



Stockholm Declaration of Lay Judges in Europe

The European Network of Associations of Lay Judges (ENALJ) representing organisations from the following European countries:

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Hungary
Italy
Northern Ireland
Poland
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland

has agreed the following declaration as a result of its General Assembly held in Stockholm from 12 to 14 May 2017:

1. The participation of lay judges¹ is an essential element of any justice system which wishes to be transparent and comprehensible.

2. In many countries the participation of lay judges is founded in a tradition going back hundreds of years. In a world which is becoming more and more differentiated and specialised, the continued involvement of lay judges will ensure that the justice system is accessible and understandable by the people and always responds to changes in society.

3. Lay judges are a fundamental element of Civil Society. And therefore this Lay Judge Forum explicitly opposes the efforts of any individual European government and parliament to reduce or abolish participation of lay judges.

¹ The term lay judge covers several types of involvement in the delivering of justice and there are a number of roles undertaken by the lay judge such as: lay magistrates, justices of the peace, arbitrators, judges in criminal and civil courts, lay assessors in criminals, expert judges as in juvenile, commercial or agricultural matters.

4. The European Network of Associations of Lay Judges promotes the participation of citizens in justice systems.

5. The General Assembly elected Margherita Morelli from the Associazione Nazionale Giudici di Pace as a member of the new presidency and agreed to hold the European Day of Lay Judges 2018 in Naples/Italy. We invite the Italian Minister of Justice to take part in the European Day as keynote speaker.

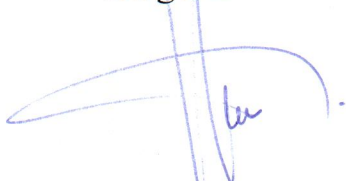
6. It was agreed to refer this common statement from the European Association of Lay Judges to all institutions concerned:

- President of the Republic of Italy
- Chairman of Council of Ministers, Italy
- Ministry of Justice of Italy
- Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties and Justice at the European Parliament
- Chairman of the Justice Committee of the Parliament of Italy

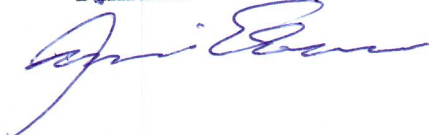
Austria



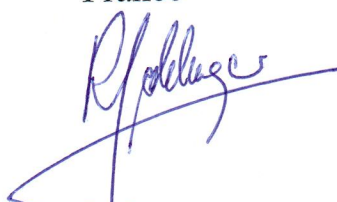
Belgium



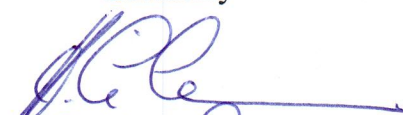
Finland



France



Germany

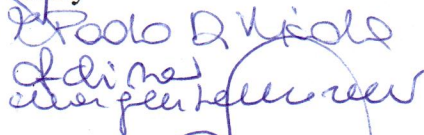


Beldina Carr
Worrell Sans

Northern Ireland

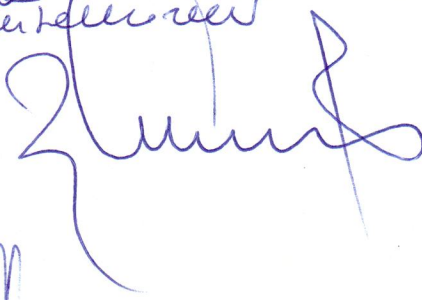


Italy

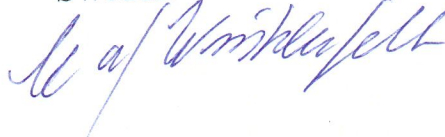


Paolo D. Nobile
Adriano
Carr

Poland



Sweden



Switzerland

