individualization and proportionality, namely that the magistrate should receive the measure that is necessary and appropriate to achieve the purpose of the disciplinary proceedings against him or her, in accordance with the disciplinary violation committed.

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For this reason, the application of the most severe disciplinary measures is not an indicator that the disciplinary mechanism functions more fairly or more effectively.

An analysis of the subject matter of the complaints shows that citizens' main concerns relate to the excessive duration of court proceedings beyond reasonable time limits, delays in investigative actions, and delays in the reasoning of judicial decisions. Allegations concerning unfair decision-making by judges or prosecutors continued to constitute a considerable number of the complaints submitted by citizens throughout 2025.

During 2025, 1,792 complaints were submitted to the Office of the High Inspector of Justice. Of these: (i) 255 complaints regarding delays in court proceedings, or 14% of the total complaints received in 2025; (ii) 159 complaints regarding delays in investigations, or 9% of the total complaints received in 2025; (iii) 462 complaints related to the unfair decision-making, or 26% of the total complaints received in 2025; and (iv) 110 complaints regarding delays in the reasoning of judicial decisions, or 6% of the total complaints received in 2025.

Another issue currently faced by citizens concerns the way in which court hearings are conducted, in conditions where the necessary infrastructure is lacking, not only in terms of physical infrastructure, but also with regard to compliance with procedural requirements for conducting hearings with audio recording.

Meanwhile, prompted by several complaints that were subjected to verification during 2025, as well as by the information submitted by the courts of first instance of the general jurisdiction themselves, one of the issues facing the judicial system today concerns the productivity and effectiveness of magistrates in planning and conducting court hearings, as well as carrying out the necessary procedural actions to avoid unproductive court hearings. At the same time, compliance with the rules of ethics and solemnity also remains at the core of the work of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice.

These data are of particular importance because they demonstrate that the public perception of the justice system is not related solely to the individual conduct of magistrates, but also to broader issues concerning the functioning of the justice system. A considerable portion of these issues is structural in nature and goes beyond the individual disciplinary responsibility of magistrates. For this reason, I believe that the disciplinary mechanism cannot replace the general policies for the administration of the judiciary, the management of human resources, the financing of the justice system, or interventions of a systemic nature. In this aspect, High Inspector of Justice has continued to play an important role, not only as a mechanism for reviewing citizens' complaints, but also as an institution identifying issues of a systemic nature within the judiciary.

Furthermore, in pursuit of this strategic vision, during 2025 thematic and institutional inspections of courts and prosecution offices occupied an important place in the exercise of the constitutional powers of the High Inspector of Justice. The selection of the topics for these inspections was carried out on the basis of a careful analysis of various sources of information, which served to identify the issues and priorities within the justice system. In this context, consideration was given to the subject matter of complaints submitted to the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, the periodic information transmitted by the courts and prosecution offices, as well as proposals or information received from other public institutions.

These inspections have played an important role not only in identifying and analyzing issues relating to the functioning of justice institutions, but also in strengthening the mechanisms of accountability and responsibility and in cases where elements of disciplinary violations were identified during the inspection process, the corresponding disciplinary investigations were initiated and, if the legal conditions were met, disciplinary proceedings were also commenced against magistrates. In this way, thematic and institutional inspections have served as an important instrument for ensuring compliance with professional and ethical standards, as well as for increasing the integrity and efficiency of the justice system.

For the seven (7) inspections carried out during 2025, a total of 75 recommendations were issued, of which 14 relate to the need for legislative or regulatory interventions, 46 are administrative in nature, and 15 are addressed to the institution itself. This structure of recommendations clearly demonstrates that the inspection function of the High Inspector of Justice is gradually evolving from a traditional model of individual oversight of magistrates towards a broader analytical function addressing systemic issues within the justice system.

Nevertheless, I wish to share with you that the analysis of the effectiveness of these recommendations is a process that requires continuous improvement. Within the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, this is an issue that is discussed on a daily basis with the unit of inspectors and the legal services, as well as with international partners assisting the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, in order to make this essential competence of the High Inspector of Justice as functional and effective as possible. However, I believe that the analysis of the effectiveness of the recommendations of the High Inspector of Justice is also related to other factors and actors.

First, reforms in the justice sector and structural interventions are, and should be regarded as, long-term processes requiring considerable time to be implemented effectively and sustainably. Second, the process of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations issued by the High Inspector of Justice requires time, while their effectiveness depends on the level of implementation by the responsible institutions, including the High Judicial Council, the High Prosecutorial Council, the Prosecutor General, the School of Magistrates, the heads of institutions, and the judicial administration.

