



Bundesgerichtshof

**Statement of the board on the meeting of the Network of the Presidents
of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union
from 27 to 29 September 2018 in Karlsruhe**

During its conference in Karlsruhe this Friday the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union works on the relationship between the Constitutional Courts and the Supreme Courts in the member states of the European Union. The correlation within the respective constitutional and procedural framework is examined as well as the practical handling in the single member states. Furthermore, the importance of comparative law methods in the case law and the jurisdiction of the Supreme Courts of the member states is on the agenda with respect to the increasing significance of the judicial involvements between European citizens based on European or even international law.

On the occasion of the Karlsruhe meeting the Board of the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union once again focused on the actual development of the judiciary in Poland. With serious concern the Board has taken notice of the unchanged attitude of the Polish government to international criticism of the so-called judicial reforms, which has meanwhile become part of an infringement procedure led by the European Commission. Following its previous statements on April 24, 2017 and July 11, 2018 the Board has again made clear its position regarding the situation in Poland. Not only the lowering of the retirement age of Supreme Court judges, but also the rearrangement of the Judicial Council going alongside with an increasing influence of the Polish government on the Polish judiciary altogether gives reason for clear criticism and ongoing concern. The Network wishes for swift clarification regarding the European law by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.