



**Supreme Judicial Council
Republic of Bulgaria**

**Висш съдебен съвет
Република България**

Joint Declaration of Superior Council of Magistracy of Romania and Supreme Judicial Council of Republic of the Bulgaria on mutual support for achieving the objectives provided for by the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism

Superior Council of Magistracy of Romania and Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Bulgaria,

Taking into account the Decisions no.6569 and no.6570 of 13 December 2006 of the European Commission establishing a Mechanism for Cooperation and Verification of the progress of Romania and Bulgaria in order to achieve certain benchmarks in the field of judiciary and the fight against corruption,

Considering that the benchmarks adopted through the two decisions have joint elements for Romania and Bulgaria, such as guaranteeing a more transparent and effective judicial process in the outlook of enforcing the new codes and carrying out professional and independent investigations in cases of corruption,

Noting that Romania and Bulgaria carried out important efforts for achieving the benchmarks set up in the framework of this Mechanism,

Considering that the judiciaries of the two member states of the European Union share common values such as the independence of justice and the observance of rule of law, but also common responsibilities for strengthening the area of freedom, security and justice,

Taking into account the conclusions of the official meetings between the representatives of the two Judicial Councils, that took place in Bucharest on 26 November 2012 and in Veliko Tarnovo on 9 April 2013,

Reaffirming the common interests for fulfilling the benchmarks set up by the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism,

Having regard also to the provisions of the Agreement concluded by the two Councils on 17 May 2007,

Have adopted this Joint Declaration,

1. The Cooperation and Verification Mechanism has been a useful tool for facilitating the fully integration of Romania and Republic of Bulgaria into the area of freedom, security and justice of European Union.
2. Since 1 January 2007, Romania and Republic of Bulgaria, their judiciaries, have achieved important progress in fulfilling the benchmarks assumed in 2006 in the framework of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism.
3. Superior Council of Magistracy of Romania and Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria recall as fundamental values the separation of powers in the state, the independence of justice from interferences of any kind and the observance of the rule of law and express the firm commitment for continuing and intensifying the efforts for achieving the benchmarks.
4. Superior Council of Magistracy of Romania and Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria are committed to mutually inform and consult each other on periodical basis on the CVM progress in each country and, in the same time, to support each other in fulfilling the objectives set up by the CVM;



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5. The two Councils state that efforts supported by all the stakeholders of the two countries, including the executive and legislative powers, in close cooperation with the European Commission, all the benchmarks set up in the framework of Cooperation and Verification Mechanism could be achieved as soon as possible, thus perfecting the European integration of the two states.
6. The two Councils salute the Justice Scoreboard on the Member States' justice systems, published by the European Commission on 27 March 2013, a comparative tool to promote effective justice systems, which contains the progress made by Romania and Bulgaria in the field of justice. The two Councils express their interest and their availability on the evolution of this tool.