



EUROPEAN BARS FEDERATION

Mr Andrzej Duda,

President of the Republic of Poland,

11 August 2017

Dear Mr Duda,

Constitutional change in Poland in respect of the judicial system.

I write on behalf of the Federation of European Bars (Federation des Barreaux d'Europe FBE) which represents 250 local law societies and bar associations of Europe and their 800,000 members.

We are seriously concerned at the constitutional changes which impact on the independence of the judicial system in Poland, and threatens the rule of law.

We appreciate and welcome Your Excellency's decision to exercise the veto in respect of the Act on the National Council of the Judiciary, and the Act on the Supreme Court.

However, the Law on Common Courts Organisation is still at issue, having as it does a negative impact on the independence of the judiciary. As the European Commission has published the Rule of Law Recommendation which confirms that the proposed reforms increase the threat to the rule of law, and risks triggering Article & (1) of the Treaty of the European Union.

Like Poland, we hold strong and common values throughout the European Union, and the Rule of Law is central to these values. But reducing the independence of the judiciary violates the value of the Rule of Law.

We respectfully urge Your Excellency to exercise the President's right of veto and to refrain from signing the Law on Common Courts Organisation, and take all necessary steps to prevent its entry into force.

I am your respectful servant,

Sara Chandler

Professor Sara Chandler QC (Hon), President of the Federation of European Bars

FEDERATION DES BARREAUX D'EUROPE

EUROPEAN BARS FEDERATION

VERBAND EUROPÄISCHER RECHTSANWALTSKAMMERN

FEDERACION DE LOS COLEGIOS DE ABOGADOS DE EUROPA

FEDERAZIONE DEGLI ORDINI FORENSI D'EUROPA



EUROPEAN BARS FEDERATION

[Letter copied to:](#)

W Ruthven Gemmell W.S.
President of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe CCBE

Martin Solc
President of the International Bar Association IBA

Maria Ślęzak
President of the International Lawyers Network AEA-EAL

Jonathan Marsh
President of the European Company Lawyers Association – ECLA

Laurence Bory
President of the Union Internationale des Avocats – UIA

David Frølich
President of the International Association of Young Lawyers – AIJA