

President of the Republic of Poland
Andrzej Duda
Kancelaria Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej
Polskiej
ul. Wiejska 10
00-902 Warsaw, Poland

Dear President;

I am writing this to express my grave concern on two legislative amendments which have been adopted by the Polish Parliament on 15 July. I am afraid those amendments would undermine the right to an effective remedy and the right to a fair trial.

Another amendment, of the Law on the Supreme Court, is on the agenda of the lower chamber of the parliament, Sejm, today and raises further concerns over the government's attempt to put the judiciary under political control.

Would you please remind that these amendments are incompatible with the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), all of which bind Poland legally as a state party. And these are also incompatible with the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

So I urge you to refuse to sign the amendments to the Law on the National Council of Judiciary and the Law on Common Courts as they threaten the independence of the judiciary and would undermine the right to an effective remedy and to a fair trial, and any upcoming amendments of the Law on the Supreme Court that threaten rights.

Your prompt attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,