Third, there is an essential need for a coordinated approach and inter-institutional cooperation, a long-term vision, and strategic planning among the new institutions of the justice system. Fourth, in a justice system that is developing day by day and where systemic issues remain numerous, measurable quantitative and qualitative indicators are still lacking in enabling the assessment of the concrete impact of recommendations in reducing delays, improving performance, or reducing recurring issues concerning the organization and functioning of the judiciary.

However, despite the existence of these factors, a considerable part of the assessment of results is carried out through continuous monitoring and analysis by the institution of the High Inspector of Justice, through follow-up inspections aimed at monitoring the implementation of the recommendations issued. In this regard, the High Inspector of Justice is working on drafting a specific methodology concerning the monitoring and follow-up of the implementation process of the recommendations issued within the framework of thematic and institutional inspections.

### Honourable Members of Parliament,

In continuing this report, I wish to present some of the main issues, or matters of importance, which throughout 2025 have continued to affect the functioning and efficiency of the justice system. These issues include structural, procedural and institutional aspects that require particular attention and coordinated action among the responsible institutions, with the aim of improving the standards of justice and increasing public confidence in the institutions.

*First*, one of the measures that has had a direct impact on individuals' access to the justice system is the reorganization of the courts within the framework of the judicial map. The High Judicial Council has the duty to continuously monitor the consequences and effects of this reorganization, by analyzing whether this judicial map has achieved the objectives for which it was approved and, in particular, to what extent the right of access to justice has been guaranteed, to what extent the efficiency of the services provided to the parties has increased, and what effect it has had on the judiciary. Only such an analysis can constitute the necessary basis for the possibility of reconfiguring the judicial map within a shorter timeframe, should this be considered necessary and indispensable. In addition to such an analysis, any further reorganization should be accompanied by a prior assessment and the guarantee of the necessary infrastructural, administrative and functional conditions before it takes effect.

*Second*, compliance with the rules of solemnity, communication and conduct of magistrates in their relations with their superiors, the parties to proceedings and their colleagues constitutes another issue identified both in the content of complaints and through verifications initiated ex officio by the High Inspector of Justice. In these cases, regardless of the differing positions regarding whether or not to impose the disciplinary measures proposed by the High Inspector of Justice concerning compliance with ethics and solemnity in judicial proceedings or investigative activity, the Councils should play a more active role by taking concrete measures to analyze these cases through the Ethics Counsellor and by providing guidance on the manner of conduct and behavior that magistrates should follow in similar situations.

In particular, it is considered that the High Prosecutorial Council should adopt the necessary instruments to guide the model of conduct that magistrates should follow in cases of ethical dilemmas, through the issuance of the relevant opinions in order to prevent possible ethical violations by prosecutors. It is important to emphasize that disciplinary proceedings should constitute the last corrective mechanism for ensuring compliance with ethics by magistrates. At the same time, cooperation with the School of Magistrates should be strengthened in the context of the continuous training of magistrates, particularly those with fewer years of experience within the system, through the organization of more frequent training sessions and their individualization for cases referred by the High Inspector of Justice. Simultaneously, attention should also be devoted to the continuing training of other magistrates through the preparation of topics with an awareness-raising and preventive effect aimed at avoiding conduct that may seriously affect the public's perception of the justice system.

*Third*, alongside citizens, allegations concerning incorrect decision-making by magistrates are also continuously submitted by state institutions. It is also worth focusing on those institutions which, by virtue of the powers granted to them by the legal framework, are required to submit complaints setting out reliable information regarding the commission of a disciplinary violation, such as the Minister of Justice, the Prosecutor General, the heads of prosecution offices or the presidents of courts. In many cases, the facts submitted by these institutions have served as grounds for initiating disciplinary investigations and, after being subjected to the disciplinary investigation process, have resulted in proposals for disciplinary measures against magistrates.

In the disciplinary proceedings conducted, the High Inspector of Justice has relied on the standard according to which not every amendment or overturning of a judicial decision by a higher court may constitute, a priori, sufficient legal grounds for disciplinary proceedings against the magistrate, unless it is established that the decision was in manifest and flagrant contradiction with the law or with the unifying case law of the High Court, resulting in damage to the standing and reputation of the magistrate. In cases where complaints submitted by institutions have been archived, High Inspector of Justice, following their verification, has concluded that the institutional allegations should be resolved through the internal mechanisms of judicial review and that, in the exercise of their discretion in the application and interpretation of the legal framework, magistrates had not committed elements constituting disciplinary violations.

At the same time, in this regard, the High Court, as a court of law, should take measures to resolve conflicts, avoid divergences and ensure consistency in the interpretation and application of the law. The process of modifying and unifying judicial practice, on the one hand, and the obligation of the ordinary courts to apply the nomophylactic decisions, on the other, serve the values of uniformity and predictability in the application of the law. Within this framework, the High Court, by assessing the differing positions or interpretations adopted by the lower courts, should address the need for legal certainty by exercising its constitutional function in ensuring the harmonization of the law and the coherence of jurisprudential guidance.

