



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

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FIRST SECTION

Application no. 7720/24
Piotr SCHAB against Poland
and 6 other applications
(see list appended)
communicated on 21 September 2026

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CASE

The applicants are judges of various ordinary courts. Between 2021 and 2023 the then Minister of Justice appointed them to the positions of President or Vice-President of their respective courts for fixed terms (see appended table for details).

On the various dates indicated in the appended table, the subsequent Minister of Justice dismissed the applicants from these positions. The decisions did not contain any reasons, those having been set out in letters previously sent by the Minister of Justice informing the boards of the respective courts and the applicants of his intention to dismiss them from their positions.

No appeal or other remedy was available against the Minister of Justice's decisions dismissing the applicants from their positions as President or Vice-President of their respective courts.

All applicants complain under Article 6 § 1 of the Convention that they had no possibility of challenging the Minister of Justice's decisions on their dismissal.

Additionally, in applications nos. 27250/24, 33660/24 and 34905/24, the applicants complain under Article 8 of the Convention that the Minister of Justice's decisions on their dismissal infringed their right to pursue their professional career and, in application no. 33660/24, additionally undermined the applicant's professional reputation.

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In applications nos. 15331/24 and 27250/24, the applicants further complain under Article 10 of the Convention that their dismissal was motivated by either the applicant's having written press articles in which he expressed support for the judicial reform then being carried out in Poland (application no. 15331/24) or their having signed letters of support for candidates to the recomposed National Council of the Judiciary (applications nos. 15331/24 and 27250/24), thereby expressing their particular views. Accordingly, they contend that they were dismissed from their positions on account of the views they had expressed, thereby infringing their right to freedom of expression.

Finally, in application no. 15331/24, the applicant also complains under Article 11 of the Convention that the decision on his dismissal, given by the Minister of Justice, was motivated, *inter alia*, by the fact that the applicant was a member of the Association "Judges of the Republic of Poland" (Stowarzyszenie "Sędziowie RP"), thereby infringing his right to freedom of association.

QUESTIONS TO THE PARTIES

Questions concerning all applications:

1. Is Article 6 of the Convention under its civil head applicable in the present case (see, nos. 26691/18 and 27367/18, 29 June 2021)? Did the applicants have a civil right within the meaning of Article 6 § 1 of the Convention?
2. If so, did the applicants have access to a court for the determination of their civil rights, in accordance with Article 6 § 1 of the Convention?

Questions concerning applications nos. 27250/24, 33660/24 and 34905/24

3. Did the decisions dismissing the applicants from the posts of President or Vice-President of a court produce very serious consequences and affect the applicants' private lives to a very significant degree, so as to make Article 8 of the Convention applicable (see [GC], no. 76639/11, §§ 115-117, 25 September 2018)?
4. Assuming that Article 8 of the Convention is applicable, has there been an interference with the applicants' right to respect for their private lives? If so, was that interference in accordance with the law and necessary in terms of Article 8 § 2 of the Convention?

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Questions concerning applications nos. 15331/24 and 27250/24

5. Has there been an interference with the applicants' right to freedom of expression, within the meaning of Article 10 § 1 of the Convention, on account of their dismissal from posts of President and Vice-President of a court? If so, was that interference in accordance with the law and necessary in terms of Article 10 § 2 of the Convention?

Question concerning application no. 15331/24

6. Has there been an interference with the applicant's right to freedom of association with others, within the meaning of Article 11 § 1 of the Convention, on account of his dismissal from the post of President of the Cracow Court of Appeal? If so, was that interference in accordance with the law and necessary in terms of Article 11 § 2 of the Convention?

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APPENDIX

List of cases:

No.	Application no. Lodged on	Case name	Applicant Year of Birth Nationality	Represented by	Communicated complaints	Appointment and dismissal details: - date of appointment, - position and term - date of dismissal
1.	7720/24 15/03/2024	Schab v. Poland	Piotr SCHAB 1968 Polish		6	- 02/06/2022, - President of the Warsaw Court of Appeal, six-year term, - 20/02/2024.
2.	15331/24 17/05/2024	Drożdzejko v. Poland	Zygmunt DROŹDŹEJKO 1969 Polish		6, 10, 11	- 18/09/2023, - President of the Cracow Court of Appeal, six-year term, - 02/02/2024.

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3.	16194/24 17/05/2024	Radzik v. Poland	Przemysław Wiktor RADZIK 1967 Polish	Paweł BUCZEK	6	- 26/05/2023, - Vice-President of the Poznań Court of Appeal, six-year term, - 18/01/2024.
4.	27250/24 13/09/2024	Stachniak-Rogalska v. Poland	Agnieszka STACHNIAK- ROGALSKA 1971 Polish		6, 8, 10	- 23/10/2023, - Vice-President of the Warsaw Court of Appeal, six-year term, - 13/05/2024.
5.	33660/24 25/10/2024	Strączyńska v. Poland	Iwona STRĄCZYŃSKA 1973 Polish	Monika Małgorzata GAŚSIOROWSKA	6, 8	- 28/07/2021, - President of the Grodzisk Mazowiecki District Court, four-year term, - 16/07/2024.
6.		Wesołowski v. Poland	Maksymilian Radosław		6, 8	- 03/02/2022,

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	34905/24 15/11/2024		WESOŁOWSKI 1971 Polish			- President the Warsaw-City District Court, four-year term, -16/07/2024.
7.	79/25 02/12/2024	Antas v. Poland	Marek ANTAS 1986 Polish		6	- 23/03/2022, - Vice-president of the Przemyśl District Court, - 07/08/2024.