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# Reception of the PACE Resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland

(coverage from leading nation-wide outlets)

## 1. Independent media

### a) Onet.pl

https://wiadomosci.onet.pl/swiat/rezolucja-rady-europy-ws-reformy-sadownictwa-w-polsce-zostala-przyjeta/b4t2l4m

**Rada Europy przyjęła rezolucję ws. Polski**

28 sty, 16:53 | aktualizacja 28 sty, 17:16
Ten tekst przeczytasz w 2 minuty

FACEBOOK | 1,9 tys. TWITTER E-MAIL KOPIUJ LINK

**W raporcie Rady Europy negatywnie oceniono zmiany, jakich dokonał rząd PiS w wymiarze sprawiedliwości. Przyjęcie rezolucji ws. reformy systemu sądownictwa w Polsce poprzedziła dziś debata na temat polskich instytucji demokratycznych. Tym samym Rada objęła Polskę procedurą monitoringu.**

Foto: Wiktor Dąbkowski / PAP

**The Council of Europe adopted a resolution on Poland**

The Council of Europe's report negatively assesses the changes made by the Law and Justice Administration Government in the justice system. The adoption of a resolution on the reform of the judicial system in Poland was preceded today by a debate on Polish democratic institutions. Thus, the Council included Poland in the monitoring procedure.

The adoption of the report was supported by 140 MPs, 37 against and 11 abstentions.

- We do not assess the state of the reform of the judiciary in Poland well - summed up the report by Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, MP-Rapporteur

During the morning's debate, Polish parliamentarians among others spoke. - I am terrified about the rights of the citizens of my country - said Krzysztof Śmiszek. - You allowed yourself to be manipulated by the opposition in Poland - said Iwona Arent in turn

140 MPs voted for the report on democratic institutions in Poland. There were 37 members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe against, and 11 abstained from voting. Before the final vote, the MPs of the assembly rejected several dozen amendments put forward by the members of PiS.

Earlier, Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson and Pieter Omtzigt presented the conclusions of the report to the Council of Europe. - We are giving a bad assessment of the state of the judicial reform in Poland", summed up the report by Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, referring to the findings of the Venice Commission and adding that "the Polish government is not willing to cooperate with the Council of Europe".

Debate on Polish reforms

Representatives of the Member States gathered in the room discussed the changes introduced by Law and Justice in the morning. - The Polish government destroyed the justice system, undermined confidence in it and its functioning. The reforms have weakened the independence and autonomy of the system - said Maryvonne Blondin from France.

The PiS government defended Zsolt Csenger-Zalan in Hungary. - The document (report of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Poland - ed.) focuses on the fundamental legislative changes of recent years, but contains some elements that are unimportant or politically motivated,' he claimed.

Polish MPs also spoke during the debate. One of them was Krzysztof Śmiszek. - Step by step, my country tried to restore democratic institutions that were supposed to serve democracy and people, including courts where judges are not subjected to political pressure. Unfortunately, over the last five years we have witnessed the destruction of the pillars of democracy - he assessed. - As a lawyer, I am horrified for the rights of my country's citizens," he said.

The reforms carried out by the government were defended by Dominik Tarczyński, among others. - I have the impression that many of you have not read the report - he said. - Democracy in our government is the best example of democracy, because this reform was promised in the election campaign, still in 2015. - he evaluated.

Iwona Arent, in turn, pointed to problems in other countries. - In Sweden, over the last year, there have been over 8 thousand rapes," she said. She also stated that "as far as democracy in other countries is concerned, there would be something to talk about". - You let yourself be manipulated by the opposition in Poland. The marches of a handful of people in Poland are inspired by parties that have lost the elections and are unable to accept it,' Arent argued.

**b) Polsat News**

https://www.polsatnews.pl/wiadomosc/2020-01-28/widmo-procedury-monitoringu-czy-polska-dolaczy-do-m-in-armenii-azerbejdzanu-i-albanii/

**Polska objęta procedurą monitoringu. Jest jedynym takim krajem w Unii Europejskiej**

28.01.2020, 17:23 | Świat

Rada Europy: Debata w Strasburgu na temat instytucji demokratycznych w Polsce

**Poland subject to the monitoring procedure. It is the only such country in the European Union**

The resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, critical of Poland, was adopted, 140 delegates voted in favour and 37 against. The resolution speaks about the "frankenstainization of Polish law" and calls for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure, informs Polsat News correspondent Dorota Bawołek.

- 140 delegates voted for, 37 against and 11 abstained. All the amendments tabled by the Law and Justice party (38 amendments) were rejected. Amendment 39 tabled by Krzysztof Śmiszek, among others, calling for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure, which now includes Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Moldova, Georgia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Poland will be the only EU country subject to this procedure of the Council of Europe - informs Bawolek.

"Frankensteinisation of law"

The Polish authorities argue that the legal solutions used in the reform of the Polish judiciary are supported by examples from other European countries. The report of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe responds that they constitute a "Frankensteinisation of law".

"We have become a democratic outsider".

- It is a resolution which is an expression of solidarity towards Polish citizens and judges. It protects against the actions of the Law and Justice party, which destroys the operation of the justice system. We managed to achieve a lot after 1989 by a joint effort and we did it without the participation of people from the Law and Justice party. Now the Law and Justice government is destroying it all. This resolution shows it very clearly - said Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz.

She admitted that she "feels ashamed of the actions of the Polish government". - They only bring shame on Poles. I would never want such resolutions to be taken by EU institutions - she added. - From the leader of democratic changes we have become such a democratic outsider - assessed a member of the Civic Coalition.

- During the morning debate on the rule of law in Poland, even representatives of Russia discussed, who said that the government in Warsaw "should return to the right path and follow the principles of the European Commission". Such voices were heard by politicians from Germany, France and Great Britain, among others," said Dorota Bawołek, a correspondent of Polsat News in Brussels, before the decision of the Council of Europe.

"One of the saddest days".

- In terms of RE, there is nothing worse, it puts us in line with Turkey, Russia and Azerbaijan, the countries that are said to be the most violating of the rule of law. For me this is one of the saddest days of my political life. Due to the unfaithful attitude of those in power, we again lose points on the international arena - said Aleksander Pociej, Senator of the Civic Coalition, Polsat News.

According to Marek Borowski, the resolution means that something bad has happened. such decisions are not frequent. - It is a shock to the Council of Europe that such distortions have occurred in Poland as regards the triple division of power. As far as Russia and Turkey are concerned, it has been going on for years and there the situation was and is not the best. Poland shocked everyone - said Borowski.

- If it turns out that the current situation is getting even worse, the procedure may lead to suspension of membership rights - added the senator.

"Poland in sight"

- There were references to problems with respect to minority rights. Attention was drawn, for example, to LGBT-free zones. Poland has been on target here since the morning, but it also had several allies, including from Hungary and the British Conservatives, who indicated that the report is biased, has been politicized and an institution such as the RE should not interfere in Poland's internal affairs," Polsat News correspondent said.

- In the resolution the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe may today decide to subject Poland to the monitoring procedure. We will then join such RE countries as Albania, Azerbaijan, Russia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armenia, Moldova and Turkey. And we will be the only EU country in this group - said Bawolek.

- We should compare the situation in other countries and not only point our fingers at Poland - appealed Martin Hebner, German member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe from the EC/DA group.

During the debate, MEPs and representatives of the Council of Europe countries presented their conclusions on the Council of Europe's report evaluating judicial reforms in Poland.

"There is a threat of dictatorship in Poland".

Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson and Pieter Omtzigt presented the conclusions of the report. - We are giving a bad assessment of the state of judicial reform in Poland - summed up the report by Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, MP-Rapporteur, referring to the findings of the Venice Commission, adding that 'the Polish government is not willing to cooperate with the Council of Europe'.

The deputy rapporteur Pieter Omtzigt stressed the combination of the functions of Minister of Justice and Attorney General in the Polish legal system: This position is politicised and does not guarantee the separation of executive and legislative power," Mr Omtzigt stressed.

