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The European Association of Judges deeply regrets the decision of the President of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Andrzej Duda, to sign into law the two bills approved in recent days by both houses of the Polish Parliament.

The new legislation undermines the independence of the courts and the independence of the judges and leads to a politicization of the judiciary.

The main scope of the present reform is to subordinate the judiciary to the executive in violation of the principle of separation of powers. Therefore, its implementation represents a major threat to our consolidated European values and to essential pillars of Rule of Law and Democracy.

The European Association of Judges strongly appeals to Polish authorities to take into account the international concerns expressed by numerous relevant institutions and to reconsidered their options, following the Rule of Law Recommendations, which had been established by the European Commission, setting out to remedy the current situation. These recommendations show the right way to find back to a situation, in which independent judges can exercise their duty to provide justice to their fellow citizens.

The European Association of Judges declares its total commitment to continue its efforts, on a national and international level, to safeguard Judicial Independence in Poland.

**José Igreja Matos**

*(President of the European Association of Judges)*