Fourth, in conclusion, I wish to emphasize that strengthening the justice system cannot be achieved without sustainable and functional coordination among all the responsible institutions. Cooperation and coordination between the High Judicial Council, the High Prosecutorial Council and the High Inspector of Justice are necessary in areas affecting the activity of magistrates and, in particular, in the submission of proposals for the conduct of thematic inspections. The institution of the High Inspector of Justice has been committed, and continues to provide its maximum commitment, to developing a culture of institutional cooperation and coordination, whereby all institutions of the justice system, such as the High Judicial Council, the High Prosecutorial Council, the High Court, the School of Magistrates, as well as other institutions such as the Assembly and the Ministry of Justice, work on joint strategic action plans aimed at improving the quality of justice and strengthening citizens' trust.

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This process requires a long-term vision, a structured implementation plan and continuous evaluation of results, so that every recommendation is transformed into an institutional reality. Only through cooperation and shared commitment can we guarantee a justice system that serves the citizen and functions on the solid foundations of professionalism, integrity and credibility.

In conclusion of this report, I wish to draw the attention of the Assembly of Albania to the fact that all the issues addressed show that the justice system is facing important structural and systemic challenges which require an integrated and coordinated inter-institutional approach. Shortening the duration of judicial proceedings, increasing the efficiency of investigations, strengthening institutional infrastructure, guaranteeing human rights standards,

and unifying judicial practice constitute essential elements of a functioning justice system that is trustworthy for Albanian citizens.

In this context, balancing the independence and accountability of magistrates, as well as strengthening professional ethics, are indispensable pillars for the consolidation of the rule of law. Only through sustainable inter-institutional cooperation and a shared reform vision can a more efficient, more transparent justice system be guaranteed, one that is closer to European standards and to the expectations of citizens.

Thank you for your attention, and I remain at your disposal for any questions or discussion regarding the activity of the institution during 2025.



## METANI: INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AS AN INDICATOR OF JUSTICE REFORM SUCCESS



***Speech by High Inspector of Justice Mr. Artur Metani at the closing ceremony of the transitional re-evaluation process of judges and prosecutors.***

Honorable Mr. Çomo!

Dear participants,

Thank you for the invitation and the opportunity you gave me to express some thoughts regarding the completion of the transitional re-evaluation process of judges and prosecutors.

Although an unusual and shocking process for the system, the vetting of judges and prosecutors came as an imperative of the time, to address the deep and widespread public distrust of the justice system, high perception of corruption in the judiciary and corporatism in the system. In this regard, the members of the vetting bodies and IMO have done an extraordinary job, verifying and removing from the system the unhealthy part of it, based on concrete standards for assessing the integrity of judges and prosecutors. Today, the justice system, also because of this work, is significantly better than that of the period before 2016.

Now, the completion of the vetting process requires a careful assessment and a reflection on the future, as it marks the transition from the phase of the functioning of the extraordinary and sui generis vetting mechanism, of the checking of the integrity and professionalism of magistrates, towards a new stage, where the responsibility for guaranteeing the integrity and professionalism of magistrates belongs entirely to the new justice institutions.

This is why the completion of this process should not be seen as the finalization, or the achievement of the appropriate and successful results of the justice reform journey. This moment marks the beginning of the most important phase of the justice reform, which is related to the institutionalization of integrity and accountability standards. The challenge now is no longer to cleanse the justice system of unprofessional or irresponsible magistrates, but to guarantee the functioning of the justice system on the basis of stable standards of professionalism, ethics, and accountability.

Today, we must take a step forward towards a justice system that functions under normal conditions. A state governed by the rule of law cannot rely indefinitely on extraordinary measures. When extraordinary measures are of a continuing or permanent nature, they risk running counter to the very principles they are intended to protect. For this reason, the dilemma we must answer today is not whether or not vetting standards should continue, but whether these standards have become part of the functioning of the new institutions of the justice system to guarantee the integrity and accountability of magistrates in the future.

The challenge for all of us today is to build a new justice system that is sustainable, organized and operates on the basis of a “regular accountability” system. If we are to judge the success of the justice reform one day, the most significant indicator will not be simply the number of cases processed by the vetting bodies, or the individual decisions issued by them, but the ability of the new and permanent institutions to maintain and develop the very standards of integrity, professionalism and accountability that the vetting process aimed to establish.