- In Poland there is a threat of majority dictatorship. Poland is a test country. (...) On behalf of the ALDE Group, I say that the situation in Poland should be periodically monitored - stressed Romanian deputy Iulian Bulani.

"Let us not point the finger at Poland".

- The situation in other countries should be compared, not just point the finger at Poland. There is no Constitutional Tribunal in my own country, let's keep a balance in our opinion," appealed German member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Martin Hebner from the EC/DA group.

- The situation in Poland is dangerous. Judges should be defended from political pressure. What conclusions for democracy are drawn from Poland? Populists are growing in strength, we have a crisis of a liberal democracy, the growth of social inequalities, and the catalyst for these changes is liberalism," said Greek MP Georgios Katroug Halos from the UEL group.

Dutch MP Ria OOmen-Ruijten from the EEP group said that "the situation in the Polish justice system is dramatic," adding that "we cannot talk about the independence of the judiciary in Poland. - We are dealing with the worst face of politics and unethical behaviour," she added.

"We should use the most powerful tools".

The Socialist deputies accused the Conservatives of defending the Polish government. Frank Schwabe from the Socialist group appealed: "If we do not react in time, Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union will not be respected (...) The situation in Poland is beyond any standard. We should use the strongest tools we have to monitor the situation in Poland".

French member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Frederic Reiss of the EPP/DC Group, said that "the situation in Poland is worrying, (...) we should force the Polish government to withdraw judicial reform". - The judges are controlled by politicians and parliament. The law on the Supreme Court is of concern", he said.

Krzysztof Śmiszek from the Socialist Group, who said that 'it is very difficult to talk about breaking democracy in a country where democracy is born', spoke during the debate. - I am horrified by the violation of individual rights in my country and the influence of the Minister of Justice on the justice system - he pointed out.

Who elects judges in Germany?

Dominik Tarczyński from the EC/DA group asked German and French Socialists: "Who elects judges in Germany?" Tarczyński added: "Thank you for your concern for us from the French parliamentarians. But who beats people on the streets of French cities? Take care of yourself. We, Poles, are fine. Do you remember martial law in Poland? At that time there was a violation of democracy in Poland. I was fired from my job as a journalist when PO was in power.

MP Iwona Arent from the EC/DA group criticised the state of democracy in France and Sweden: "In France there are violations of citizens' rights on the streets and the police are suppressing lawyers' protests against the government reform. In Sweden, women and girls are brutally raped. Human rights are being violated in these

countries". - You allow yourself to be manipulated by a narrow political group, and large German capital groups manipulate information about Poland,' Arent concluded.

Aleksandr Bashkin, representing the Russian Federation, stated that "reforms in Poland are not going in the right direction", and there are many parallel structures in the "Polish system". Bashkin also expressed concern about the financing of institutions and organizations operating in Poland. - The independence of judges is a fundamental element of a democratic state," Bashkin stressed.

"Poland marginalizes sexual minorities".

Belgian MP Fourat Ben Chikha from the Socialist Group expressed his concern about the violation of the rights of sexual minorities in Poland: "We are dealing with intolerance towards sexual minorities, including wives without LGBT in Poland. Poland marginalizes sexual minorities, and the media, like Gazeta Polska, support the Polish government in these activities.

Sir Edward Leigh, a British member of the RE Parliamentary Assembly from the EC/DA group, defended the Polish rule of law during the debate. Sir Leigh stated that the report "does not defend the pluralism and diversity of our continent". - It delegitimizes conservatism in favour of liberal ideas and conformism. It is a political attack on the conservative Polish government," he said.

What is the Council of Europe?

The Council of Europe is not an EU institution, but an intergovernmental organisation which was established on 5 May 1949 as a result of the signing by the 10 founding states (Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom) of the so-called London Treaty (the Statute of the Council of Europe).

Its aim is to achieve greater unity among its members in order to protect the ideals and principles which are the common heritage of the Member States, and to facilitate economic and social change. The Council deals, among other things, with the protection of human rights and democracy.

The Council of Europe currently has 47 members. It is based in Strasbourg, France.

The organisation is often confused with the Council of the European Union, which is the main decision-making body, whose task is to adopt EU legislation together with the European Parliament. The European Council, unlike the other two, is the political body of the European Union and means meetings of prime ministers or heads of state.

### c) Dziennik.pl

https://wiadomosci.dziennik.pl/swiat/artykuly/6428686,rada-europy-debata-starsburg-polska.html

**Rada Europy przyjęła rezolucję ws. Polski. Poprzedziła ją burzliwa debata**

28 sty 2020

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Zgromadzenie Parlamentarne Rady Europy / ShutterStock

**Zgromadzenie Parlamentarne Rady Europy przyjęło we wtorek w Strasburgu rezolucję ws. funkcjonowania instytucji demokratycznych w Polsce. Za rezolucją głosowało 140 delegatów, przeciw było 37, a 11 wstrzymało się od głosu.**

**The Council of Europe adopted a resolution on Poland. It was preceded by a stormy debate**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted on Tuesday in Strasbourg a resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland. 140 delegates voted for the resolution, 37 against and 11 abstained.

Earlier, a debate on the subject took place. During the debate, parliamentarians and representatives of the Council of Europe countries presented their conclusions on the Council of Europe's report evaluating judicial reforms in Poland.

MEPs Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson and Pieter Omtzigt presented the conclusions of the report. "We are poorly assessing the state of judicial reform in Poland" - summed up the report by MEP-Rapporteur Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, referring to the findings of the Venice Commission, adding that "the Polish government is not willing to cooperate with the Council of Europe".

MEP-Rapporteur Pieter Omtzigt stressed the combination of the functions of Minister of Justice and Prosecutor General in the Polish legal system: - This position is politicised and does not guarantee the separation of the executive from the legislature", Mr Omtzigt stressed. - In Poland there is a threat of majority dictatorship. Poland is a test country. (...) On behalf of the ALDE Group, I say that the situation in Poland should be periodically monitored - stressed Romanian MEP Iulian Bulani.

We should compare the situation in other countries and not only point the finger at Poland. There is no Constitutional Court in my own country, let's keep a balance in our opinion", appealed German MEP Martin Hebner from EC/DA group.

The situation in Poland is dangerous. Judges should be defended from political pressure. What are the conclusions for democracy based on Poland? Populists are growing in strength, we have a crisis of liberal democracy, the growth of social inequalities, and the catalyst for these changes is liberalism - said Greek MEP Georgios Katroug Halos from the UEL group.

Dutch MEP Ria OOmen-Ruijten from the EEP group said that "the situation in the Polish justice system is dramatic," adding that we cannot speak about the independence of the judiciary in Poland. We are dealing with the worst face of politics and unethical behaviour.

Socialist MEPs accused the Conservatives of defending the Polish government. Frank Schwabe from the Socialist group appealed: - If we do not react in time, Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union will not be respected (...) The situation in Poland is beyond any standard. We should use the strongest tools we have to monitor the situation in Poland.

French MEP Frederic Reiss of the EPP/DC Group said that the situation in Poland is worrying, (...) we should force the Polish government to withdraw judicial reform. The judges are controlled by politicians and parliament. The law on the Supreme Court is of concern.

The Polish MEPs spoke during the debate: Krzysztof Śmiszek from the Socialist Group, who stated that it is very difficult to speak about the violation of democracy in a country where democracy was born. I am horrified by the violation of individual rights in my country and the influence of the Minister of Justice on the justice system.

Dominik Tarczyński from the EC/DA group asked the German and French Socialists: "Who elects judges in Germany?" Eurodeputy Tarczyński added: - Thank you for your concern for us from the French parliamentarians. But who beats people on the streets of French cities? Take care of yourself. We, Poles, are fine. Do you remember martial law in Poland? There was a violation of democracy in Poland then. I was fired as a journalist when PO was in power.

MEP Iwona Arent from the EC/DA group criticised the state of democracy in France and Sweden: - In France there are violations of citizens' rights on the streets and the police are suppressing lawyers' protests against the government reform. In Sweden, women and girls are brutally raped. Human rights are being violated in these

countries. You allow yourself to be manipulated by a narrow political group, and large German capital groups manipulate information about Poland," Arent concluded.

