## ORDRE DES AVOCATS A LA COUR DE PARIS

Le Bâtonnier

Mr Mikolaj Pietrzak Dean of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates

The Council of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates

Al . Ujazdowskie 49 00-536 Warsaw Poland

Paris, January the 8th 2021

Mr President, Members of the Council,

At the beginning of this new year, allow me to wish you all the best for 2021.

I take the opportunity of this letter to thank you for your constant and strong commitment for your Bar and the legal profession in Poland especially in the light of our common initiative, the "Weimar Lawyers' Triangle".

I am deeply attached to this Triangle that we - the *Deutscher Anwaltverein*, the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates and the Paris Bar - built together in 2019 to monitor the state of the Rule of Law in Europe. It seems to me that we have achieved a lot since 2019 and I very much look forward to the next steps we might take together.

I have the firm opinion that democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights are interlinked, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. It is our responsibility, as lawyers, to act as "watchdogs" and keep up the pressure on our governments to ensure the respect for the rule of law as the cornerstone of common values we share with the European Union.

Therefore, I very much look forward to further cooperation between our Bars,

Bet regard

Yours sincerely,

Olivier Cous