



## EUROPEAN BARS FEDERATION

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Mr Andrzej Duda,

President of the Republic of Poland,

17 July 2017.

Dear Mr Duda,

### **Constitutional change in Poland in respect of the judicial system.**

I write on behalf of the Federation of European Bars (Federation des Barreaux d'Europe FBE) which represents 250 local law societies and bar associations of Europe and their 800,000 members.

We are seriously concerned at the constitutional changes which impact on the independence of the judicial system in Poland, and threatens the rule of law as a result of the interference of the executive in judicial appointments and the impact of this on democracy in Poland.

The General Assembly of the FBE meeting in The Hague passed the following resolution: "On the 3rd June 2017, the General Assembly of the FBE, which represents 250 member Bars and their 800.000 member lawyers, expressed its grave concerns for the situation of judges and lawyers in Poland, recognizing that there has been an erosion of the independence of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and the administration of justice because of the intervention of the government in the appointment and dismissal of judges, failure to respect the decisions of the Courts and interference in the prosecution service."

On 17 July 2017, the Presidency of the FBE, meeting in Paris, calls upon you as President and the Polish government and parliament to reconsider the changes in law and to stop the ratification of these changes.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sara Chandler QC (Hon), President of the Federation of European Bars

**FEDERATION DES BARREAUX D'EUROPE**

**EUROPEAN BARS FEDERATION**

**VERBAND EUROPÄISCHER RECHTSANWALTSKAMMERN**

**FEDERACION DE LOS COLEGIOS DE ABOGADOS DE EUROPA**

**FEDERAZIONE DEGLI ORDINI FORENSI D'EUROPA**

3 rue du Général Frère F-67000 STRASBOURG

Tel. +33 388 371 266 - Fax. +33 388 368 752 [www.fbe.org](http://www.fbe.org)