

Meeting with a delegation from the Italian Ministry of Justice : discussions on the team around the judge

22/03/2024



On 18 March 2024, the Cour de cassation welcomed a delegation from the Italian Ministry of Justice: Mr Alessandro D'Ancona, Head of the General Affairs Office, Mr Alessandro Gaston, from the *Ufficio per il processo* and Mr Francesco Barracca, seconded judge.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of the team that forms around the judge and, more specifically, the role of the *juristes assistants*, these legal professionals who provide support to magistrates. This function was incorporated into the French Code of Judicial Organisation in 2016. A number of *juristes assistants* work at the Cour de cassation, either in the Documentation, Research and Reporting Department (SDER) or at the bench and the prosecutor's office in all the chambers. In Italy, the "*Addettis all'Ufficio per il processo*" have been supporting the magistrates of the Italian Court of Cassation since 2021. Given the recent arrival of these functions in judicial organisations, it is important to discuss best practices for integrating and working with these professionals.



Ms. Florence Marguerite, judge referee and special advisor to the First president for relations and reforms of the Court, and Céline Marilly, judge referee and deputy to the director of the Documentation, Research and Reporting Department, presented the functions and duties of *juristes assistants* at the Cour de cassation. In particular, they explained how these professionals have been integrated into the court's teams and how this position is set to evolve in the coming years, particularly following the 2023-2027 Ministry of Justice Orientation and Programming law.

Ms Marguerite and Ms Marilly shared with the Italian delegation their thoughts on recruitment methods and the training of these legal professionals. The role of the magistrate in the training and management of the jurists was highlighted.

The Italian delegation presented the workings and tasks delegated to the *addetti all'Ufficio per il processo*. Finally, Mr Timothé Jacob, from the Documentation, Research and Reporting Department, Ms Mathilde Desbrosses, of the fourth section of the criminal chamber, and Mr James Geist-Mokhefi of the international relations department, shared their experiences and missions within the Cour de cassation.

The visit provided an opportunity to exchange best institutional practices and to strengthen the excellent relationship between the Cour de cassation and the Italian institutions and courts. The working meeting on 18 March 2024 is a continuation of the closer cooperation initiated by First President Christophe Soulard and his counterpart First President Margherita Cassano, as was the visit by Florence Marguerite and James Geist-Mokhefi to Rome in January 2024.

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