



Union Internationale des Avocats  
International Association of Lawyers  
Unión Internacional de Abogados

Rassemblement des avocats du monde • Bringing Together the World's Lawyers • Reunir a los abogados del mundo

**Claudio COGGIATTI**

Président du Comité National Italien de L'UIA  
President of the UIA Italian National Committee  
Presidente del Comité Italiano del la UIA

Rome, April 9, 2020

By email to  
[ambaroma@msz.gov.pl](mailto:ambaroma@msz.gov.pl)

**Polish Embassy in Rome**

Via P. Paolo Rubens, 20  
00197 Roma  
**Italy**

To the attention of H.E. Mr Wojciech Ponkiewski

Your Excellency,

The International Association of Lawyers (UIA) is the world's oldest, most multi-cultural international association of lawyers. Established in 1927 and with members in over 110 countries, UIA is dedicated to international exchange of information and professional development, cross-border networking, and promotion of the Rule of Law.

Over the last several years, our organization has observed with increasing concern various initiatives undertaken in Poland that pose very serious threats to the Rule of Law in Poland. In this context, the UIA Governing Board, at its 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congress in Luxembourg in November 2019, adopted a resolution, which we attach. By this resolution, UIA affirms its commitment to the protection of the Rule of Law and the independence of the judiciary and expresses its utmost concerns about the alarming attempts by Polish authorities to undermine these tenets.

As the Italian Committee of UIA, we would like to express our full support of the UIA's resolution and note with grave concern that since the adoption of this resolution, threats against the Rule of Law in Poland have escalated.

We therefore echo UIA's renewed concerns with respect to:

- the incidents endangering the free exercise of the legal profession, including attempts to breach or weaken the attorney-client privilege; hate crimes against lawyers; disciplinary actions against lawyers who publicly dared to criticize the system;
- the appalling consequences of the wide-ranging judicial reform in Poland, which commenced in 2015 and has targeted crucial judicial institutions - notably via the recently adopted amendments to the Law on Organization of the Common Courts, the Law on the Supreme

Court, and various other Laws – and is eroding the independence of the judiciary and undermining the Rule of Law in Poland;

- different attacks against judges and prosecutors, including defamation campaigns against those who are opposed to the changes affecting the justice system; disciplinary proceedings and sanctions against judges; the dismissal and replacement of hundreds of judges and prosecutors; the appointment of new presidents of courts on doubtful grounds.

We join UIA's demands and respectfully request the relevant Polish authorities to reconsider their position and take all necessary steps to ensure full respect of the principles of the Rule of Law, including the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary in Poland.

Keeping in mind that Poland is a member of the European Union and the Council of Europe, we, as the Italian national committee of UIA, urge you to intercede with the relevant Polish authorities, insisting that they fully comply with Poland's international and European obligations and immediately implement the binding judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union and of the European Court of Human Rights. We also ask that you please convey UIA's concerns to the relevant Polish authorities.

We thank you for your kind attention to this urgent matter.

Respectfully yours.

**Avv. Claudio Coggiatti**

(digitally signed)