



VĚRA JOUROVÁ
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Rue de la Loi, 200
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Dear President Lesmes,

Following your solemn speech on the occasion of the opening of the judicial year in Spain, I would like to take the opportunity to share some views with you.

Let me start by thanking you for the warm welcome and very useful meeting we had at the occasion of my visit to Spain last June. Our discussion helped me understand the dire situation in which the Spanish judiciary finds itself after almost four years of institutional abnormality in the Spanish National Council for the Judiciary, the Consejo General del Poder Judicial (CGPJ), situation which you have publicly described in your speech.

As is publicly known, the Commission's clear position that has been repeatedly expressed, last time in the recommendations accompanying the country chapter for Spain in the 2022 Rule of Law Report, is that Spain should "Proceed with the renewal of the Council for the Judiciary as a matter of priority and initiate, immediately after the renewal, a process in view of adapting the appointment of its judges-members, taking into account European standards".

Therefore, at this point in time, and in coincidence with the views you expressed in your speech, the urgency and absolute priority is to immediately end the interim situation of the CGPJ by proceeding to its renewal, so that the Spanish judiciary recovers its full institutional normality and can thus carry out properly the essential democratic tasks it is responsible for.

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The unblocking of this situation, leading to the recovery of the necessary institutional normality, should then open the way to proceed subsequently with other necessary developments such as the reform of the system of election of CGPJ members, which the Commission considers necessary.

A prolonged blockage affecting the correct functioning of essential State institutions such as the judiciary is harmful to the rule of law in that State and therefore to the State as a whole. The correct functioning of all State institutions, which is the Commission's only interest, should not be part of the political debate, even less should it be taken hostage by that debate. All actors, when playing a constitutional role, should do so in a spirit of mutual loyalty and sincere cooperation, and having only the higher interest of the democratic State and of the citizens in mind.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Věra Jourová