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20 May 2022

## **Poland: the lack of respect for the rule of law and the crackdown on critical voices must stop**

**Written declaration No. 736**

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This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

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We, the undersigned, declare the following:

Parliamentary Assembly [Resolution 2316 \(2020\)](#) and [Resolution 2359 \(2021\)](#) called on Poland to uphold the rule of law and human rights. Unfortunately, the ruling of the politicised Constitutional Court in October 2021 practically pulled Poland out of the legal order of the European Union. Likewise, Poland has brought it into conflict with the European Court of Human Rights.

Peaceful protests are harassed by the police and critical voices are put under pressure by the public prosecutor. Activists like Bartosz Kramiek, Marta Lempart, Klementyna Suchanow are the subject of incomprehensible criminal investigations and arrests. Legal aid mechanisms are abused against Open Dialogue Foundation activists and entrepreneurs like Piotr Osiecki. The prosecutor's office, controlled by Minister Zbigniew Ziobro, is putting pressure on suspected political threats, including judges Igor Tuleya, Waldemar Żurek and Beata Morawiec, Senate speaker Tomasz Grodzki, or persecuted executives Leszek Czarnecki and Jakub Karnowski.

At the same time, prosecutors refuse to investigate alleged government abuses and punish independent prosecutors like Ewa Wrzosek. We are concerned about reports that pressure is being put on Paweł Wojtunik, the former head of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau, and his family members.

In light of these developments, including the revelations of abuse of the Pegasus surveillance system, we call on the Polish Government to restore the rule of law and respect its human rights obligations.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC  
BOER Margreet, De, Netherlands, SOC  
CASTEL Laura, Spain, UEL  
CORBYN Jeremy, United Kingdom, SOC  
ENGELHARDT Heike, Germany, SOC  
EROTOKRITOU Christiana, Cyprus, SOC  
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC  
GAHOUCHI Latifa, Belgium, SOC  
GASIUUK-PIHOWICZ Kamila, Poland, EPP/CD  
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC  
HOFFMANN Christoph, Germany, ALDE  
LLOYD Tony, United Kingdom, SOC  
LUCKS Max, Germany, SOC  
MARILOTTI Gianni, Italy, SOC  
NOWACKA Barbara, Poland, NR  
POLAT Filiz, Germany, SOC  
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC  
RÖSSNER Tabea, Germany, SOC  
ŚMISZEK Krzysztof, Poland, SOC  
TÜRK-NACHBAUR Derya, Germany, SOC  
ŽIAK Miroslav, Slovak Republic, EC/DA

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Total = 22

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group