Aleksandr Bashkin, representing the Russian Federation, stated that "reforms in Poland are not going in the right direction", and there are many parallel structures in the "Polish system". Bashkin also expressed concern about the financing of institutions and organizations operating in Poland. - The independence of judges is a fundamental element of a democratic state," Bashkin stressed.

Fourat Ben Chikha, Socialist MEP from Belgium, expressed concern about the violation of the rights of sexual minorities in Poland: - We are dealing with intolerance towards sexual minorities, including wives without LGBT in Poland. Poland marginalizes sexual minorities, and the media, like "Gazeta Polska", support the Polish government in these activities.

The British MEP Sir Edward Leigh from the EC/DA group stood in defence of the Polish rule of law during the debate. Sir Leigh stated that the report "does not defend pluralism and diversity of our continent. It delegitimizes conservatism in favour of liberal ideas and conformism. It is a political attack on the conservative Polish government."

The Council of Europe plans to continue the debate on Polish democratic institutions in the afternoon, and then plans to adopt a resolution on the matter.

**d) Rmf24.pl**

https://www.rmf24.pl/fakty/polska/news-rada-europy-przyjela-krytyczna-rezolucje-ws-instytucji-demok,nId,4294703

# Rada Europy przyjęła krytyczną rezolucję ws. instytucji demokratycznych w Polsce

Nicole Makarewicz
Wtorek, 28 stycznia (18:08)
Aktualizacja: Wtorek, 28 stycznia (19:54)

Like 16

**Zgromadzenie Parlamentarne Rady Europy przyjęło we wtorek w Strasburgu rezolucję ws. funkcjonowania instytucji demokratycznych w Polsce. Za rezolucją głosowało 140 delegatów, przeciw było 37, a 11 wstrzymało się od głosu. Wcześniej, w czasie debaty nad rezolucją deputowani ostrzegali przed „łamaniem reguł demokracji w Polsce".**

Deputowany Pieter Omtzigt prezentujący wnioski z raportu
/Patrick Seeger /PAP/EPA

**The Council of Europe adopted a critical resolution on democratic institutions in Poland**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted on Tuesday in Strasbourg a resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland. 140 delegates voted for the resolution, 37 against and 11

abstained. Earlier, during the debate on the resolution, the deputies warned against "violating the rules of democracy in Poland".

Earlier, a debate was held on this subject. During the debate, parliamentarians and representatives of the Council of Europe countries presented their conclusions on the report of this body assessing the reforms of the judiciary in Poland.

The resolution is critical of the Polish government's actions concerning the reform of the judiciary. In the votes on the resolution, Law and Justice (PiS) parliamentarians submitted over 30 amendments, but they were rejected.

Five delegates from the Civic Coalition and one from the Left voted for the resolution. Six delegates from the Law and Justice Party were against.

The resolution is critical of the Polish government's actions concerning the reform of the judiciary. In the votes on the resolution, Law and Justice (PiS) parliamentarians submitted over 30 amendments, but they were rejected.

As Mr Krzysztof Śmiszek (Left) said on Tuesday, the ZP of the Council of Europe supported, among others, the amendment of which he was a co-author, calling for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure. Two delegates from KO voted in favour of the amendment - apart from Śmiszek, six from PiS and one from KO were against.

This is an unprecedented situation. Actually, it was the first time that the country was included in the permanent monitoring through a resolution. This is all the more shocking, or one can say alarming, that it is a country of the European Union. (...) The large number of votes in support of the resolution shows great concern for European parliaments and public opinion about the state of democracy in Poland - said Śmiszek.

MEP Ryszard Czarnecki (Law and Justice) criticized the resolution of the Polish People's Party (ZP RE) and the adopted amendment on monitoring Poland. I have an extremely negative opinion of the situation in which the Polish MP signs up to something that hits our country. (...) It is worth noting that although there are acute political conflicts in other EU countries, representatives of these countries do not make cribs in the Council of Europe. The political impact of this resolution will be negligible, while probably some will try to convince that it is great, for the internal needs of national politics - he said.

"The government is not willing to cooperate with the Council of Europe."

During the debate delegates Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson and Pieter Omtzigt presented the conclusions of the evaluation report on judicial reform in Poland. The state of the judicial reform in Poland is being assessed badly - summed up by Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, MP-Rapporteur, referring to the findings of the Venice Commission, adding that "the Polish government is not willing to cooperate with the Council of Europe".The deputy rapporteur Pieter Omtzigt stressed the combination of the functions of Minister of Justice and Attorney General in the Polish legal system: This position is politicised and does not guarantee the separation of executive and legislative power," Mr Omtzigt stressed. In Poland there is a threat of majority dictatorship. Poland is a test country. (...) On behalf of the ALDE Group, I believe that the situation in Poland should be periodically monitored", stressed Romanian MP Iulian Bulani.

We should compare the situation in other countries, and not only point the finger at Poland. There is no Constitutional Tribunal in my own country, let's keep a balance in our opinion", appealed German MP Martin Hebner from EC/DA group.

The situation in Poland is dangerous. Judges should be defended from political pressure. What are the conclusions for democracy based on Poland? Populists are growing in strength, we have a crisis of liberal democracy, the growth of social inequalities, and the catalyst for these changes is liberalism - said Greek MP Georgios Katroug Halos from the UEL group.

Dutch deputy Ria OOmen-Ruijten from the EEP group said that "the situation in the Polish justice system is dramatic," she added: We cannot speak about the independence of the judiciary in Poland. We are dealing with the worst face of politics and unethical behaviour.

Socialist deputies accused the Conservatives of defending the Polish government. Frank Schwabe from the Socialist group appealed: If we do not react in time, Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union will not be

respected (...) The situation in Poland is beyond any standard. We should use the strongest tools we have to monitor the situation in Poland.

French MEP Frederic Reiss of the EPP/DC Group said that "the situation in Poland is worrying, (...) we should force the Polish government to withdraw judicial reform". The judges are controlled by politicians and parliament. The law on the Supreme Court is of concern.

"Who elects judges in Germany?"

Krzysztof Śmiszek from the Socialist Group, who said that "it is very difficult to talk about the violation of democracy in a country where democracy was born", spoke during the debate. I am horrified by the violation of individual rights in my country and the influence of the Minister of Justice on the justice system.

Dominik Tarczyński from the EC/DA group asked German and French Socialists: Who elects judges in Germany? The MP Tarczyński added: Thank you for your concern for us on the part of French parliamentarians. But who beats people on the streets of French cities? Take care of yourself. We, Poles, are fine. Do you remember martial law in Poland? At that time there was a violation of democracy in Poland. I was fired as a journalist when PO was in power.

MP Iwona Arent from the EC/DA group criticised the state of democracy in France and Sweden: In France there are violations of citizens' rights on the streets and the police are suppressing the protests of lawyers against the government reform. In Sweden, women and girls are brutally raped. Human rights are being violated in these countries.  You allow yourself to be manipulated by a narrow political group, and large German capital groups manipulate information about Poland," Arent concluded.

Aleksandr Bashkin, representing the Russian Federation, stated that "reforms in Poland are not going in the right direction", and there are many parallel structures in the "Polish system". Bashkin also expressed concern about the financing of institutions and organizations operating in Poland. The independence of judges is a fundamental element of a democratic state," Bashkin stressed.

"Political attack on the conservative government".

Belgian MP Fourat Ben Chikha from the Socialist Group expressed his concern about the violation of the rights of sexual minorities in Poland: We are dealing with intolerance towards sexual minorities, including wives without LGBT in Poland. Poland marginalizes sexual minorities, and the media, like "Gazeta Polska", support the Polish government in these activities.

Sir Edward Leigh from the EC/DA group stood in defence of the Polish rule of law. Sir Leigh stated that the report "does not defend pluralism and diversity of our continent. It delegitimizes conservatism in favour of liberal ideas and conformism. It is a political attack on the conservative Polish government."

