

ILIAS KONSTANTAKOPOULOS

- **Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Court of Appeal of Kalamata, Greece**
 - **Lecturer at the Greek National School of the Judiciary (ESDI)**
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Ilias Konstantakopoulos is a senior Greek Public Prosecutor with 25 years of professional experience in criminal justice, both at national and EU level. Currently serving as Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Court of Appeal of Kalamata, he has handled numerous complex criminal cases, while also overseeing cooperation with law enforcement and judicial authorities.

He is also a lecturer at the Greek National School of the Judiciary (ESDI), in the Prosecutors' training branch, specializing in European Union law. His teaching focuses on the European Arrest Warrant, extradition, the European Investigation Order, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, and the recognition and execution of criminal decisions by Greece within the framework of the European Union.

His professional journey began in 1996 as an attorney at the Athens Bar Association. Following graduation from the National School of the Judiciary (ESDI), in 2001 he became a Public Prosecutor serving in various cities across Greece, including Athens and Piraeus. Over the years, he specialized in prosecuting cases related to organized crime, corruption, terrorism, and financial fraud. For over two years (2008-2010) in addition to his regular duties he was the Prosecutor responsible for combating athletic violence in Piraeus.

From 2012 to 2021, he was seconded to the Permanent Representation of Greece to the European Union as Justice Counsellor. In this capacity, he represented the Hellenic Ministry of Justice in the Council of the EU, actively participating in the negotiations of key legislative instruments in the field of EU criminal law. These included the Regulations for the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the Reform of Eurojust, the Directive on the Protection of the Financial Interests of the Union (PIF), the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2223 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 December 2020 amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 concerning investigations conducted by OLAF, the Counterfeiting of the euro and other currencies, the European Investigation Order, the Freezing and Confiscation of Assets, the Strengthening of the Presumption of Innocence and the Right to be Present at Trial in Criminal Proceedings, the Special Safeguards for Children suspected or accused of a crime, the Right to provisional Legal Aid for citizens suspected or accused of a crime and for those subject to a European Arrest Warrant, the Regulation and Directive on European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS), the Combating Fraud and Counterfeiting of non-cash Means of Payment, the Regulation on European Production and Preservation Orders for electronic evidence in criminal matters. His portfolio also included the developments in the field of Judicial response to Terrorism and of the fight against Corruption. He also assisted with his expertise

the Permanent Representative of Greece at Coreper II and the Greek Minister of Justice, at the Justice and Home Affairs Councils.

During the Greek Presidency of the EU (1st semester 2014) he coordinated the CATS committee, the working party on Co-operation in Criminal Law (COPEN) and the working party on Substantive Criminal Law (DROIPEN-PIF) and chaired the ad hoc Working Party on Mutual Legal Assistance, the European Investigation Order and other legal instruments of criminal judicial cooperation.

He represented the Hellenic ministry of Justice at the European Commission Expert Group (ar.20 par.4 of EPPO regulation) on the establishment of the EPPO. He was also member of the legislative committee of the ministry of Justice on the implementation of the EPPO Regulation

He was the representative of the Greek ministry of Justice at the Council legislative working group and at the European Commission Expert Group regarding the Directive (EU) 2017/541 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA.

He was a member of the Hellenic Ministry of Justice Working Party on Counter Terrorism (2008-2009). In particular he was a member of the working party of the Ministry of Justice dealing with the response to the questions raised by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and analyzed the above mentioned issues to the evaluators during the 1st evaluation visit which took place in the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2009.

He is the Greek contact point of the General Prosecutor's Office to the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) since 2017. He has been a CEPOL (EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training) expert on counterterrorism since 2019. He regularly participates in regional and international prosecutorial networks, including Eurojust coordination meetings, EUROMED Justice, Balkan Prosecutors' fora and the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP).

In the course of seminars at the Greek National School of the Judiciary (ESDI) since 2013, he has trained students of the ESDI in EU criminal law, cross-border procedures, and judicial cooperation mechanisms especially on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, the protection of the EU's financial interests and countering terrorism developments. He has also been invited to speak at more than 30 international conferences and seminars organized by the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), Eurojust, the European Commission, and national justice authorities. His presentations have covered topics such as digitalization of justice, EPPO, Eurojust, anti-money laundering, terrorist financing, and the evolution of European prosecutorial frameworks.

He served as a lecturer for senior officers of the Hellenic Police, delivering courses in substantive and procedural criminal law at the Greek

Police Officers Academy (2nd semester, academic year 2011–2012), the Department of Professional Training of Police Second Lieutenants (2011–2012), and the Department of Professional Training of Police Officers – Executives (2010 and 2011).

He holds a Law Degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and a Master's in Criminology from the University of Rome "La Sapienza." He is currently pursuing a PhD at Panteion University of Athens, focusing on prison law and human rights.

His career reflects a consistent commitment to the principles of justice, the rule of law, and European integration. His work combines practical prosecutorial expertise with an in-depth understanding of EU legislative processes, reflecting a long-standing commitment to European judicial cooperation and the rule of law.

He has authored several publications in the field of criminal law and European judicial cooperation. His contributions include:

- "The establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the protection of the financial interests of the European Union", in the "Criminal" series, published in Ant. Sakkoulas, Issue 96 on European Judicial Cooperation and Eurojust-European Public Prosecutor's Office, as well as in the "Essays in European Law" series, Sakkoulas Publications, Issue 12, focusing on judicial cooperation in cross-border cases in the EU.
- "Judicial Deportation", published in the Immigration Law Review, Issue 1/2010.
- "The modern challenges of dealing with crimes in sports facilities and the role of the Attorney General in the light of Law 2725/1999", published in the Criminal Justice journal, Issue 12/2009.

He continues to contribute to academic and professional discussions on European criminal justice, the institutional evolution of EU prosecution mechanisms, and the intersection of national law with European legal frameworks.