

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of First Vice-President Frans Timmermans

Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 29. 10. 2015
BM Ares (2015) 3222289

Dear Mr Regnard,

The President of the European Commission, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, asked the First Vice-President Frans Timmermans to reply to your letter informing the Commission of a letter you wrote to the Croatian Minister of Justice and to the Croatian President of the Parliament regarding a law on the appointment of judges.

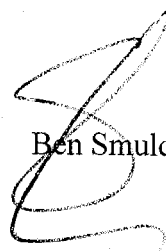
Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying to you.

The Commission takes the issues you have raised in your letter very seriously and places the utmost importance on the principle of the independence of the judiciary, which is an essential principle at the foundation of European democracies and is enshrined in the constitutional traditions common to the Member States of the EU. In this respect I note that the Constitutional Court is examining the constitutionality of this law.

Depending on the outcome of the national court proceedings, the Commission will investigate the matter further, including the issue of effective judicial review of a decision to refuse an appointment of a candidate judge. The issue of protection of personal data may also be considered, although it should be first examined by the national data protection authority.

Thank you once again for your views on the reforms concerning the judiciary in the Republic of Croatia.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Smulders

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