The Council of Europe plans to continue the debate on Polish democratic institutions in the afternoon, and then plans to adopt a resolution on this issue.

**e) Tvn24.pl**

https://konkret24.tvn24.pl/swiat,109/ramie-w-ramie-z-rosja-jak-glosowano-w-radzie-europy-nad-rezolucja-dotyczaca-polski,1002646.html

# "Ramię w ramię z Rosją"? Jak głosowano w Radzie Europy nad rezolucją dotyczącą Polski

29.01.2020

**Rosyjscy politycy byli podzieleni podczas wtorkowego głosowania w Zgromadzeniu Parlamentarnym Rady Europy nad raportem krytycznym m.in. wobec zmian wprowadzanych w polskim sądownictwie. Czterech przedstawicieli Rosji było "za", jeden "przeciw", a pięciu wstrzymało się od głosu. Powielane w mediach narracje na ten temat mogą wprowadzać w błąd.**

PODZIEL SIĘ TWEETNIJ SKOPIUJ LINK MESSENGER

Zgromadzenie Parlamentarne Rady Europy przyjęło we wtorek rezolucję na temat polskich instytucji demokratycznych. - Nie uważam tej reformy za reformę, ale raczej za pogorszenie (sytuacji - red.) - powiedział o zmianach w sądownictwie, wprowadzanych przez PiS, sprawozdawca Pieter Omtzigt.

Rada Europy przyjęła krytyczną rezolucję w sprawie Polski. "Frankensteinizacja prawa" Video: Jakub Loska / Fakty o Świecie TVN24 BiS

**"Hand in hand with Russia"? How did the Council of Europe vote on the resolution on Poland**

Russian politicians were divided during Tuesday's vote in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on a report critical of, among other things, the changes introduced in the Polish judiciary. Four Russian representatives were 'for', one 'against' and five abstained. Duplicated narratives on this subject in the media may be misleading.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted on Tuesday a resolution on Polish democratic institutions. - I do not consider this reform to be a reform, but rather a worsening of the situation," he said about changes in the judiciary introduced by the Law and Justice party, rapporteur Pieter Omtzigt.

The Dutchman recalled that the first Law and Justice Party decision affecting the functioning of the judiciary was to combine the functions of a minister of justice and a prosecutor general. - We have one person who has executive power and also has a responsibility for judges. This is a concentration of power that is unnecessary," he assessed.

He added that the 'balancing power', i.e. the National Council of the Judiciary, 'in the recent reforms from the local government body has become a body fully elected by politicians'. - When we combine these two things, we will see that the executive has subjugated the courts. This should not be the case. The courts should be independent," argued the deputy.

"Putin supports the Polish opposition."

The report was adopted by the votes of 140 MPs. There were 37 members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe against. Six Law and Justice politicians from the Polish delegation voted against. Four representatives of the Civic Coalition and one representative of the PSL were in favour of the report. - It is very difficult to talk about breaking democracy in a country where democracy is born," said Krzysztof Śmiszek from the

Socialist Group during the debate before the vote. - I am horrified by the violation of individual rights in my country and the influence of the Minister of Justice on the justice system - he added.

The voting of the Polish opposition was criticized by Dominik Tarczyński from Law and Justice. On Twitter he quoted words of support for the report of a member of the Russian delegation Alexander Bashkin. "Polish opposition MPs shoulder to shoulder with Russia. What a fall..." - commented Tarczyński.

On Tuesday, in "News" of TVP, a bar appeared in front of the material in which the vote was reported: "Putin supports the Polish opposition."

The author of the report stressed: "For now the opposition prefers to discuss Polish issues abroad. Its actions go beyond the European Union. At today's session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, representatives of the Polish opposition have gained a new ally. They attacked the Polish government together with Russia".

Immediately after this commentary, "News" recalled a statement by Aleksander Bashkin: "The task of the Assembly is to lead our Polish colleagues in the right direction".

The Russians did not support the report

The results of the vote on the report can be found on the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly website. It can be analyzed by sorting the representatives of the assembly by nationality and political affiliation.

During the meeting, Aleksandr Bashkin indeed spoke in a way that suggested supporting the report. However, in the end he voted against the report. The representatives of Russia shared in the vote. Four people supported the report, one was against (Bashkin) and five abstained.

Senator Marek Borowski, among others, drew attention to a misleading narrative of the state media.

"TVPiS: "Putin supports the Polish opposition". Meanwhile, a certain Bashkin, who supported the resolution in his speech, made a mockery of himself and was against in the last vote! So it turned out that Putin supported Law and Justice! And not only him, but also Erdogan, neo-fascists from Germany and racists from Slovakia. Congratulations on the company! But the fuckin' - wrote Borowski on Twitter.

Factional affiliation

The members of many national delegations of the assembly voted differently. Among the larger delegations, the Spanish, French and Dutch voted unanimously in favour of the report. Most of the opponents of the report were Hungarians, Italians, Turks and the British, but none of these delegations voted unanimously.

The results of the vote were similar, with the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly ranked according to factional affiliation. Some members of the Assembly, including almost all Russians, do not belong to any of them.

The main opposition to the report was expressed by representatives of the political group that includes Law and Justice, the European Conservatives. A small number of members of the European People's Party group also voted against, including representatives of the Hungarian Fidesz.

However, a large majority of representatives of the other factions: Christian Democrats, Liberals, Socialists and the Left voted in favour of the report.

Russia and the Council of Europe

In June 2019. After almost five years, Russia again received full voting rights in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The revocation of this right was a response to Russia's annexation of the Crimea. At that time, the Russians were also deprived of the right to hold managerial positions in the Assembly and could not take part in the monitoring missions of the Council of Europe.

118 parliamentarians from member states voted for the declaration, 62 were against, and 10 abstained. As a sign of protest, the Ukrainian delegation stopped working in the Council of Europe. The Polish delegates left the meeting room demonstratively.

### f) Gazeta Wyborcza

https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25642274,zgromadzenie-parlamentarne-rady-europy-przyjelo-rezolucje-krytykujaca.html

wyborcza.pl
NIE MA WOLNOŚCI BEZ SOLIDARNOŚCI
Czwartek 30.01.2020 Dzisiejsze wydanie papierowe
Kraj Świat Miasta Opinie Gospodarka Nauka Tech Kultura Sport Classic Magazyny Zdrowie Wideo Wysokie Obcasy Ekologia Prenumerata Podcast Więcej

rada europy

# Zgromadzenie Parlamentarne Rady Europy przyjęło rezolucję krytykującą zmiany w sądownictwie

Rafał Wójcik 28 stycznia 2020 | 17:07

**The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution criticising developments in the judiciary**

- The executive power in Poland subordinated itself to the courts. This should not be the case, the courts should be independent - said Dutchman Pieter Omtzigt, co-author of the report.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was held in Strasbourg. Members of Parliament and representatives of the Council of Europe countries commented on the report of the Council of Europe's Monitoring Committee. The report criticizes the changes in the judiciary introduced by Law and Justice. It was also stated that the Law and Justice reforms undermine the triple division of power.

In the report we read about "legislative Frankensteinisation". It is the argumentation of the Polish authorities, which defend the changes in the justice system by comparing their individual elements to individual provisions from the legislation of other EU countries. Both in the EU and in the Council of Europe, critics of this approach consider it as a manipulative omission of the context of the cumulative effect of changes in Poland.

The debate on the rule of law in Poland was followed by voting. First, 36 amendments of the Law and Justice party were rejected, and then a resolution was adopted. 140 delegates voted for the resolution, 37 were against and 11 abstained. In the resolution there was a call to include Poland in the monitoring procedure.

- The executive power in Poland subordinated itself to the courts. This should not be the case, the courts should be independent - said Dutchman Pieter Omtzigt, co-author of the report. He also spoke about combining the functions of the Minister of Justice and the General Prosecutor. - This position is politicised and does not guarantee the separation of the executive from the legislature - he said.

