



**COURT OF JUSTICE
OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION**

The President

Luxembourg, 21 March 2018

Sz. Pani Prof. dr hab.
Małgorzata Maria GERSDORF
First President of the Supreme Court
Sądu Najwyższego Rzeczypospolitej
Pl. Krasńskich 2/4/6
PL-00-951 WARSZAWA

Honourable First President of the Supreme Court,

The Annual General Assembly of the Judges of the Supreme Court constitutes a meaningful event to the whole judicial community in Poland. This year's Assembly is of a particular importance, considering the upcoming legislative amendments that modify the structure and the composition of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court, as the most important institution of the judicial system, represents a long lasting tradition. It should be recalled that recently the Supreme Court celebrated the hundredth anniversary of its establishment in the reborn Polish state. The Supreme Court's case-law, firmly anchored in the legal order, has a fundamental impact on the respect of the rule of law and the quality of its application. It should be wholeheartedly emphasized that through its case-law the Supreme Court contributed to the consolidation of the principle of the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights, consistently acting as a guardian of the values of each democratic state – the independence and the impartiality of judicial system. The contributions of the Members of the Supreme Court, and most notably that of the First President of the Supreme Court, Professor Małgorzata Gersdorf, towards defending the rule of law, should be respectfully mentioned.

It should be emphasized that the Supreme Court's case-law has a considerable impact on the stabilization, certainty and predictability of the whole legal order, thus reinforcing the respect of the principle of legal security and the rights of individuals. The preliminary questions referred by the Supreme Court have repeatedly provided grounds for significant interpretative rulings of the Court of Justice. The nature of the judicial dialogue with the European judicial system was perfectly understood within the Supreme Court; that dialogue being a meaningful instrument that ensures the respect for the common values of the European Union such as democracy, equality and the rule of law, thus fundamentally contributing to the consolidation of the common legal space.

On behalf of the Court of Justice, I would like to convey to the First President of the Supreme Court sincere wishes and acknowledgements for future cooperation and to express the belief that the Judges of the Supreme Court are perfectly entitled to experience satisfaction stemming from their service in consolidating the principle of the rule of law.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Koen Lenaerts", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Koen LENAERTS

cc Judge Marek Safjan
Advocate General Maciej Szpunar