Only then can we say that the exceptional standards of a transitional nature have fulfilled their mission for which they were created, not by replacing the current institutions, but by creating the conditions for these institutions to function in accordance with the principles of the rule of law. For this reason, the focus of the new institutions of the justice system must remain on professionalism, impartiality, transparency and independence in the exercise of their constitutional powers. In this regard, the construction of stable and predictable institutional administrative practice is equally important. Reasoned decisions, clear procedures and consolidated legal standards not only strengthen the legal certainty of institutional activity but also contribute to the creation of a culture of professional accountability.

In this process, High Inspector of Justice is not the only institution that should play an important role. High Judicial Council and High Prosecutorial Council play an equally important role in guaranteeing meritocracy, career development and the effective functioning of accountability mechanisms. Meanwhile, the School of Magistrates remains the key institution where not only professional knowledge is shaped,

but also the ethical culture of future generations of magistrates, since their integrity cannot be ensured only through the application of checking and accountability mechanisms. The integrity and professionalization of magistrates must be transformed into an institutional culture and must function based on an effective accountability system. This culture must be built continuously day by day through a combination of professional education, ethical awareness of magistrates, a career system and effective accountability systems.

At the same time, increased care and prudence must be shown in maintaining a delicate balance between the independence and accountability of magistrates. The independence of magistrates is not their personal privilege, but it is a constitutional guarantee for the citizen. At the same time, the truth is that independence cannot exist without an accountable system. The challenge of the new institutions is precisely to maintain this balance, so that accountability does not violate independence and independence does not turn into a lack of responsibility or accountability.

**Thank you!**

*Full speech at the closing ceremony of the vetting*



## RESIJ OBTAINS OBSERVER STATUS WITH CEPEJ



High Inspector of Justice, Artur Metani, participated in the proceedings of the 46th Assembly of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), held in Šibenik, Croatia.

Mandated by the European Network of Justice Inspection Services (RESIJ) to officially present the application for obtaining observer status with CEPEJ, Mr. Metani addressed the Assembly, highlighting the expertise and contribution that the Network has provided thus far in the field of justice inspection.

*"In the capacity as the High Inspector of Justice of Albania, thanks to the continuous cooperation with the Council of Europe and CEPEJ since 2020, I have had the opportunity to become closely acquainted with the high level of expertise that this commission provides in various fields of the administration and evaluation of justice. At the same time, I believe that RESIJ can bring added value in a highly specific and specialized field within CEPEJ,"* he stated.

Mr. Metani emphasized that the inspection services that constitute RESIJ, place at the center of their activity the evaluation of the functioning of courts and prosecution offices, the inspection of the professional activity of judges and prosecutors, as well as the identification of mechanisms that contribute to the integrity, efficiency, and quality of the judicial system. He noted that an efficient justice system cannot be assessed solely through statistics, productivity indicators, or the duration of judicial proceedings, because these indicators, although important, do not always succeed in revealing the real causes of problems affecting the functioning of the judiciary, nor do they fully reflect the quality of justice provided to citizens.

*"In our respective countries, inspection structures play an irreplaceable role. They help identify systemic deficiencies, procedural delays, organizational challenges, and risks that may undermine the functioning of the judiciary. Particularly in countries undergoing profound reforms in the justice system, inspection services can play a key role in ensuring institutional stability, coherence, and the continuity of professional standards,"* he declared.

During his speech, High Inspector of Justice also shared a personal moment related to the support that CEPEJ and the Council of Europe have provided to the institution he leads.

*"The first contact of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice of Albania with RESIJ was made possible precisely thanks to the support of CEPEJ. In June 2021, CEPEJ facilitated the establishment of contact between the HIJ and the French Inspectorate, which at that time held the presidency of RESIJ, and also conveyed the HIJ's interest in becoming part of this network,"* he said.

Mr. Metani recalled that in December 2021 RESIJ admitted the HIJ with observer status, while in October 2023, recognizing Albania's active engagement and contribution within the framework of the network, it granted the High Inspector of Justice the status of a full member with full rights.

*"Today I stand before you on behalf of RESIJ and have the privilege of presenting before this Assembly the request to grant the European Network of Justice Inspection Services observer status with CEPEJ, with the conviction that this cooperation will bring added value to both institutions and to the European justice community as a whole,"* said Mr. Metani.

RESIJ's application for obtaining observer status was unanimously approved by the 46th Assembly of CEPEJ.

*"Congratulations, Mr. Metani! Congratulations to the European Network of Justice Inspection Services on obtaining observer status. Welcome to the great CEPEJ family. We are pleased to continue working with you with great satisfaction,"* declared the President of CEPEJ, Francesco Depascale, at the conclusion of the vote.