In his opinion "this is a very serious situation", which "concerns not only Poland, but all EU countries". - If the courts are not considered independent, then we have a problem. Not only in Poland, but in 27 countries - he added.

"We must support courageous judges."

- The situation in Poland is dangerous. Judges must be defended from political pressure. What conclusions for democracy are drawn from what is happening in Poland? Populists are growing in strength, we have a crisis of liberal democracy, the growth of social inequalities, and the catalyst for these changes is liberalism - said Greek MEP Jeorjos Katrungalos from the European United Left.

- The impact of recent reforms undermines the independence and rule of law in Poland. It directly affects the whole of Europe. It cannot be considered an internal Polish matter - he said.

- The authorities are trying to point their blade at ordinary people, at their identity," said Romanian MEP Iulian Bulai. And he added: - On behalf of the ALDE Group (Liberals' Group), I say that the situation in Poland should be periodically monitored.

Dutch MEP Ria Oomen-Ruijten from the European People's Party said that "the situation in the Polish justice system is dramatic". - We can no longer talk about the justice system in Poland in the context of independence and impartiality," she said.

- We must support those brave judges who are fighting for the independence of the justice system in Poland, we must stand shoulder to shoulder with the Venice Commission," said Socialist Frank Schwabe. - We should use the strongest tools we have to monitor the situation in Poland," he added.

- As a lawyer, I am horrified by the violation of individual rights in my country and the influence of the Minister of Justice on the justice system", said Krzysztof Śmiszek.

In turn, Aleksandr Bashkin representing Russia said that "reforms in Poland are not going in the right direction". - The independence of judges is a fundamental element of a democratic state - Bashkin noted.

French MEP Frederic Reiss said that "the situation in Poland is worrying". - We should force the Polish government to withdraw judicial reform - he said.

Tarczyński: I was fired from work

Delegates from Law and Justice tried to defend the changes in the Polish judiciary.

- Thank you for your concern for us from French parliamentarians. But who beats people on the streets of French cities? Take care of yourself. We Poles are fine. Do you remember martial law in Poland? There was a violation of democracy in Poland then. I was fired from my job as a journalist when PO was in power - said Dominik Tarczyński from Law and Justice.

Iwona Arent from Law and Justice also spoke about France and Sweden. - In France we are dealing with the violation of citizens' rights on the streets, and the police are suppressing the protests of lawyers against the government reform. In Sweden there are brutal rapes of women and girls. Human rights are being violated in these countries," said Arent.

Conservatives for Law and Justice

The Polish government was defended by MEP Martin Hebner from the far-right alternative to Germany. - The situation in other countries should be compared, and not just point the finger at Poland. There is no constitutional tribunal in my own country, let's keep the balance in our opinion - he said.

He was seconded by the British deputy Edward Leigh. In his opinion, the report "does not defend pluralism and diversity of our continent". - It delegitimizes conservatism in favour of liberal ideas and conformism. It is a political attack on the conservative government of Poland", he said.

**g) Wp.pl**

https://wiadomosci.wp.pl/rada-europy-przyjela-krytyczna-rezolucje-ws-polski-zaklada-procedure-monitoringu-6472611944564353a

## Rada Europy przyjęła krytyczną rezolucję ws. Polski. Zakłada procedurę monitoringu

Rady Europy przyjęła rezolucję ws. Polski, która zakłada wezwanie do objęcia naszego kraju procedurą monitoringu. Polska będzie jedynym krajem UE podlegającym tej procedurze Rady Europy. W rezolucji mowa również o "frankenstainizacji polskiego prawa".

3646 1729 Podziel się 1770

Rada Europy przyjęła rezolucję ws. Polski (East News)

**The Council of Europe adopted a critical resolution on Poland. It assumes a monitoring procedure**

The Council of Europe adopted a resolution on Poland, which calls for our country to be included in the monitoring procedure. Poland will be the only EU country subject to this Council of Europe procedure. The resolution also refers to "frankenstainization of Polish law".

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe debated the reform of the Polish judiciary. The preliminary report on the matter is already known. It refers to the "Frankensteinisation of law" and criticises the changes proposed by Law and Justice. "140 delegates voted for the resolution, 37 voted against.

- This report is for the citizens of Poland to have an impartial judicial system, regardless of who is in power - said during the debate the MP-rapporteur Pieter Omtzigt. He added that "if the judicial system is not impartial, it cannot defend citizens against the state".

- We support the resolution, we want to help our colleagues from Poland to change the current situation and return to the principles of the Council of Europe - stressed the representative of Russia Alexander Bashkin.

In turn, the Law and Justice representative Dominik Tarczyński put forward several dozen amendments to the resolution, but they were rejected in separate votes. Instead, an amendment calling for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure was adopted.

- Amendment 39, tabled by Krzysztof Śmiszk, among others, calling for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure, which now includes Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Moldova, Georgia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Armenia and Azerbaijan, was adopted. Poland will be the only EU country subject to this Council of Europe procedure - informs Polsat News correspondent.

**h) Gazeta.pl**

http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,25643150,rada-europy-przyjela-rezolucje-w-sprawie-reformy-sadownictwa.html

**Rada Europy przyjęła rezolucję w sprawie reformy sądownictwa. Polska będzie objęta monitoringiem**

aplk
28.01.2020 18:02

**W przyjętej przez Radę Europy rezolucji jest mowa o "frankenstainizacji" polskiego prawa i wezwanie do objęcia Polski procedurą monitoringu - informuje korespondentka Polsat News Dorota Bawołek. Za przyjęciem rezolucji głosowało 140 delegatów, przeciw było 37, a 11 wstrzymało się od głosu.**



TT/ Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz

**The Council of Europe adopted a resolution on judicial reform. Poland will be monitored**

The resolution adopted by the Council of Europe refers to the "frankenstainization" of Polish law and calls for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure, informs Polsat News correspondent Dorota Bawołek. 140 delegates voted for the resolution, 37 against and 11 abstained.

All 38 amendments tabled by the Law and Justice party were rejected during the proceedings. The amendment proposed by Krzysztof Śmiszek, among others, calling for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure, was adopted.

This means that Poland will be the only European Union country subject to the procedure. Apart from it, countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Moldova, Georgia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Armenia and Azerbaijan are subject to this procedure.

"We thank the Law Eagles of Law and Justice for that!" - wrote the Left MP on Twitter.

"The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, protecting the rights of Polish citizens against the actions of the written government destroying democratic institutions, decided to include Poland in the monitoring procedure. It is an expression of solidarity and support for Polish judges and Polish citizens". - wrote Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz.

Debate on the rule of law in Poland

On Tuesday, the Council of Europe held a debate on the rule of law in Poland in Strasbourg. The subject of the debate was the amendment of the law on common courts and the Supreme Court (also known as the "muzzling law"), which was adopted by the Sejm by the votes of the MPs of Law and Justice and is currently awaiting the President's signature.

Earlier, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe published a report which stated that the triple division of power in Poland had been violated. During a heated discussion on the state of democracy in Poland, one of the authors of the report, Pieter Omtzigt from the Netherlands, argued that the Law and Justice reform threatens the rule of law in Poland and "makes the situation worse".

The Council of Europe, founded in 1949, is an international governmental organization bringing together almost all European countries and several countries from outside the continent (including Russia and Turkey). It promotes and protects human rights, parliamentary democracy and the rule of law. Poland joined the Council of Europe in 1991.

**i) OKO.press**

https://oko.press/rada-europy-czas-monitorowac-wasza-praworzadnosc-polska-w-klubie-z-turcja-rosja-azerbejdzanem/

**Council of Europe: time to monitor your rule of law. Poland in a club with Turkey, Russia, Azerbaijan...**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe calls on Duda not to sign the muzzling law; the government to listen to the resolution of the Supreme Court; the Sejm to return to the election of the NCJ by judges. In a resolution (140 in favour, 37 against) MPs have decided to monitor the rule of law with us, as they are already doing in 10 countries from Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Serbia to Turkey

On the evening of January 28, 2020, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland.

