

**ISTANBUL DECLARATION  
ON THE COOPERATION OF THE  
BALKAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS**

We, the Presidents and/or Judges of the Balkan Constitutional Courts of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and the Republic of Turkey,

CONSIDERING that the constitutional courts have an important role to play in ensuring the rule of law for the implementation of basic constitutional rights and individual freedoms;

RECOGNIZING the need to enhance close cooperation among them for the promotion of the rule of law, democracy and human rights through the exchanges of experiences and information on constitutional cases and jurisprudence;

REAFFIRMING our common understanding to build partnership through sharing information and best practices on constitutional cases for the progress of democracy and the promotion of human rights in Balkan Region where we have common historical ties, culture and civilization on the basis of mutual respect and judicial independence;

CONVINCED to make preparations in goodwill and with willingness with a view of possibly establishing an Association of Balkan Constitutional Courts by holding conferences, workshops and symposia among the Balkan Constitutional Courts;

RECALLING the common will we have had during the meeting held in İstanbul, Turkey on 27 April 2017;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. TO ADOPT the decision to form the Forum of Balkan Constitutional Courts which will be an informal platform with the consideration to possibly establish an Association in the future;
2. TO CONVENE the Forum in the Republic of Turkey within two years first then periodically every two years in the other Balkan Countries.

Signed on 27 April 2017 at Dolmabahçe Palace, İstanbul, Turkey  
by the Constitutional Courts of Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
Montenegro, Kosovo, the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Turkey.

Mr. Bashkim Dedja

President

Constitutional Court of  
Republic of Albania

Mr. Mirsad Ćeman

President

Constitutional Court of  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Altay Suroy

Judge

Constitutional Court  
of Kosovo

Mr. Nikola Ivanovski

President

Constitutional Court of  
the Republic of Macedonia

Dr. Dragoljub Drašković

President

Constitutional Court of  
Montenegro

Prof. Dr. Zühtü Arslan

President

Constitutional Court of  
the Republic of Turkey