

Ljubljana-The Hague Convention: an important tool for Judicial Cooperation with Western Balkans

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Abstract

Judicial cooperation with Western Balkans is essential to uphold justice, combatting transnational crime, and safeguarding human rights. It could facilitate the exchange of information and evidence. A recent initiative aimed at promoting judicial cooperation is the Ljubljana-The Hauge Convention, also known as the MLA Convention, which was adopted at the outcome of the Ljubljana-The Hague conference on May 26, 2023. This tool is primarily intended for all states as a practical means to strengthen their capacity to investigate and prosecute international crimes. However, at the same time, it could also contribute to strengthening the Rule of Law in the Western Balkans and, therefore, promote the EU accession process. In fact, Slovenia is one of the main promoters of the Convention, while Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, and Slovakia are included in the list of conference participants.