

The Polish Judges Association "Iustitia" hereby informs, that on July 12, 2017 the Sejm – the Polish Parliament adopted the amendments to the Law on the National Judicial Council, which provides inter alia the expiration of the term of office of the current members of the Council and the election of new members by the Sejm. They provide the possibility of blocking the decision of the Council by its political minority and also provide the President of the Republic of Poland the right to elect and appoint a judge.

The second of the adopted laws - amending the Law on the common courts subordinate courts to the Minister of Justice. Among others It deprives judges any form of influence of who will become the President of the Court and grants the Minister of Justice the arbitrary right to appoint and dismiss the presidents of the courts. The law provides the possibility of canceling all existing function judges (presidents, vice presidents, department chairs, etc.) within 6 months without any justification.

In addition, on the same day a draft amendment to the Supreme Court was submitted to the Sejm by the group of the ruling party members of the Parliament. This amendment gives the Minister of Justice the right to remove all current Supreme Court judges and retire them. It also gives the Minister of Justice the right to point the Supreme Court Judges and to let some of them to stay active as the judges. The Minister of Justice will have the exclusive right to propose the candidates for the offices of the Supreme Court Judges.

All those changes breach not only the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, but also the European standards of the rule of law and will result in the end of the democratic rule of law and the end of the independence of the courts and independence of judges.

More information will be available shortly