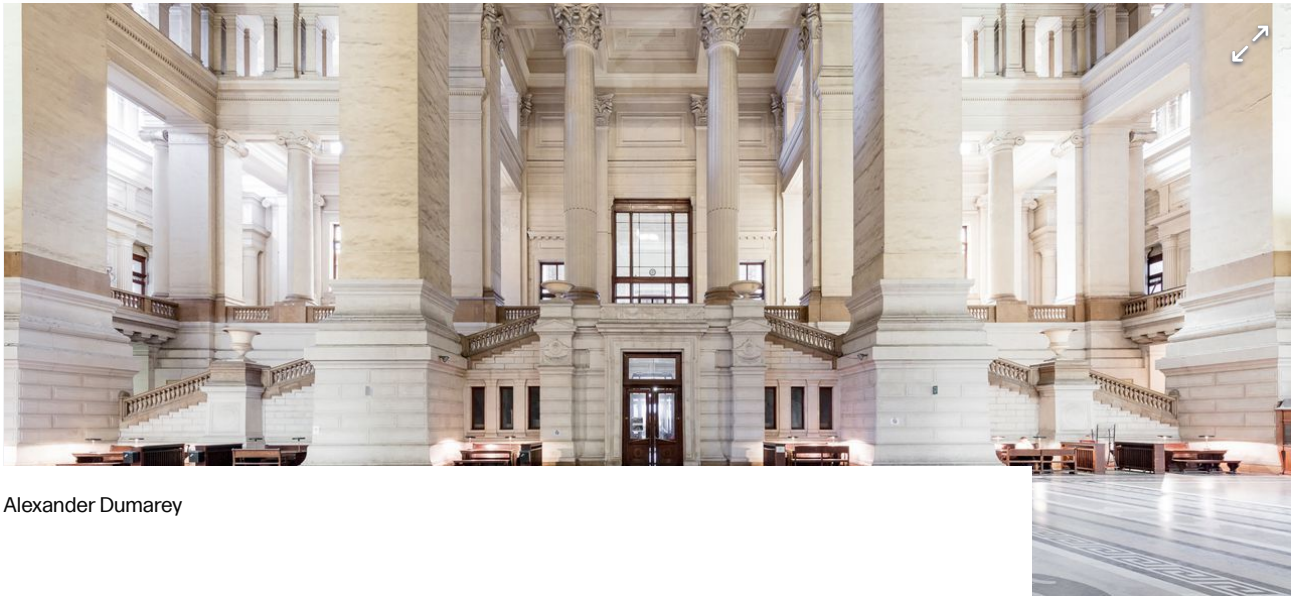


**Coronacrisis File**

Alexander Dumarey

## The Belgian state must provide a court with a legal basis for corona measures within 30 days

The Belgian state must provide a stronger legal basis for the corona measures, a Brussels court has decided in summary proceedings. Within thirty days, the government must give the corona measures a solid legal basis and if it does not, it must pay a penalty of 5,000 euros per day that the measures remain in effect. Minister of the Interior Annelies Verlinden (CD&V) is studying the judge's decision.

**Ferre Windey**

Wed Mar 31 ⌚ 13:10

*The first version of this article stated that the corona measures must be lifted within 30 days. That is not entirely correct, it is true that the court gives the state thirty days to*

days. That is not entirely correct, it is true that the court gives the state thirty days to

*provide the corona measures with a legal basis, because the current basis is unconstitutional.*

The League for Human Rights had gone to court because it felt that the corona measures did not have the correct legal basis. For the implementation of the corona measures, the government is relying on a number of contingency plan laws that, according to the League do not provide a sufficient legal basis for such a drastic corona policy.

“ Corona measures are necessary, but we have always said that it must be respected for fundamental rights and that is not the case now

**Kati Verstrepen, League for Human Rights**

"The consequences are not yet that dramatic. The government is given thirty days to provide a solid legal basis. It is not the case that no measures will apply from one day to the next", says Kati Verstrepen, chairman of the League for Human Rights.

Even if there is no adequate legal basis within thirty days, the League does not hope that the measures would just lapse. Kati Verstrepen: "Corona measures are necessary and the government must protect us against that virus, but we have always said that it must be with respect for our fundamental rights and that is not the case at the moment."

**Watch the conversation with Stefan Sottiaux, constitution specialist KU Leuven here (and read on below the video):**

The current corona measures are regulated by ministerial decree on the basis of the Civil Security Act of 2007. The League for Human Rights felt that this law was not intended for a pandemic like the one we find ourselves in today. The court has therefore agreed with her.

## **Pandemiewet**

Minister van Binnenlandse Zaken Annelies Verlinden werkt al langer aan een pandemiewet die in de toekomst in een wettelijke basis moet voorzien om maatregelen te treffen tijdens een pandemie. Die wet is nog niet af en het is niet zeker of die wet nog gebruikt kan worden voor de huidige coronapandemie. De minister heeft nog niet gereageerd en bestudeert momenteel het vonnis.

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**Bekijk hier het verslag van "Het Journaal":**