



*The President*

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President  
JUDR. Stefan HARABIN  
Najvyšši Sud Slovenskej Republiky  
Zupné námestie 13  
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Re: Concerns about recent developments infringing the judiciary in Slovakia

Distinguished President,

The Slovakian Association of Judges (ZZS) informed the European Association of Judges about amendments of the Law on Judges concerning nomination and appointment of judicial officers, disciplinary procedures and salaries of judges. This information and other reports which EAJ got from several sources on the situation of the judiciary in Slovakia were discussed at the plenary meeting of EAJ in Malta on May 6th 2011.

Concerns arised that some developments in Slovakia are a step backwards and tend to weaken the judiciary. The balance of powers will be disturbed. The remedy to reinforce the trust in the judiciary and in the rule of law cannot be amendmends of the law which are in conflict with international standards, but should consist in means, which guarantee transparency in all procedures including all matters of administration of justice and which avoid and fight against misuse of existing legal provisions.

EAJ will analyse the legal changes in detail and observe further developments. If the Slovakian authorities wish so, EAJ is prepared to enter into dialog . EAJ can share it´s long-standing experiences with problems in different judiciaries worldwide.

Yours respectfully

Gerhard Reissner