

## Invitation

# Safeguarding the Rule of Law in Europe

## The importance of an independent judiciary

Thursday, 25 June 2020 | 10 am – 1:15 pm

Conference Languages: English, German, Polish (simultaneous translation)

### Online Conference

The Member States of the European Union have committed themselves in the EU Treaties to the rule of law and democracy. However, in many places, authoritarian political movements, which seek to undermine rule-of-law institutions and procedures and call into question the tripartite division of power and the obligation to respect fundamental and human rights, are growing in strength.

Hence, the independence of the judiciary is under attack. Why is the independence of the judiciary of central importance and who protects it? What is the role of European courts in this field? What will be the impact of the recent ECB judgement of the German Federal Constitutional Court on the cooperation of courts in Europe? In face of the current challenges, how can the protection of the rule of law and human rights in Europe be ensured and extended? How should European institutions, in particular the European Commission as the guardian of the EU Treaties, operate in the upcoming months? And finally, what role should be taken by Germany in the context of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union to start in July 2020?

#### Information

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#### Registration

Please use our online  
registration link:  
[www.institut-fuer-  
menschenrechte.de/rechtsstaat](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/rechtsstaat)

## Programme

### 10:00 Opening of the event

**Michael Windfuhr**, Deputy Director of the German Institute for Human Rights

**Maciej Taborowski**, Ph.D. habil., Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights in Poland

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## Current challenges for the rule of law

### 10:10 Input

**Andreas Bovenschulte**, Mayor of Bremen (partner city of Gdańsk)

**Aleksandra Maria Dulkiewicz**, Mayor of Gdańsk (partner city of Bremen)

## No rule of law without an independent judiciary

### 10:25 Key Notes: The Importance of Judicial Independence

**Prof. Małgorzata Gersdorf**, Ph.D. habil., former First President of the Polish Supreme Court

**Ulrich Maidowski**, Ph.D., Justice of the German Federal Constitutional Court

### 10:45 Debate: The attack on the independence of judges in Poland

**Prof. Włodzimierz Wróbel**, Ph.D. habil., Judge of the Polish Supreme Court

**Prof. Angelika Nußberger**, Ph.D., Member of the Venice Commission; former Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights; Judge of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Moderator: Prof. Armin von Bogdandy**, Ph.D., Director of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law

**Representative of the audience** (asking questions on their behalf) **Grażyna Baranowska**, Ph.D., Human Rights Centre, Poznań

### 11:40 Break

## Ensuring the rule of law in Europe

### 11:50 **Key Note: How can the EU ensure the rule of law and judicial independence of the judiciary in its Member States?**

**Didier Reynders**, European Commissioner for Justice

### 12:00 **Debate: How can Germany contribute to the protection of the rule of law in Europe during its presidency of the EU Council**

**Didier Reynders**, European Commissioner for Justice

**Axel Dittmann**, Director for EU Institutional Affairs, Brexit, EU Coordination, and EU2020 Presidency at the German Federal Foreign Office

**Adam Bodnar**, Ph.D. habil., Prof. of the University of Warsaw, Polish Commissioner for Human Rights

**Prof. Beate Rudolf**, Ph.D., Director of the German Institute for Human Rights

**Magdalena Adamowicz**, Ph.D., Member of the European Parliament

**Moderator: Maximilian Steinbeis**, Journalist, Chief Editor of Verfassungsblog (a blog on constitutional law)

**Representative of the audience: Grażyna Baranowska**, Ph.D., Human Rights Centre, Poznań

### 13:15 **Closing of the event**

#### **Livestream**

The conference will be broadcast in German, Polish and English via livestream: [www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/livestream](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/livestream).

You can directly participate with your questions.

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