



**The President**

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Paris, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

**To**

**The Prime minister of the Slovak Republic  
Mr. Robert FICO  
Námestie slobody 1  
813 70 Bratislava  
SLOVAKIA**

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you on behalf of the European Association of Judges (EAJ), regional group of the International Association of Judges (IAJ).

EAJ is an association of national judges associations from 44 countries in Europe. According to its statute foremost objects of the EAJ are to strengthen and support the rule of law in all countries, especially in Europe, to protect and foster judicial independence and impartiality, to safeguard the interests of the judiciary as an essential requirement of the judicial function and guarantee of human rights and freedoms and to promote the constitutional and moral standing of the judiciary. EAJ has consultative status with the Council of Europe and with several other international organisations.

The Slovakian association of judges (Združenie Sudcov Slovenska) is a member of EAJ.

During the last EAJ meeting in Limassol (Cyprus), the general assembly was informed by the representatives of the Slovakian association of judges that political and media campaign against judges recently unleashed in Slovakia.

Moreover, they explained that a new constitutional reform was considered in Slovakia regarding the appointment/election of members of the high judicial council and the possibility for the National Security Authority, part of the executive power, to deliver a clearance based on undefined foundations and scopes, to allow judges to continue their duties.

This draft reform does not seem in compliance with international standards, specially with the recommendation CM/Rec(2010)12 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on judges “*independence, efficiency and responsibilities*” adopted on 17 November 2010.

That’s why EAJ expresses its concerns about this situation and invites you to take efforts to change it as soon as possible.

According to the statutes and practices of our association, I sent these questions to the internal working group of EAJ in charge of the evaluation of the situation in the member states.

I am naturally at your disposal for any further information.

Respectfully

Christophe REGNARD  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christophe Regnard', enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.