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ADDRESS OF THE HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE, ARTUR METANI

AT THE 46TH CEPEJ PLENARY ASSEMBLY

18-19 June 2026

Šibenik, Croatia

*Dear Mr. President Depasquale,*

*Dear Ms. Decot,*

*Distinguished participants,*

*First of all, I want to thank you for the invitation and for organizing such a nice event. My name is Artur Metani and I am the High Inspector of Justice of Albania. It's a pleasure and an honour to be part of this Assembly and to address you on behalf of the European Network of Justice Inspection Services (RESIJ). I bring you the greetings of the President of RESIJ, Mr. Stéphane Noël, who was unfortunately unable to be here today, as well as the greetings of my colleagues within RESIJ.*

RESIJ is an international association established in 2017. Its primary mission is to bring together the Judicial Inspection Services of the Member States and Candidate Countries of the European Union, with the aim of mutually enriching their methodologies and practices, as well as developing joint studies and missions in the interest of improving justice systems.

At present, RESIJ consists of nine members: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, France, Italy, Moldova, Portugal and Romania.

The activities of the Network are focused on several fundamental objectives: developing common standards for evaluating the functioning and performance of judicial systems; identifying and promoting shared guarantees in the fields of ethics and professional competence; exchanging best practices and providing specialized expertise; and formulating and communicating recommendations and concrete proposals to European Union institutions and to national and international organizations operating in the field of justice.

Since its creation, RESIJ has developed close cooperative relations with CEPEJ. Under the auspices of CEPEJ and within the framework of the Council of Europe's South Programme, our Network has actively participated in exchanges and joint activities with ARNJS (the Arab Network of Judicial Inspection Services). We are currently in the final stage of drafting an official cooperation protocol, which will institutionalize relations between the two networks and establish a sustainable framework for long-term cooperation.

RESIJ has also successfully carried out joint missions with several European judicial inspection services, contributing to important international initiatives.

These include projects on the evaluation of European civil justice, the protection of vulnerable adults, and the most recent project funded by the European Commission, COPEIJ "Cooperation in Environmental Protection through National Justice Inspection Authorities." This project engaged, over a two-year period, five inspection services from RESIJ member countries: France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, and Albania.

In December 2023, RESIJ published its first Comparative Study on the organization and functioning of the judicial inspection services of its member countries. This study is continuously updated and expanded to reflect the new challenges and priorities facing justice systems. Among the topics currently being addressed are the use of artificial intelligence in the administration of justice, strengthening institutional integrity and preventing corruption within the judiciary.

These initiatives demonstrate RESIJ's ongoing commitment to contributing to the modernization, transparency and effectiveness of judicial systems, while strengthening European cooperation in the service of higher-quality and more trustworthy justice for citizens.

On a personal note, I am very pleased to be here today, addressing you on behalf of RESIJ. The first contact between the Office of the High Inspector of Justice of Albania and RESIJ was made possible precisely thanks to the support of CEPEJ. In June 2021, CEPEJ facilitated contact between the High Inspector of Justice and the French Inspectorate, which at that time held the presidency of RESIJ, and conveyed the Albanian institution's interest in becoming part of the Network.

Today, in my capacity as the High Inspector of Justice of Albania, I have the privilege of presenting before this distinguished Assembly, on behalf of RESIJ, the request to grant the European Network of Justice Inspection Services observer status with CEPEJ, expressing our conviction that this cooperation will bring added value to both institutions and to the European justice community as a whole.

Considering CEPEJ's valuable contribution over many years to improving the quality, efficiency, and functioning of judicial systems across Europe, and given our full willingness to share in a structured manner our studies, experience, and professional expertise, RESIJ would consider it a great honor to be granted official observer status with CEPEJ. We are convinced that this status would constitute an important bridge for institutional cooperation in pursuit of the objectives we share: a justice system that is more efficient, more transparent, of higher quality and more accountable to citizens.

As the High Inspector of Justice of Albania, thanks to the continuous cooperation since 2020 with the Council of Europe and CEPEJ, I have had the opportunity to become closely acquainted with the high level of expertise that this Commission offers in many areas of justice administration and evaluation. At the same time, I believe that RESIJ can bring complementary added value in a highly specific and specialized field that is currently absent within CEPEJ's framework: justice inspection.

## HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE NEWSLETTER

This is because the Inspection Services that make up our Network place at the center of their daily activities the assessment of the functioning of courts and prosecution offices, the inspection of the professional activities of judges and prosecutors, and the identification of mechanisms that contribute to the integrity, efficiency and quality of the judicial system. This expertise is continuously enriched through regular exchanges among Network members, as well as through cooperation with European counterparts and other international partners.

An efficient justice system cannot be measured solely through statistics, productivity indicators, or the duration of judicial proceedings. Although these indicators are essential for assessing performance, they do not always reveal the true causes of the problems affecting the functioning of the judiciary, nor do they fully reflect the quality of justice delivered to citizens.

