

To the President of the Network of
the Presidents of the Supreme
Judicial Courts of the European Union
Mr Donal O'Donnell

Dear Mr O'Donnell,

Please allow me to express my highest consideration and to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft contribution of the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union to the 2026 Rule of Law Report.

The Supreme Court supports the draft contribution as presented and considers that it provides a balanced reflection of the key horizontal trends related to the role of supreme courts in safeguarding the rule of law, judicial independence, and effective judicial protection in Europe.

At the same time, I deem it necessary to emphasise that the protection of the rule of law today takes place under unprecedented threats caused not only by open armed aggression, including against Ukraine, but also by a broader range of hybrid challenges affecting many European states. These include attempts to undermine democratic institutions, interference in internal state processes, disinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, and other instruments of influence aimed at weakening trust in justice systems and eroding the rules-based international order.

In this context, the rule of law acquires strategic importance as the foundation of democratic resilience. The ability of the judiciary to maintain its independence, ensure access to justice, and guarantee the protection of human rights constitutes a key element in countering these threats.

I am convinced that strengthening inter-judicial cooperation, solidarity, and support for international accountability mechanisms is essential to ensuring an adequate response to these challenges and to reinforcing Europe's democratic resilience as a whole.

I would also like once again to underline the importance of the Supreme Court's participation in the activities of the Network in the capacity of an observer. For us, such engagement represents not only an opportunity for professional dialogue and exchange of experience, but also an important element of institutional integration into the European legal space and of enhancing the resilience of justice in the context of the ongoing war.

Yours sincerely,

President of the Supreme Court

Stanislav KRAVCHENKO