

Judicial Communications Office

26 MAY 2017

STATEMENT OF THE JUDGES' COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND ON JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IN POLAND

The European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (the 'ENCJ') issued a press release on 26 April 2017, expressing grave concern about developments which are taking place in Poland in relation to the judiciary in that country. The press release can be found at <https://www.encj.eu/>. The statement highlights in particular, that draft legislation currently being considered includes: the possible dismissal of all presidents and vice-presidents of common courts and subsequent appointment of new presidents by the executive; the setting up of disciplinary chambers consisting of peoples' representatives in the Supreme Court; and the dismissal of the presidents and a substantial number of judges of the Supreme Court.

The Judges' Council of Northern Ireland, a non-political body which represents independent judges in Northern Ireland, expresses its shared grave concerns about the reported situation in Poland and any impact on judicial independence.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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