

The President

Ms Valentyna Danishevsk
President of the Supreme Court of
Ukraine

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Strasbourg, 29 September 2021

Dear President Danishevsk,

I thank you for your letter of 21 September.

Achieving an independent judiciary in Ukraine is a goal which the Venice Commission shares with you and with the Ukrainian people. The Commission and the Council of Europe have devoted decades of their work and energy towards this goal.

It is our common concern and of the utmost importance that the High Judicial Council start exercising its constitutional functions in an efficient and independent manner as soon as possible. It is equally important that the High Qualification Commission of Judges should be set up and become operational as soon as possible. It is therefore an absolute priority that the Ethics Council should be constituted as soon as possible. The international candidates have already been submitted by the international partners of Ukraine. It is now the turn of the Council of Judges, which should provide its candidates with no further delay.

Indeed, any measure, action, inaction or procedure resulting in a delay in the setting up of the Ethics Council could result in irreparable damage to the realisation of an independent and efficient judiciary in Ukraine. It is the responsibility of all to implement the judicial reform.

As soon as the Ethics Council is set up, it will be able to proceed with the execution of both its tasks: the selection of candidates for appointment to the High Council of Justice and the vetting of the sitting judges.

I have been informed that the competition launched by the Verkhovna Rada to fill two vacancies on the HCJ has been completed. It will thus be among the first tasks of the Ethics Council to screen the relevant candidates, thereby enabling the Verkhovna Rada to nominate two members of the HCJ. Indeed, as you rightly pointed out, the Ethics Council should carry out and organize its work so as not to cause any disruption in the work of the High Council of the Judiciary. I am confident that it will.

Yours faithfully,



Gianni BUQUICCHIO