

## **Scientific–Legal Conference: “The Principle of *Ne Bis in Idem* at the National and International Level: Challenges in Judicial Practice” – 10 April 2026**

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania and the Albanian Chamber of Advocates, with the support of the Association of Albanian Lawyers in Italy, organized today in Tirana a scientific–legal conference on the topic: “*The Principle of Ne Bis in Idem at the National and International Level: Challenges in Judicial Practice.*”

The conference aimed to examine the normative scope and practical application of the *ne bis in idem* principle, with particular emphasis on national and international standards of protection and the challenges arising in judicial practice.

The proceedings, attended by representatives of academia, the legal profession, the judiciary, and the prosecution service, were opened with welcoming remarks by Ms. Fiona Papajorgji, President of the Constitutional Court, Mr. Toni Gogu, Minister of Justice, Prof. Dr. Maksim Haxhia, President of the Albanian Chamber of Advocates, and Ms. Esmeralda Elmazi, President of the Association of Albanian Lawyers in Italy.

In her address, President Papajorgji underscored the importance of sustained dialogue with all actors of the justice system, and, in particular, with the academic community and the legal profession, as a key driver for the development of a jurisprudence reflecting the highest standards in the protection of fundamental rights, in line with the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Highlighting the international dimension of the *ne bis in idem* principle, Mr. Haxhia noted that this principle transcends the confines of a purely procedural rule, emerging as a meaningful test of the maturity of the legal system and its capacity to ensure legal certainty, consistency of case-law, and the effective protection of individual rights.

During the first session, moderated by President Papajorgji, the *ne bis in idem* principle was examined within the national and European legal orders, with a focus on constitutional and European standards governing its application, as well as recent developments in the case-law. In this context, Ms. Marsida Xhaferllari, Judge of the Constitutional Court, presented on the topic “*The Principle of Ne Bis in Idem in Constitutional Jurisprudence.*”

The second session, moderated by the Chamber Chair Maksim Haxhia, focused on the main challenges encountered in judicial practice and on the international dimension of the principle, addressing, in particular: the identity of facts as opposed to their legal classification, the interaction between criminal and administrative proceedings, the authority of *res judicata*, and the challenges of international judicial cooperation.

At the conclusion of the conference, the importance of further harmonizing judicial practice was emphasized, and recommendations were put forward with a view to strengthening the consistency of case-law and improving Albanian legislation in line with European and international standards.