Justice

<u>en</u>

Press release | 24.09.2018

Commission refers Poland to ECJ over independence of Supreme Court

Quote from Ska Keller and Philippe Lamberts

On the news that the European Commission <u>has referred</u> Poland to the European Court of Justice over the independence of the Polish Supreme Court, **Greens/EFA** co-presidents **Ska Keller** and **Philippe Lamberts** comment:

"A strong and independent judiciary is fundamental to the rule of law in a functioning democracy. The Polish government's attacks on the Supreme Court threaten this and are utterly incompatible with European values.

"We welcome that the European Commission has sent this troubling case to the European Court of Justice and demand that the Polish government repeals their attempts to undermine the independence of the courts. Polish citizens are EU citizens and their rights must be protected, this move by the Commission is a recognition for all those who defend democracy and rule of law in Poland.

"It's time for EU Member States to decide on rule of law proceedings against the Polish government, which have been on the table since December. The Polish government must prove that it is committed to European values of judicial independence and the rule of law."

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