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Dear Secretary General Pejčinović Burić,

I would like to thank you again for the fruitful and mutually reinforcing cooperation between our institutions and, in particular, for your valuable contribution to the preparation of the fourth annual Rule of Law Report published on 5 July 2023<sup>1</sup>. Let me also take this occasion to thank your contact person, Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, for his valuable cooperation as regards the preparation of the Report.

Your input has been very helpful and has informed the assessment of the Commission in preparing the Report. In particular, the Commission has relied on the expertise and decisions of the bodies of the Council of Europe, including the European Court of Human Rights, the Venice Commission, the Group of States against corruption, the Consultative Council of European Judges, the Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department for the execution of judgments and the Parliamentary Assembly. Their work will continue to constitute an important source for the next editions of the Report.

Considering the important role played by Council of Europe for upholding rule of law in Europe and building on the positive experience made for the first four editions of the Rule of Law Report, I would like to invite you to provide an input for the Rule of Law Report again this year.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/rule-law-mechanism/2023-rule-law-report\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/rule-law-mechanism/2023-rule-law-report_en)

Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić  
Secretary General  
Council of Europe  
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I would be grateful if you could send us your contribution **by 15 January 2024**. I am fully aware that the overall timeline for this report continues to be very condensed and I very much appreciate your efforts to contribute. I know that our services have already been in contact in this respect.

I am looking forward to a close and continued cooperation on strengthening the rule of law in the Union.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)

Didier REYNDERS