It is precisely at this point that justice inspection services play an irreplaceable role. Within our respective jurisdictions, inspection structures perform an important function.

They help identify systemic deficiencies, procedural delays, organizational challenges and risks, that may undermine the functioning of the judiciary. Particularly in countries undergoing profound justice reforms, inspection services can play a key role in ensuring institutional stability, coherence, and continuity of professional standards.

At the same time, they contribute to safeguarding judicial independence by ensuring that accountability mechanisms are fair, objective and consistent with European standards. For RESIJ, maintaining this balance between accountability and independence remains a fundamental priority. Our mission is not limited to monitoring performance; it also aims to promote a culture of continuous institutional improvement, grounded in professionalism, transparency and public trust. The ongoing expansion and consolidation of our Network reflects the growing importance of this mission.

With this I conclude my presentation and official request for RESIJ application and wish you a good rest of the day.

Thank you.



## JUNE OF HIJ IN NUMBERS

During **June 2026**, the Office of the High Inspector of Justice administered **163 complaints** which **160** of them were submitted by **citizens** and **3** by institutions . The Office ensured the standardized confirmation process of receiving complaints for newly submitted complaints in accordance with procedural requirements.

Complaints involving judges and prosecutors were assigned to Inspectors and are currently at different stages of processing, including initial review, archiving, verification, or draft decision issuance.

ARCHIVED	VERIFICATION	DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING	INSPECTION
<p><b>Out of 154 cases reviewed, 79 decisions were rendered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 55 archiving decisions after initial review</li> <li>· 24 archiving decisions after verification</li> </ul>	<p><b>25 verification decisions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>1 decision on the conclusion of a disciplinary investigation</b> concerning 1 magistrate (Member of the High Prosecutorial Council)</li> <li>- <b>1 request for the initiation of disciplinary proceeding</b> concerning 1 magistrate (Member of the High Prosecutorial Council)</li> </ul>	<p><b>1 completed inspection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “On the processing of the indictment material by the prosecutor, within the framework of the elements defined in the Code of Criminal Procedure. Inspection carried out in the Prosecutor’s Offices at the Courts of First Instance: Korçë, Saranda, for the period 01.01.2024-31.12.2024.”</li> </ul>

## COMPLAINT PROCESS AT HIJ

To facilitate this process for interested persons, HIJ has published on the official website a special complaint form, which:

- Can be completed directly and submitted online;
- Can be downloaded, completed and sent by email to [info@ild.al](mailto:info@ild.al) or by mail at the address Boulevard "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Building no.13, Tirana.
- It can also be completed by being present personally at the Office of the High Inspector of Justice and if necessary, asking assistance by the team of the Complaints and Public relations Office.

Within 5 days Upon receiving the complaint, the High Inspector of Justice confirms in writing its receiving.

The criteria for the admissibility of the complaint are published on the official website of HIJ [www.ild.al](http://www.ild.al), in the section "How complaints are accepted".

## SECTION/ VOICE OF THE INTERNS



**Annabell Cupi** is a talented young legal professional, born and raised in London, United Kingdom, with family roots in Burrel, Albania. She graduated with (“Distinction”) in both her postgraduate legal studies and Master’s degree at the Inns of Court College of Advocacy and the University of Law in London.

In the near future, Annabell is expected to be formally called to the Bar of England and Wales by the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, qualifying as a Barrister at Law; a specialist branch of the legal profession with full rights of audience and representation before the courts of England and Wales.

Through this professional journey, Annabell aspires to contribute to strengthening the ties between the Albanian diaspora and the legal and institutional development of Albania.

Most recently, as part of this mission, she successfully completed an intensive three-week internship at the High Inspector of Justice (HIJ). This experience provided her with an in-depth understanding of the accountability mechanisms and ongoing justice reform processes in Albania, serving as an important bridge for cooperation and the exchange of British legal expertise with Albanian institutions.

Annabell shares more about this experience through the following questions.

### 1. What encouraged you to choose the Office of the High Inspector of Justice to complete your internship?

My interest in the Office of the High Inspector of Justice developed through my wider engagement with Albania’s justice system and the ongoing judicial reform process.

On 24 February 2024, the British Albanian Lawyers Association hosted an event at the Embassy of Albania in London, where the High Inspector of Justice, Mr Artur Metani, was the keynote speaker. Prior to this, I had already begun developing my understanding of the Albanian judicial system by attending events such as “Strengthening the Albanian Justice System – Enhancing UK-Albanian Cooperation, Best Practices and Vetting in Judicial Reform”, which involved discussions with senior members of Albania’s judiciary, including representatives from the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and Administrative Courts.

