

Joint Dissertation Review

Name of the student:	Ketevan Shushanashvili
Title of the thesis:	Analysis of Polish Judicial Reform in the Line of recent ECJ Judgment (Commission vs. Poland, 24 June 2019)
Reviewer:	Dr. Joan Solanes Mullor

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The topic is relevant and deals with a current issue in the field of the EU: the Polish challenge to the rule of law from the point of view of EU law. The thesis pursues to explore the Polish situation and to confront it with EU law in light of the ECJ intervention in the case *Commission vs. Poland*, of 24 June 2019.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

In general, the student shows a good approach to the sources and applies an adequate methodology. It is a descriptive and critical approach. The student first describes the Polish situation, with detail, and then explores the ECJ judgement and applies it, critically, to the Polish situation described.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The conclusions are a little bit short and simple. It would be better a bit more elaboration on the conclusions. However, the conclusions answer the research questions and therefore are sufficient.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The language is appropriate and adheres to academic standards. The citation style is also adequate. Maybe a more accurate English would have been better, sometimes it seems that the student has written the thesis in a rush. However, in general the English is sufficiently correct.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The dissertation shows a good knowledge of the Polish reality and the events happened, especially from the empirical perspective. The thesis also deals well with the ECJ judgement and EU law. There are, however, some flaws. There is a poor national legal analysis, that is, it would be better a deeper analysis of the Polish Constitutional system (especially the constitutional text and the case law of the Polish Constitutional Court). Moreover, the student does not deal enough with the existing academic literature on Article 7 TEU and its application to Poland. In this regard, the student merely analysis blogs, but barely academic literature on the issue. Finally, the student uses excessive scoreboards and other international references which are not decisive for the issue and, at the same time, barely analyses the possible impact of other more relevant international actors such as the European Court of Human Rights.

Grade (A-F):	B+
Date: 09/09/2019	Signature: Joan Solanes Mullor