



Association of European Administrative Judges/Vereinigung Europäischer Verwaltungsrichter /  
Fédération Européenne des Juges Administratifs  
Associazione dei Magistrati Amministrativi Europei /  
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Europe, 20 March 2023

**President of the Republic of Lithuania**

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**Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania**

Gedimino ave. 53, LT-01109 Vilnius, Lithuania

**Government of the Republic of Lithuania**

Gedimino ave. 11, LT-01103 Vilnius, Lithuania

**Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania**

Gedimino ave. 30, LT-01104 Vilnius, Lithuania

**Lithuanian Council of Judges**

L. Sapiegos st. 15, LT-10312 Vilnius, Lithuania

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**Association of Judges of the Republic of Lithuania**

Gedimino ave. 40, LT-01503 Vilnius, Lithuania

Honourable Madame, honourable Sir,

The Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ) has been following the situation related to judges' remuneration in Lithuania for the past several years. The newest information received from the Board of Association of Judges of the Republic of Lithuania allows AEAJ to conclude that following the general reduction of all Lithuanian public sector employees' salaries in 2009 (as a part of general austerity measures following 2007-2008 financial crisis), judicial salaries have not been raised to the same proportion as salaries of other public sector employees. Thus, judges remain the most 2007-2008 financial crisis-targeted group among other Lithuanian public sector employees. Despite dynamics of economic indicators – the increase of average wages, inflation and others, *neto* salaries of Lithuanian judges (except for district court judges) until 2023 were lower than they were in 2008 – 15 years ago.

The exceptionally long-term “freezing” of judicial salaries might be perceived as a measure specifically adopted to target judiciary. Such long-term policy causes increasing damage to Lithuanian justice system and violates the principle of judicial independence, as well as the rule of law in general. It also raises serious questions regarding its compliance with the criteria established by the CJEU in the case C-64/16 *Associação Sindical dos Juizes Portugueses*.

AEAJ highlights the standards provided in the European Charter on the Statute for Judges of 1998, where Chapter 6, Article 6.1 stipulates that judges exercising judicial functions in a professional capacity are entitled to remuneration, the level of which is fixed to shield them from pressures aimed at influencing their decisions and more generally their behaviour within their jurisdiction, thereby impairing their independence and impartiality.

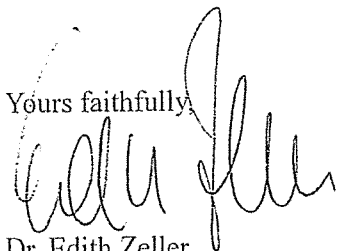
The same provisions are presented in Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)12 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on Judges: Independence, Efficiency and Responsibilities, in particular, Para. 54, which states that judges' remuneration should be commensurate with their profession and responsibilities, and be sufficient to shield them from inducements aimed at influencing their decisions.

In the Opinion No. 1(2001) of the Consultative Council of European judges (CCJE) for the attention of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on standards concerning the independence of the judiciary and the irremovability of judges, the importance of making specific legal provision guaranteeing judicial salaries against reduction and ensuring at least *de facto* provision for salary increases in line with the cost of living is emphasised.

AEAJ recalls that the Bureau of the Consultative Council of European Judges in the Report of 30 March 2020 on judicial independence and impartiality in the Council of Europe Member States provided, that “remuneration of judges in Lithuania is not commensurate with their profession and responsibilities and that as a result they may not be sufficiently protected in terms of their independence and vulnerability to external pressure”.

In the view of the aforesaid, AEAJ expresses its concern that the situation of Lithuanian judicial salaries is not in accordance with the European and international standards. AEAJ also stresses the necessity of taking all necessary measures in order to promptly resolve the problem of Lithuanian judges' remuneration to prevent negative consequences on effective judicial protection and to ensure proper functioning of the judicial cooperation system of the European Union.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Edith Zeller

President of AEAJ