

## **Statement of the Union of Judges of the Czech Republic on the Situation in Poland**

The Czech Union of Judges shares the reservations of the Polish public protesting against the measures proposed by executive and legislative branches and perceives them as legitimate. We consider the dismissal of judges solely by executive power to be the most serious violation of constitutional principles. Such a system would be manifestly contrary to the notion of judicial independence in any democratic state governed by the rule of law. For this reason, we welcome the veto of two controversial bills by President Duda.

The changes to Poland's judiciary that were to be implemented according to the legislative proposals contradict the principles enshrined in numerous international treaties, declarations and statements. We particularly refer to the Montreal Universal Declaration of the Independence of Justice, the Basic Principles of the Independence of the Judiciary of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration on the Independence of Justice (“Singhvi Declaration”, 1985), the Procedures for the Effective Implementation of the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary (Resolution RE 1989/60, May 1989), and the Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)12 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.