NADAL NETWORK

NETWORK OF THE PROSECUTORS AT THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

NADAL BELGIUM 2026

The 2026 BRUSSELS DECLARATION

of the Network of Prosecutors General or equivalent institutions at the Supreme Judicial Courts of the Member States of the European Union[1]

The NADAL Network,

Recalling that the Rule of law, as one of the values on which the European Union is founded, constitutes a fundamental foundation of democratic societies and an essential condition for the effective protection of fundamental rights and freedoms;

Emphasising that respect for the Rule of law requires, inter alia, the existence of impartial judicial institutions that are independent in their judicial decision-making, that perform excellently under all circumstances, both in times of prosperity and in crisis situations where the need for security and effective application of the law, both for citizens and the government, is high;

Recalling that standards relating to the Rule of law, the independence of justice and the guarantees of a fair trial have been developed at the European and international levels, notably within the framework of the Council of Europe, the European Convention on Human Rights, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, as well as through the case law of the European courts;

Observing that democratic societies across Europe are experiencing unprecedented unrest due to international, geopolitical developments, and major national challenges that are eroding trust in public authorities and may confront judges and prosecutors with pressures that weaken the independent exercise of their functions;

Considering that the Rule of law as a structuring principle of the European legal order constitutes an essential element of mutual trust between national judicial systems

[1] Hereafter the NADAL Network

Considering that, regardless of the diversity of legal systems and institutional models relating to the organisation of prosecution services, prosecutors general or equivalent institutions at the highest judicial level play an essential role in upholding the Rule of law, maintaining and developing the European Union as an area of freedom, security and justice, and protecting the public interest thereby having a significant impact on public trust and the stability of the institutions.

Therefore the NADAL Network:

- **Affirms its attachment to the Rule of law, to the fundamental principles underlying it, and to the importance of ensuring respect for fundamental rights, in all proceedings, across all jurisdictions represented within the Network ;**
- **Underlines that prosecutors must be able to carry out their functions independently in accordance with the law, in respect of the institutional guarantees provided for by national legal systems and free from any undue pressure, thereby strengthening the foundations of the Rule of law**
- **Encourages the continuation, within the Network, of an open and constructive dialogue, notably through the exchange of experiences and good practices relating to the protection of the Rule of law and the role of prosecution services**

Adopted in Brussels, on 8 May 2026