



VĚRA JOUROVÁ
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. +32-2 295 51 44
cab-jourova-contact@ec.europa.eu

*Brussels,
Ares (2024)2187274*

*Dear President of the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ),
Dear President of the European Association of Judges (EAJ),
Dear President of Judges for Judges,
Dear President of Magistrats Européens pour la Démocratie et les Libertés (MEDEL),*

Thank you for your letter of 20 March 2024, addressed to Commissioner Reynders. As Commissioner Reynders is currently on unpaid leave of absence, I have been asked by the President to take over his portfolio.

Regarding the specific issues raised in your letter, I would like to inform you that the European Commission has been actively monitoring the rule of law situation in Bulgaria, including concerns related to the independence of the judiciary and the fight against corruption. The reported incidents related to Judge Vladislava Tzarigradska are deeply worrying, and we are closely following the developments. Ensuring the safety and independence of judges is paramount for upholding the rule of law and safeguarding fundamental rights in any democratic society. The Commission remains dedicated to supporting efforts to strengthen the rule of law in Bulgaria and across the European Union.

We appreciate the information provided in your letter, as you well know the Commission is monitoring developments concerning the Bulgarian justice system in the context of the annual Rule of Law Report and its follow-up. The 2023 Rule of Law Report¹, adopted on 5 July 2023, covers key developments in all the Member States as regards justice systems, anti-corruption frameworks, media pluralism and media freedom, and other institutional

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2023-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en.

Mr Sylvain Mérenne, President of the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)

Mr Mikael Sjöberg, President of the European Association of Judges (EAJ)

Ms Tamara Trotman, President of Judges for Judges

Ms Mariarosaria Guglielmi, President of Magistrats Européens pour la Démocratie et les Libertés (MEDEL)

Email: secretariat@jai-uim.org



issues relating to checks and balances. Finally, the Rule of Law Report includes recommendations for all Member States, including for Bulgaria.

Once again, thank you for bringing these important issues to our attention. Please be assured of our continued commitment to upholding the rule of law across Europe.

Yours sincerely,



Věra Jourová