It was not without embarrassing for Poland a debate in which Law and Justice (PiS) politicians were dashing away at arguments about threats to Polish democracy. Dominik Tarczyński, MP, argued that everything is "good" here. Iwona Arent, who was holding him in charge, regretted the "shocking" scale of violence against women in Sweden.

Despite Tarczyński's efforts, the Assembly adopted a resolution condemning the Law and Justice party's attack on the independent judiciary. The resolution contains a number of provisions that are unpleasant for the Law and Justice government, including the worst - the opening of the procedure of monitoring the rule of law and democratic institutions towards Poland.

Thus, Poland joins 10 member states covered by this procedure. These are: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine and Turkey (in the picture Prime Minister Erdoğan visited President Duda).

Interestingly, we will not find Hungary on this list, which under Fidesz Viktor Orbán's rule has been losing its democratic qualities. Hungarians in the Council of Europe are also protected by a political alliance - membership of the European People's Party, the same as the Polish PO.

Regular visits by the two rapporteurs await Poland. PACE delegates will issue periodic reports on compliance with our obligations as a member of the Council of Europe.

PACE also instructed the government and the Sejm in detail what changes they are to withdraw from. It even indicated that it should

Establish an independent investigation committee on "slander campaigns" against judges and prosecutors who opposed the Law and Justice reforms.

Painful diagnosis: the government is harming cumulatively

The draft resolution adopted on 28 January is based on the report of the Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the RE, which we wrote about at the beginning of the month.

The resolution repeats the most important findings of the two rapporteurs-authors of the report, who examined the state of democratic institutions in Poland. Swedish socialist Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson and Dutchman Pieter Omtzigt from the European People's Party wrote, among others, that

"changes in the judicial system and the judiciary in Poland cumulatively undermine and seriously damage the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law".

They should therefore be re-examined to bring them into line with the Council of Europe recommendations. This diagnosis was agreed by a large majority of the Members of the Assembly present. The resolution was passed by a majority of 140 to 37. 11 MPs abstained.

Parliamentarians also wrote that as a result of the PiS "reforms"

The Polish justice system has become "susceptible to political interference and attempts to submit to political control by the executive power". This undermines the principles of a democratic rule of law.

The Law and Justice party members submitted 46 amendments, often cosmetic, to the draft. All of them were rejected. In the hall they could count mainly on the support of British Conservatives, Hungarians and Turks. They were also supported by some Italians and individual MPs from Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Latvia, among others.

An appeal to Duda (not to sign) and the government (to respect the SN)

The parliamentarians did not limit themselves to a diagnosis of the state of the Polish rule of law. They appealed to the Polish authorities for concrete actions.

They asked Andrzej Duda not to sign the law disciplining judges, which came to his desk after the Sejm rejected the Senate veto on 23 January. According to the members of PACE, this law leads to further "restrictions on the independence of the judiciary and respect for the rule of law in Poland".

It violates Articles 6 and 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

They have appealed to the Polish government to fully respect the Supreme Court ruling of 23 January 2020.

MPs also referred to the crisis surrounding the Constitutional Court. They reminded that a democratically elected authority that respects the rule of law cannot selectively ignore provisions that it does not like, especially the rulings of the Constitutional Court.

"Full and unconditional execution of all rulings of the Constitutional Court, including with regard to the composition of the Constitutional Court itself, should be the foundation for solving the crisis".

Solve the "Polish problem".

In addition, they have made a number of recommendations to the Law and Justice government. In the opinion of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of the European Union, the rule of law should be restored in Poland first and foremost:

Urgently separate the positions of the Minister of Justice and the General Prosecutor, and secure the prosecution service from exploitation and politicisation by law;

restore the election of judges of the National Judicial Council by the judiciary;

Reduce the 'excessive and discretionary' powers granted to the Minister of Justice to control the judiciary;

Resolve the problem of the so-called 'extraordinary complaint' and of the judges of the Disciplinary Chamber and the Supreme Court Emergency Control;

Establish an independent investigation committee for 'slander campaigns' against judges and prosecutors who have opposed the reforms.

The Parliamentary Assembly 'understands the challenges' faced by the Polish judiciary and the judiciary. But while it is pleased that the government considers them a priority, it stresses that

Any reforms should be adopted in compliance with European norms and standards. They are intended to strengthen, not weaken, the independence of judges and the rule of law.

Parliament also called on the courts of the member states of the ECJ to make sure that their Polish counterparts guarantee a fair trial for defendants in civil and criminal matters (including those where the European Arrest Warrant operates).

The Council of Europe advises and regrets and the government shakes hands

The resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly is another reaction of the Council of Europe bodies to the situation in Poland. In recent weeks, we have been closely following the visit of the Venice Commission on 9-10 January 2020 to OKO.press.

The Commission rapporteurs visited Warsaw at the invitation of the Speaker of the Senate Tomasz Grodzki. They looked at the provisions of the law disciplining judges (muzzling). Then, in their opinion of 16 January, they called on the Senate to reject the draft.

The Commission regretted that instead of resolving the problems with the Polish rule of law, the law only made the situation worse. It recommended that the Law and Justice government should, among other things, return to the old rules for the appointment of KRS judges and limit the competences of the new Supreme Court "superintendents", i.e. the Disciplinary Chamber and the Chamber of Extraordinary Control and Public Affairs.

In the meantime, Marshal Grodzki was also approached by the Commissioner for Human Rights RE Dunja Mijatović. She also called for the rejection of the controversial project.

"I consider the effect of such changes to be extremely problematic from the point of view of Council of Europe standards. I also regret that the law does not refer to the recommendations I made during my visit to Warsaw in March 2019". - you stressed.

But Law and Justice politicians disregard the recommendations of the Council of Europe. The law is already waiting only for Andrzej Duda's signature.

The government representatives stressed that neither the Venice Commission nor other bodies can impose anything on them. It is true - the Council of Europe's findings are not legally binding on 47 member states. But by consciously ignoring their obligations, the rulers are jeopardizing Poland's credibility on the international arena and weakening the alliances that guarantee our security.

## 2. State media

### a) TVP.info

https://tvp.info/46398825/rezolucja-rady-europy-w-sprawie-polski-opozycja-glosowala-razem-z-rosja

**Council of Europe resolution on Poland. The opposition voted together with Russia**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe meeting in Strasbourg adopted a resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland. 140 delegates voted in favour of the resolution, including the Civic Coalition and the Left, 37 of them were against and 11 abstained. The resolution was supported by delegates from Russia.

The resolution is critical of the Polish government's actions concerning reform of the judiciary. In the votes on the resolution, the parliamentarians of the United Right tabled over 30 amendments, but they were rejected.

The PA of the Council of Europe supported the amendment, co-authored by Krzysztof Śmiszek (Left), which called for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure. Two delegates from KO voted in favour of it, apart from Śmiszek, six from PiS and one from KO were against. Śmiszek himself admitted that such a solution is "shocking".

- This is an unprecedented situation. Actually, it was the first time that the country was under constant monitoring through a resolution. This is all the more shocking, or one could say alarming, that it is a European Union country. The large number of votes in favour of the resolution shows great concern for European parliaments and public opinion about the state of democracy in Poland - said Mr Śmiszek.

His attitude was criticized by the representative of the United Right, Ryszard Czarnecki

- I have an extremely negative opinion of the situation in which a Polish MP signs up to something that hits our country. It is worth noting that although there are acute political conflicts in other EU countries, the representatives of these countries do not make cribs in the Council of Europe. The political impact of this resolution will be negligible, while some will probably try to convince that it is great, for the internal needs of national politics - assessed the politician.

As he added, one should not forget that the Council of Europe includes countries such as Russia. - There are also a number of other states that are not in the European Union, about whose democracy one can have, to put it mildly, some reservations - he noted.

Another representative of the United Right, Dominik Tarczyński, was equally critical of the resolution.

