



Maite Pagazaurtundua - European Parliament
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Dear Commissioner Reynders,

On 15 October I expressed my concern about the proposal made by the parties in the Spanish government, PSOE and Unidas Podemos, to reform the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ), which directly affected the independence of the body and allowed political influence by the government, thus breaking the separation of powers.

As you will recall, the government parties wanted to force that, if a three-fifths majority was not reached for the renewal of the body, the 12 members of the judicial career who make up the body could only be elected by an absolute majority -six in Congress of Deputies and six in the Senate-, intensifying the problem until it became a risk for the rule of law in Spain.

Thanks to your judicious request that any reform should be carried out with the agreement of all the parties and that it should avoid politicisation --which I thank you for-- the reform planned by the government was postponed.

However, I regret to inform you that PSOE and Unidas Podemos have now requested in the Congress of Deputies the urgent processing of the Bill that limits the functions of the General Council of the Judiciary. This practically halves the time of the procedure to approve it and therefore the capacity to influence the opposition.

We are facing a new attempt to distribute the political pie that directly affects judicial independence, despite numerous warnings from international institutions, all in an environment of political tension, where nationalism and populism are increasingly a threat to democratic stability.

This accelerated reform is a further blow to judicial independence, which is curtailing the appointments of senior judicial officials with the intention of bending their actions and turning them into subordinates of political power.

I would ask you to intervene, to the extent of your powers, to prevent this unilateral reform which goes to the heart of the rule of law.

Yours sincerely,

Maite Pagazaurtundúa
Member of the European Parliament