



**PRESIDENT OF THE  
NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF HUNGARY**

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**To: Dalia Vasariene  
President of the European Network of Council for Judiciary (ENCJ)**

Dear Ms. President Dalia Vasariene,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Judicial Council of Hungary (OBT). The situation of the Hungarian judiciary was in the spotlight throughout the recent years, and our joint efforts have resulted in a legislation that has increased the importance of the judicial self-governance and strengthened the status of the OBT. However, there is another important aspect of the judicial independence which has not been improved.

The European Commission's 2023 Rule of Law Report pointed out that the impact of earlier salary increases of judges and prosecutors has been adversely affected by high inflation, the financial situation of judges and court staff has deteriorated, also compared to the significant wage increases in other segments of society and due to low salaries, courts have difficulties with recruiting and retaining non-judicial staff.

On 7 June 2023, the OBT submitted an official legislative proposal to the Minister of Justice to ensure that judges and judicial staff receive an increase in their salaries at least in line with inflation from 1 September 2023. The OBT recalled that remuneration that reflects the dignity and responsibility of the judiciary is an important component of judicial independence, and that judicial staff turnover also affects the functioning of the courts.

No written reply was received from the Minister. At the OBT meeting in September, the Deputy Minister informed the OBT that the Ministry supports an increase in the salaries of judicial staff, but he did not mention an increase in the salaries of judges.

To date, no action has been taken by the legislative to increase the salaries of judges or court staff.

The net salary of a district court judge aged 30 or above starts at around 550000 HUF (~1400 EUR). The OBT considers it important to state that the current salaries of judges are not adequate with judicial responsibility and that the low salaries of judicial staff often lead to career abandonment. Meanwhile, the salaries of the other two branches of state power, the legislative and the executive, have been significantly increased. The same has happened in other areas of the public sector.

The OBT draws attention to and calls for the support of the ENCJ for an increase in judicial salaries with the reference to the Statement on financial security in the context of judicial independence adopted by the ENCJ Executive Board in May 2023.

Kind regards,

  
Tamás Matusik