- This is a very symbolic moment, for several reasons. Representatives of the opposition in the delegation voted together with Russia. I looked with pity at those Members who voted against Poland together with Russia. An unpleasant moment, another border crossing, but in my opinion this document will not influence Poland in any way. This resolution has no legal force, it will not affect legislation and reforms in Poland - he said.

### b) TVP.info

https://www.tvp.info/46393151/kreml-zmartwiony-reformami-wymiaru-sprawiedliwosci-w-polsce

**The Kremlin "worried" about the reforms of the justice system in Poland**

- The authorities are to protect the independence of the courts," Russia instructed our country at the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. - We support the resolution on Poland - said Aleksandr Bashkin, a Russian senator attending the session. Politicians of the Polish opposition spoke in a similar tone. "Polish opposition MPs shoulder to shoulder with Russia. What a fall" - commented Dominik Tarczyński, Law and Justice MP.

- We are very worried about the combination of the positions of Minister of Justice and Prosecutor General. (...) The presidents of the courts will receive financial benefits, which is a threat to the independence of the judiciary - said Bashkin. As he stressed, "independence of the courts is a fundamental issue".

- We support the resolution, we want to help our colleagues from Poland to change the current situation and return to the principles of the Council of Europe - he emphasized, calling on the Polish government to change the regulations.

Representatives of the Polish opposition were also critical of the Polish government. - Step by step, my country tried to restore democratic institutions that were supposed to serve democracy and people, including courts where judges are not subjected to political pressure. Unfortunately, over the last five years we have witnessed the destruction of the pillars of democracy", said Krzysztof Śmiszek (Spring) during his speech.

Dominik Tarczyński (Law and Justice) referred to such opinions.

- I have the impression that many of you have not read the report. I have questions for the German socialists: who appoints the presidents of courts in Germany? (...) Democracy in our government is the best example of democracy, because this reform was promised in the election campaign, still in 2015. - said Tarczyński.

"Polish opposition MPs have been working side by side with Russia. What a fall," he commented on Twitter.

In the vote on 23 January, MPs from the Law and Justice party voted for the law on the apoliticisation of judges, criticised by the Kremlin. They voted 'against' - in line with Moscow's opinion - or the representatives of the four remaining groups abstained: PO, PSL-Kukiz'15, Left and Confederation. A session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is under way in Strasbourg. At 10 a.m. the debate on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland began. The session is also intended to discuss the possible procedure to be followed in the event that a Member State fails to honour its commitments.

**c) Polskie Radio**

https://www.polskieradio24.pl/5/1223/Artykul/2444420,Opozycja-poparla-rezolucje-RE-Posel-PiS-razem-z-Rosja-glosowali-przeciwko-Polsce

# Opozycja poparła rezolucję RE. Poseł PiS: razem z Rosją głosowali przeciwko Polsce

PAP

Zgromadzenie Parlamentarne Rady Europy przyjęło we wtorek w Strasburgu rezolucję ws. funkcjonowania instytucji demokratycznych w Polsce. Za rezolucją głosowało 140 delegatów, przeciw było 37, a 11 wstrzymało się od głosu.

Zgromadzenie Parlamentarne Rady Europy/zdjęcie ilustracyjne Foto: shutterstock.com/DiamondDallas

**The opposition supported the RE resolution. Law and Justice party member: together with Russia voted against Poland**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted on Tuesday in Strasbourg a resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland. 140 delegates voted for the resolution, 37 against and 11 abstained.

Earlier, a debate on the subject took place. During the debate, parliamentarians and representatives of the countries of the Council of Europe presented their conclusions on the report of this body, evaluating the reforms of the judiciary in Poland.

Five delegates from the Civic Coalition and one from the Left voted for the resolution. Six delegates from the Law and Justice party were against.

The resolution is critical of the Polish government's actions concerning the reform of the judiciary. In the votes on the resolution, Law and Justice (PiS) parliamentarians submitted over 30 amendments, but they were rejected.

"An unprecedented situation"

As Mr. Krzysztof Śmiszek (Left) said, the ZP of the Council of Europe supported, among others, the amendment of which he was a co-author, calling for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure. Two delegates from KO voted in favour of the amendment - apart from Śmiszek, six from PiS and one from KO were against.

- This is an unprecedented situation. Actually, it was the first time that the country was included in the permanent monitoring through a resolution. This is all the more shocking, or one can say alarming, that it is a country of the

European Union. (...) The large number of votes in support of the resolution shows great concern for European parliaments and public opinion about the state of democracy in Poland - said Mr. Śmiszek.

"The political impact of this resolution will be negligible".

MEP Ryszard Czarnecki (PiS) was critical of the ZP RE resolution and the adopted amendment on monitoring Poland. - I have an extremely negative opinion of the situation in which a Polish MP signs up to something that hits our country. (...) It is worth noting that although there are acute political conflicts in other EU countries, representatives of these countries do not make cribs in the Council of Europe. The political impact of this resolution will be negligible, while probably some will try to convince that it is great, for the internal needs of national politics - he explained.

As he added, one should not forget that the Council of Europe includes countries such as Russia. - There are also a number of other countries that are not in the European Union, about whose democracy one can have, to put it mildly, some reservations - he noted.

"A sad time"

Dominik Tarczyński (PiS) was also critical of the resolution. - This is a very symbolic moment, for several reasons. Representatives of the opposition in the delegation voted together with Russia. (...) I looked with pity at those Members who voted against Poland together with Russia. An unpleasant moment, another border crossing, but in my opinion this document will not affect Poland in any way. This resolution has no legal force, it will not affect legislation and reforms in Poland - he explained.

Andrzej Halicki (PO), MEP, is of a different opinion. As he said, it is a very sad day. - This should never happen when it comes to covering Poland with monitoring. This suddenly places Poland, instead of being a leader of the transformation, among the countries that are becoming a problem for Europe - he said, adding that this is a group of countries that have problems with democracy. - This is not the society in which Poland should find itself - he noted.

**d) Polskie Radio**

https://www.polskieradio24.pl/130/5925/Artykul/2444882,Prof-Legutko-mowienie-o-frankensteinizacji-polskiej-demokracji-to-belkot

# Prof. Legutko: mówienie o "frankensteinizacji" polskiej demokracji to bełkot

POLSKIE RADIO 24

**- Przepraszam, ale to jakiś kompletny bełkot - ocenił w Polskim Radiu 24 wtorkową rezolucję Rady Europy prof. Ryszard Legutko. - Ta cała bełkotliwość pokazuje, że krytycy polskich reform nie mają żadnego dobrego argumentu - dodał europoseł PiS.**

Prof. Ryszard Legutko Foto: Jacek Konecki/PR

**Prof. Legutko: talking about the "Frankensteinisation" of Polish democracy is gibberish**

- I'm sorry, but this is some kind of complete gibberish,' said Prof. Ryszard Legutko in the Polish Radio 24 Tuesday's resolution of the Council of Europe. - This whole gibberish shows that critics of Polish reforms do not have any good argument', added the Law and Justice Party MEP.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted on Tuesday in Strasbourg a resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland, calling for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure. 140 delegates voted for the resolution, 37 against and 11 abstained.

A debate on the subject had been held earlier. During the debate, parliamentarians and representatives of the Council of Europe countries presented their conclusions on the Council of Europe report evaluating judicial reforms in Poland. Among others, Poland was accused of "Frankensteinisation" of democracy.

The outrage is not covered by politicians of the United Right. - The EU's argumentation is a humble one. A given solution works in one country, but it cannot be borrowed to another country, or only to the chosen ones,' pointed out Professor Ryszard Legutko, an MEP.

Włodzimierz Bernacki: the majority in the Council of Europe are left-wing circles

"We want to eliminate the pathology."

The guest of Polish Radio 24 stressed that some European Union countries are allowed to do what others are trying to ban. - For example, in France you can discipline judges for some obstruction of the justice system, but you can't discipline them in Poland. Why? You don't know - he said.

The professor also evaluated the German system, in which politicians elect judges. - There is no special culture of independence in Germany. It is relatively low - he said.

