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**LITHUANIAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

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**President Andrzej ZWARA**  
**Naczelna Rada Adwokacka - The Polish Bar Council**  
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Vilnius, Lithuania

*Dear President Andrzej Zwara,*

We would like to express sincere compliments to the Polish Bar Council and personally to you.

On behalf of the Lithuanian Bar Association we would like to acknowledge our successful co-operation strengthening the promotion of justice, protection of the human rights and sharing the best practice.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, around one thousand Poland judges participated in an extraordinary congress held in Warsaw. In this congress the disapproval of the government actions to politicize the legal system, to take over control of the legal system and to limit the role of the Constitutional Tribunal (the highest judicial authority) was expressed. The judges are worried on the reforms of the legal system that are being kept confidential from public. It should be noted that the dissatisfaction of the society has already been expressed when the government tried to control the media.

Please be informed that Lithuanian Bar Council in the previous meeting discussed the situation of the legal professions in Poland. Lithuanian Bar Council would like express the support for the Polish judges and to all the participants of the legal system who bravely defend the rule of law principle and the freedom of speech. Lawyers' responsibility is not only to consolidate but also to defend the principle of the rule of law on which democratic society rely on. It is a duty of professional standards and the belief in the ideals of justice.

Disagreements in Poland, one of the Central and Eastern European leaders in the region, weakens the entire region and the EU's stability. Strong neighbours are particularly important for

Lithuania. We all know that Lithuania and Poland share exceptional geographical, historical and legal ties, that have been established in the legal acts, as Statutes, that were a good example for many European countries.

We hope that disagreements between the legislative and judicial powers in Poland will be solved under the rule of law, respecting its principles demonstrating the democratic maturity and mobilizing the whole society.

We believe that our cooperation would be also beneficial to the development of human rights in the Eastern Europe and would promote safety and international peace. We are looking forward to further cooperation with the Polish Bar Council. If you have any questions or detailed information, please let us know.

Yours faithfully,

*Chairman of the Council of Lithuanian Bar Association*

*Prof. dr. Ignas Vėgėlė*

