



Maite Pagazaurtundua - European Parliament
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Dear President Von Der Leyen,

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 the Congress of Deputies and six in the Senate. This intensified the problem until it became a risk for the rule of law in Spain.

Thanks to the intervention of the Commissioner of Justice, Didier Reynders, who judiciously called for any reform to be carried out with the agreement of all the parties and to avoid politicisation, the planned reform was postponed.

However, PSOE and Unidas Podemos have now requested in the Congress of Deputies the urgent processing of the Bill limiting the functions of the General Council of the Judiciary. This practically halves the time for the procedure to be approved and therefore the capacity of the opposition to influence.

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 appointments to senior judicial posts with the intention of bending their performance and making them subordinate to 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