ENP-002301/2021Answer given by Mr Reynderson behalf of the European Commission(3.8.2021)

The Commission is aware of the decision of the Constitutional Tribunal to which the Honourable Members refer.

The Polish Ombudsman is an independent body defending equality and fundamental rights of citizens. It plays a key role in promoting and protecting equal treatment of people living in Poland in its role of designated equality body under EU law[[1]](#footnote-1). It is important that this institution remains independent and can play its important role as a rule of law safeguard, as set out in the 2020 and 2021 Rule of Law Report country chapters for Poland.

Following five unsuccessful attempts, on 9 July 2021, the Sejm appointed a new Ombudsperson, with cross-party support. The new appointee was approved by the Senate on 21 July 2021.

The Commission’s overall concerns about rule of law developments in Poland are well known and the Commission will continue to address them with the means at its disposal.

1. Notably under Directive 2000/43 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22 and Directive 2006/54/EC on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (recast), OJ L 204, 26.7.2006, p. 23. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)