



Mr Michael McGrath
European Commission
Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection

3rd of December 2024

Dear Commissioner,

It gives me much pleasure to write to you to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Commissioner for Justice of the European Union.

I do so in my capacity as President of the European Association of Judges (EAJ).

The EAJ is the European regional group of the International Association of Judges (IAJ). All member states of the European Union are members. The IAJ currently represents national associations of judges from 92 countries across the world which makes it the largest association of judges worldwide. One of the main objects of the IAJ is to safeguard the independence of the judicial authority, as an essential requirement of the judicial function and guarantee of human rights and freedom.

The EAJ closely monitors Justice and Rule of Law initiatives across Europe – including those promoted by the European Union – from the judicial perspective. Our interest in these measures is not political, but is limited to how they may impact on judges in the performance of their functions and in maintenance of the Rule of Law.

In recent years, several developments in different EU members have been detrimental to judicial independence. The EAJ speaks out publicly where such developments take place. For four years the EAJ has contributed actively to the Rule of Law Report of the European Commission. The contributions provide an overview of some main concerns until this year. In our view, the Rule of Law Report is an important tool of the EU Commission to point out specific concerns for the Rule of Law in a member state. However, it seems that the recommendations given by the EU Commission in those reports recently are not followed by all the members, in some cases, they are blatantly ignored.

We hope the new Commission is going to take adequate steps to strengthen the Rule of Law across the EU, including the implementation of the recommendations given in the Rule of Law Reports.

We look forward to continuing our constructive dialogue with the Commission in this area as in all other areas related to the Rule of Law in the EU.

The board of the EAJ has had meetings with your predecessor and hope that it will be possible to set up a personal meeting with you as well.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mikael Sjöberg
President of the EAJ