

Press Release

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Third European Conference of Judges: "Which Council for Justice?"

Strasbourg, 20.03.2007 – Italy's High Council for the Judiciary will be hosting the Council of Europe's 3rd European Conference of Judges in Rome on 26 and 27 March 2007.

The conference will focus on the structure and role of "high councils for the judiciary" and equivalent bodies.

Because of today's increasing levels of litigation, there is a need for in-depth discussion of practical ways of ensuring public access to a high-quality justice system that is independent, efficient and fair. High councils for the judiciary play a key role in maintaining the balance of power between the executive, legislature and judiciary.

Clemente Mastella, Italian Minister for Justice, Nicola Mancino, Vice-Chair of the Italian High Council for the Judiciary, and Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, will address the approximately 120 participants from the Council of Europe's 46 member states at the opening of the conference at 9.30 am on Monday 26 March.

A **press conference** is scheduled for **2.30 pm on Monday 26 March** (High Council for the Judiciary, Piazza Indipendenza 6) and the entire conference will also be open to the press.

Journalists may obtain **accreditation** from Guido Bossa, Press Service of the Italian High Council for the Judiciary (g.bossa@cosmag.it or c.massanisso@cosmag.it).

The Consultative Council of European Judges, an advisory body of the Council of Europe on issues related to the independence, impartiality and competence of judges, is holding the conference and will issue an opinion on the subject in November 2007. The European Network of Councils for the Judiciary helped organise the conference.

For more information, go to the [special file](http://www.coe.int/ccje) at www.coe.int/ccje.

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