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Dear Ms Boljević, Dear Mr. Ilic,

Thank you very much for your letter of 30 June concerning the re-appointment of judges and prosecutors in Serbia and for the additional information on the current state of play. President Barroso asked me to reply to your letter.

As you know, the European Commission attaches great importance to the reform of the judiciary in Serbia. It has raised its concerns on the re-appointment process with the Serbian authorities. Two meetings were held with the Minister of Justice, the Presidents of the two Councils, and Commission representatives. The latter highlighted again shortcomings of the re-appointment procedure.

The Commission representatives provided suggestions for a review of the procedure. In particular, the need for an extension of the right to salaries and social benefits for the non re-appointed judges and prosecutors as an interim measure was highlighted. The Serbian authorities ensured us that they would provide such an extension in each individual case until a solution is found.

I would like to recall that the judicial reform is under the sole responsibility of the national authorities. The competencies of the European Commission are limited to monitoring and advising. The Commission will pay close attention to the further developments and report in its next Progress Report which will be adopted on 10 November. It also stands ready to provide additional advice. It is therefore up to the Serbian authorities to take the necessary measures. I have informed Vice President Reding and Commissioner Füle about your letter.

Yours sincerely


Pierre Mirel

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