The event with Mr Metani was particularly memorable. He addressed a wide range of questions concerning the work of the institution, including the review of complaints, disciplinary investigations and proceedings against judges and prosecutors, inspections of courts and prosecution offices, and wider issues concerning the independence of magistrates and public confidence in the justice system. I was especially struck by the clarity, calmness and professionalism with which he responded to complex questions.

That event introduced me to an institution which, although relatively new within Albania’s justice reform framework, plays a vital role in judicial accountability, institutional independence and the protection of the integrity of the justice system. After speaking with Mr Metani and reading the publication “Historia e Përgjithshme e Procesit Disiplinor ndaj Magjistratëve në Shqipëri (1912–2025)”, I was encouraged to apply for an internship. I chose to undertake a substantive period of practice at the Office in order to gain a deeper understanding of the institution and its role within Albania’s legal system.

## 2. What was your first impression when you started the internship?

My first impression when I began the internship was that the Office of the High Inspector of Justice is a highly professional and meaningful institution. It was immediately clear to me that its work plays an important role in protecting the integrity of the justice system and strengthening accountability within the judiciary. As someone who has studied law in the United Kingdom, I found it particularly interesting to observe how principles such as judicial independence, accountability and institutional oversight are applied within the Albanian legal system. I was especially interested in understanding the role of the High Inspector of Justice in reviewing complaints, assessing disciplinary matters and overseeing the conduct of judges and prosecutors. At the same time, I felt very welcomed by the staff. The working environment was professional, structured and supportive, which allowed me to ask questions, learn from those around me and gain a clearer understanding of the institution's daily work.

## 3. Was there any moment or task that made the biggest impression on you?

There were two aspects of the internship that made a particularly strong impression on me: learning the legal framework and then seeing how that framework operates in practice. At the beginning of my internship, the Directorate of Legal Affairs provided me with an introductory explanation of the Albanian legal system, including its civil law foundations, constitutional structure and the specific legal framework governing the work of the High Inspector of Justice. Having completed my legal education in the United Kingdom, which is based on a common law system, I found it extremely interesting to compare the two legal traditions and to understand how Albanian legislation, particularly Law No. 96/2016, regulates the disciplinary process for magistrates. Another memorable aspect was observing meetings with citizens. Some individuals were approaching the institution for the first time and did not fully understand the complaint process, while others were seeking information about the stage or progress of a complaint they had already submitted. It was valuable to see how the institution communicates with citizens who may feel anxious, frustrated or uncertain about their situation. What impressed me was the calm, respectful and professional manner in which citizens were assisted. The process showed not only the importance of legal accuracy, but also the importance of clear communication, patience and accessibility when dealing with members of the public. I was also able to see the importance of procedural deadlines in practice.

For example, receipt of a complaint must be confirmed within five days, decisions must be notified within the relevant statutory time limits, and investigations must be completed within six months, with the possibility of extension in certain circumstances. Observing these elements in practice helped me understand how the institution combines legal procedure with efficiency, professionalism, and accountability.

## 4. What will you take away from this experience?

From this experience, I will take with me a much deeper understanding of the role of the High Inspector of Justice within Albania's justice system. I now better understand how complaints are reviewed, how admissibility is assessed, how investigations may be opened, and how disciplinary oversight contributes to the integrity and accountability of judges and prosecutors.

I also gained a clearer appreciation of the importance of institutional independence. The work of the Office is not only legal and procedural, but also closely connected to maintaining public trust in the justice system. This experience has helped me understand that accountability mechanisms are essential to ensuring that justice institutions function properly and retain the confidence of the public. On a personal level, the internship has strengthened my interest in

justice, public service and comparative legal systems. It allowed me to connect my legal education in the UK with my interest in Albania's legal development and judicial reform.

## 5. What has been the most interesting aspect of this experience for you?

The most interesting aspect of the experience was seeing how legal principles are applied in a real institutional setting. It is one thing to study accountability, independence and disciplinary procedures in theory, but it is very different to observe how an institution applies those principles in practice. I found it particularly interesting to see the balance between legal procedures and public service. The Office must apply the law carefully and objectively, but it must also communicate with citizens in a way that is clear respectful and accessible. This balance between legal precision and human understanding was one of the most valuable parts of the experience for me. I was also interested in learning how the High Inspector of Justice fits into the wider justice system, particularly in relation to the oversight of judges and prosecutors, the handling of complaints and the protection of public confidence in judicial institutions.

**6. How would you describe the working atmosphere in the institution in a few words?**

I would describe the working atmosphere at the Office of the High Inspector of Justice as professional, structured and supportive. From the beginning of my internship, I noticed that the staff approached their work with seriousness and care, which is essential given the institution's role in judicial accountability, integrity and public trust. The work carried out by the Office requires attention to detail, legal accuracy and a strong sense of institutional responsibility. At the same time, the environment was welcoming and encouraging. I felt able to ask questions, observe different aspects of the institution's work and learn from the people around me. This balance between professionalism and support made the experience extremely valuable.

