



Paris, November 29<sup>th</sup> 2019

We, the undersigned, as the leaders of the legal communities in Germany, Paris and Warsaw, stand together in protesting against the continuing violation of the independence of the judiciary and thus of the rule of law by the Polish executive and legislative authorities.

The security of all European Union citizens and the protection of their rights and freedoms require the independence of the judiciary, the separation of powers and the rule of law to be respected.

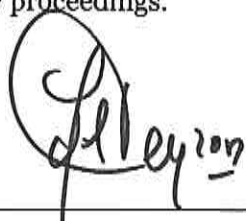
In light of the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 which indicated guidelines for assessing the independence and impartiality of the judicial authority, it is necessary to reiterate that the reforms of the judiciary in Poland over the past four years are incompatible with the basic principles and values under European Union law. This is particularly true with regard to the laws that provided the executive authorities powers in Poland with significant influence over the National Judiciary Council. They established two new politically influenced Supreme Court Chambers and introduced new regulations concerning disciplinary proceedings against judges, prosecutors and advocates.

We observe that the potential threats to the rule of law stemming from these reforms have now been transformed into real and concrete repressions against those struggling to uphold common European principles of law and who oppose the unconstitutional reforms introduced by the Polish authorities, in particular - against judges, prosecutors and advocates.

We call upon the Polish legislative and executive authorities to take all necessary steps to restore the rule of law, the independence of judiciary and to maintain the strict autonomy of the bars and the legal professions especially as regards disciplinary proceedings.

  
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Mikolaj Pietrzak  
Dean of the Warsaw  
Bar Association of Advocates

*Edith Kindermann*  
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