

TO:

Ms. Věra Jourová
Vice President of the European Commission

Dear Vice President!

I strongly protest against the political pressure and unfair blackmail that you use against Polish local government authorities which have signed the Local Government Charter of Family Rights, threatening that they will be deprived of the funds they are entitled to.

Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, which is the supreme law in our country, says: *Marriage, being a union of a man and a woman, as well as the family, motherhood and parenthood, shall be placed under the protection and care of the Republic of Poland.*

The same values that formed the foundations of our constitution, are related in international law. These values clearly states that natural family is the basic social institution. State and international organizations are obliged to support families respecting their authonomy. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and European Social Charter are examples for the use of these family rights.

This is also exactly the bedrock of the Local Government Charter of Family Rights, which has been adopted by some Polish voivodeships. The Charter contains clauses such as the demand to appoint a Family Ombudsman and the idea of a local-government system of family offence reporting. The Charter also counteracts legal discrimination of married couples and the children they raise in the local social policy.

In your statement about the formation of "LGBT-free zones", you repeat fake news and manipulations created for the purpose of an prepared media campaign. The Charter, which some local governments have decided to adopt, does not create such zones. Moreover, the Charter does not even contain the phrase LGBT.

To me, it is completely confusing and absolutely unacceptable for any local government defending family rights to be punished for such activities by withholding European Union subsidies. I believe this decision will be abrogated by a constitutional court of any serious country as violating the fundamental principles of the functioning of European Union bodies. In addition, it will discredit the European Commission, which you represent, even in the eyes of the most ardent supporters of European integration.

The actions against polish local governments that You announced are in complete conflict with international law, which requires all public institutions to protect the family as the basic social cell. Moreover, they are violating fundamental rules of subsidiarity and proportionality, that are foundations of European Union. Interference with family policies carried out by local government units goes far beyond the competences conferred to the European Union by Member States.

You should be aware that the European Union declares respect and integrity of the cultural identity of Member States, and you should observe it in your political practice. The present actions, however, prove otherwise: that EU funds in the hands of the European Commission are a tool to enforce ideological changes in Member States.

In view of the above, I demand that you stop blackmailing Polish local governments and interfering with Polish cultural identity and legal guarantees established for Polish families. I also expect that a person holding such an important office as you would not base her statements on fake news and manipulations.

Yours sincerely

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