**7. What message would you give to other students, or young people, who wish to undertake a professional internship in justice institutions or at the Office of the High Inspector of Justice?**

My message to other students and young people would be to take every opportunity to gain practical experience within justice institutions. These experiences allow you to understand the law beyond textbooks and academic study, and to see how legal principles operate in practice. An internship at the Office of the High Inspector of Justice provides valuable insight into judicial oversight, accountability and institutional independence. I would encourage students to be curious, ask questions and make the most of the opportunity to observe the important work being carried out. Even a short internship can teach you a great deal about the responsibility of legal institutions and the importance of maintaining public confidence in the justice system. For me, this experience has been both educational and meaningful, and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in law, justice and public service.





*While assisting the complainants*

The team of complaints office welcomes citizens-complainants every working day from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm, while for increased communication with interested citizens, in addition to communication through the website and official address.

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice has made available the phone number +355 4 2217217. Coordinator for the right to information is part of this sector.



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISIONS

Even during the month of **June 2026**, the Office of the High Inspector of Justice made public announcements of archiving decisions for **8 complainants**, who were unreachable at the addresses communicated by them. In addition to the stands of the HIJ, according to the law, these announcements are also found on our official website and posted in the stands of the municipalities where the complainants come from.



## COORDINATOR FOR THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION

In accordance with the principles and rules provided for in law no. 119/2014 "On the right to information", the coordinator for the right to information in the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, enables every applicant the right to be familiar with public information, as well as communicates according to the need with the applicant regarding the processing of the request for public information.

Requests for information are filed by citizens, legal entities, interested groups, and can be send through the "Albanian Post", e-mail at the address: [info@ild.al](mailto:info@ild.al), as well as the e-mail of the coordinator for the right to information: [elis.kuci@ild.al](mailto:elis.kuci@ild.al)

The information provided in the transparency program is published and continuously updated in the register of requests and responses, within the legal deadline.

*During June 2026, at the Office of High Inspector of Justice, 10 requests for information were received, which were processed in all cases within 5 days (the law provides that a response must be return to the applicant within 10 days).*

## HIJ IN TWITTER



Inspektori i Larte i Drejtesise Artur...  
@ILD\_Albania

Official: RESIJ is now part of the CEPEJ family. So honored to have had the opportunity to present on behalf of RESIJ, the application for observer status at the 46th Plenary Assembly of CEPEJ. This application was approved unanimously marking an important achievement for RESIJ 🙌



Inspektori i Larte i Drejtesise Artur...  
@ILD\_Albania

Metani: If we are to judge the success of the justice reform one day the most significant indicator will not be simply the number of cases processed by the vetting bodies or the individual decisions issued by them but the ability of the new institutions 🙌



From ild.al

14:35 · 6/17/26 · 1.8K Views



Inspektori i Larte i Drejtesise Artur...  
@ILD\_Albania

Mandated by the European Network of Justice Inspection Services to officially present the application for obtaining observer status with CEPEJ, Metani addressed the Assembly, highlighting the contribution of the Network in the field of justiceinspection.



From ild.al

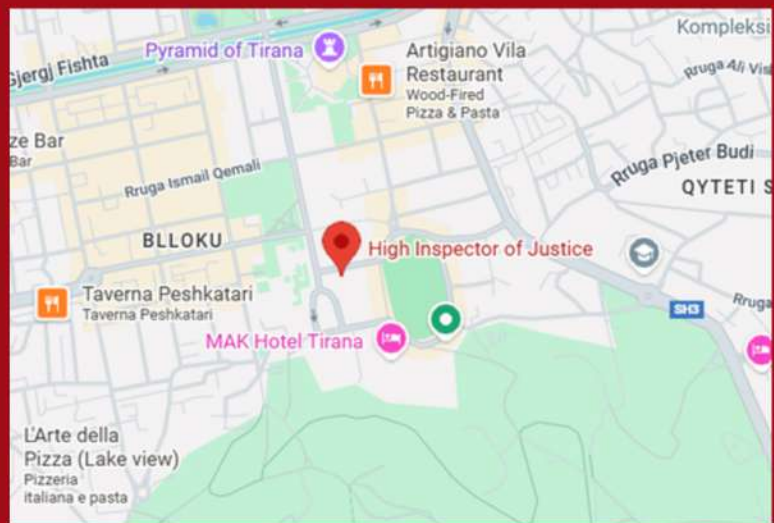
June 2026

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Prezantimi i Inspektorit të Lartë të Drejtësisë  
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)



Më skano!