



Today the European Association of Judges (EAJ) sent an open letter to the President of the European Commission.

Quoting our letter:

“In recent times the EAJ has received many representations from judges from across Europe voicing their fears not only for the position of individual judges in Poland but also for the damage being done beyond Poland to the mutual trust in the legal systems of the Member States which is fundamental to the working of the European legal order.”

Concluding this statement, EAJ, “inter alia”, asked the European Commission to apply to the Court of Justice for a penalty payment namely regarding the disobeying of the Court’s order of April 8th 2020 and also to continue the infringement procedure regarding the so-called Polish “muzzle law” combining the respective motion to the Court of Justice, for instance, with a motion for an expedite procedure and interim measures.

The day before, the Special Rapporteur for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers also addressed a letter to the President of the European Commission denouncing that the Polish authorities “have continued undermining the work and function of the Polish judiciary through force retirements, disciplinary proceedings, and bogus claims to discourage and silence their work.” EAJ strongly endorsed this statement from Mr. Diego Garcia-Sayán.

In the crucial moment the European Union is living, EAJ trusts that the European Commission will attend these appeals, fulfilling its duties as guardian of EU treaties.

Jose Igreja Matos

The President of the European Association of Judges