

Press Release

Lawyers' organizations adopt resolution on the rule of law and the independence of the legal profession in Romania

Berlin/Brussels (DAV). Already 23 international lawyers' organisations, including the German Bar Association (Deutscher Anwaltverein, DAV), have adopted a resolution on respect for the rule of law and the independence of the legal profession in Romania. This is due to serious attacks against these principles, which recently became known.

DAV President Kindermann is extremely concerned about serious violations of lawyers' rights in Romania: "Violations against the rule of law, the fundamental rights of the defence and a fair trial must not be tolerated. The attacks on the Romanian legal profession – some of which have already taken place systematically – violate the free exercise of the legal profession and the right of citizens to a fair trial."

Several recent cases have revealed various practices in criminal proceedings that constitute a serious interference with the rule of law and the independence of the legal profession in Romania. These include, for example, the identification of lawyers with their clients, their political affiliations and the crimes they are accused of. The professional confidentiality of lawyers is violated by subpoenaing them as witnesses in cases against their clients and by abusive searches of their offices.

The resolution calls on the Romanian authorities to respect the rights of the legal profession and to guarantee its independence. **Kindermann** emphasises: "We must not and will not tolerate attacks on the free legal profession in Europe – the DAV stands shoulder to shoulder with our Romanian colleagues to defend the principles of the rule of law."

The resolution goes back to an initiative by the European Presidents' Conference in Vienna in February 2021.

Read the full text of the [Resolution on respect for the rule of law and the independence of the legal profession in Romania](#) here; the list of supporting lawyers' organisations will be continuously updated.