The politician pointed out that the Polish reform is a good reform, which falls within the standards of civilised countries. - The reform aims to eliminate various pathologies, bad practices of the system that emerged after the fall of communism - he explained.

- The opposition itself knows that the current system is bad, but in all the years it was in power it did not want to do anything about it - added a guest of Polish Radio 24.

## 3. Pro-government media

### a) TV Republika

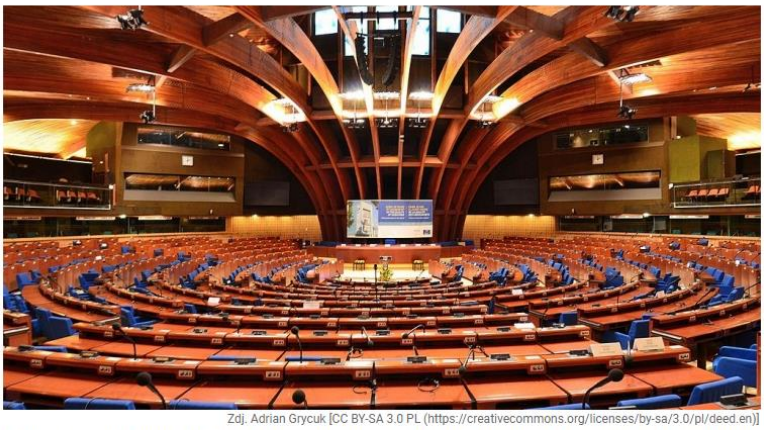
https://telewizjarepublika.pl/tego-jeszcze-w-kinie-nie-grali-rosja-martwi-sie-o-polskie-sady-opozycja-jej-przyklaskuje,90642.html

# Tego jeszcze w kinie nie grali! Rosja "martwi się" o polskie sądy, opozycja jej przyklaskuje!

37

JJ

15:11 28 stycznia 2020



Zdj. Adrian Grycuk [CC BY-SA 3.0 PL (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/pl/deed.en)]

**Podczas sesji Zgromadzenia Parlamentarnego Rady Europy doszło do absurdalnej sytuacji. Polscy posłowie opozycji mówili bowiem jednym głosem z... rosyjskim senatorem, który był bardzo „zatroskany" o polskie sądy.**

**They haven't played that one in the cinema yet! Russia is "worried" about the Polish courts, the opposition applauds it!**

During the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe an absurd situation occurred. Polish members of the opposition spoke with one voice with... a Russian senator who was very "worried" about Polish courts.

- The authorities are to protect the independence of the courts. We support the resolution on Poland," stressed Aleksandr Bashkin, a senator representing Russia during the session. He was not alone in this, because... he was accompanied by politicians of the Polish opposition.

- Polish opposition MPs shoulder to shoulder with Russia. What a fall - this is how Dominik Tarczyński, a member of the Law and Justice party, referred to the whole situation.

- We are very worried about the combination of the positions of Minister of Justice and Prosecutor General. (...) The presidents of the courts will receive financial benefits, which is a threat to the independence of the judiciary," peroled Bashkin. The Russian politician stressed that "the independence of courts is a fundamental issue".

- We support the resolution, we want to help our colleagues from Poland to change the current situation and return to the principles of the Council of Europe - said the senator, calling on the Polish government to change the regulations.

One voice with the Russian senator was spoken by Polish opposition parliamentarians, including Krzysztof Śmiszek from the Spring. As the MP from the Biedronie party argued, in Poland "for the last five years we have witnessed the destruction of the pillars of democracy".

- I have the impression that many of you have not read the report. I have questions for the German socialists: who appoints the presidents of courts in Germany? (...) Democracy in our government is the best example of democracy, because this reform was promised in the election campaign, still in 2015', Dominik Tarczyński from the Law and Justice party, who is hostile to Poland, addressed.

- Polish opposition MPs from Russia side by side. What a fall," he later summarised on Twitter.

**b) wPolityce.pl**

https://wpolityce.pl/polityka/484536-rosja-poucza-polske-ws-praworzadnosci-ast-to-skandal

**Russia teaches Poland about the rule of law? Ast has no doubt: The resolution is scandalous and absurd. The left returns to the roots**

The scandalous decision of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - this is how Marek Ast (PiS) MP assessed the Council's resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland on Wednesday.

The resolution was adopted on Tuesday in Strasbourg. It is critical of the Polish government's actions concerning reform of the judiciary. Five delegates from the Civic Coalition and one from the Left voted in favour of the resolution; six delegates from the Law and Justice party were against. MEP Krzysztof Śmiszek (Left) co-authored the amendment adopted by ZP calling for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure.

Scandalous decision of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- said Ast on Polish Radio 24. He pointed out that Polish delegates to ZPRE originating from the opposition "together with Russia voted against Poland".

This should not happen. Not so long ago (...) the Assembly decided to restore Russia as a full member of the Council of Europe. And now Russia, which has little to do with the rule of law, is teaching Poland what the justice system should look like. This is an unacceptable, absurd situation.

- stressed the PiS MP.

In his opinion "it is depressing that members of the Polish opposition delegation took part in the whole operation". Referring to the amendment of MP Krzysztof Śmiszek regarding the permanent monitoring of the rule of law in Poland, he said:

It's as if the left wing is going back to its roots, hand in hand with Russia against the Republic.

According to Asta, there would be no resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland if not for the actions of the Polish opposition.

There wouldn't be any lectures if it wasn't for the activity of the total opposition, which today in Europe is looking for the last circle

- he indicated.

In the EP, liberal left-wing circles, concentrated in the EPL and left-wing formations, closely cooperate with the Polish left-wing and PO. I am not surprised, but it shows that there are equal and more equal countries in Europe. What Germany and France are allowed, Poland is not allowed.

When asked about the visit to Poland by the Vice-President of the European Commission Vera Jourova, Marek Ast said that these were good talks.

I have to say that this is not a continuation of Frans Timmermans' actions. He put it this way, that it's about "chasing the bunny", showing all the time that Poland is on censored. Several conversations took place, Marshal Witek said that the conversation was good, that she tried to convince her that we were right, pointing out that even though the judiciary in Germany is dominated by politicians

- said the MP.

He pointed out that the issue of the organisation of the judiciary was constantly being highlighted in the EU. He stressed that, according to the treaties, it is an internal matter for each EU country.

Asked what will result from the meeting of the opposition with President Duda on the amendment of the court laws, Ast recalled that the president talks with all political options, because he is a man of dialogue.

The president announced that there is no possibility of backtracking on reforms. The Sejm worked on presidential projects. They came into force and they are now being questioned by part of the judiciary. Therefore, a disciplinary law has been passed. The opposition and part of the judiciary do not like it. Nothing happens here. No state can afford to question the status of a judge

- said Marek Ast.

**c) wPolityce.pl**

https://wpolityce.pl/polityka/484558-wiceszef-msz-o-re-zaniepokojenie-rosji-mowi-samo-za-siebie

**Deputy Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the RE resolution: "Russia, as a state, supports efforts to defend the rule of law in Poland. This speaks for itself"**

The situation in which Russia supports efforts to defend the rule of law in Poland speaks for itself - assessed the deputy head of the MFA Paweł Jabłoński on Wednesday, referring to the resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland.

On Tuesday, ZPRE adopted a resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Poland, critical of the Polish government's actions concerning judicial reform. The resolution calls for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure - this provision was introduced thanks to the adoption of an amendment co-authored by MP Krzysztof Śmiszek (Left).

The deputy head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, referring on Radio Zet to the fact that Poland is called upon to be included in the monitoring procedure and that it has been set up in one row with Russia, Turkey, Moldova and Azerbaijan, said that "we have been set up primarily in this row by Russia".

I could not believe it, as I heard the Russian representative say, that the Russians are concerned about the fact that in Poland the position of Minister of Justice has been merged with the office of the Attorney General

- he added.

Asked what this resolution really means to us, because we are the only country in the EU that will be subject to a monitoring procedure in terms of justice, he replied:

This is a situation where Russia, as a state, supports efforts to defend the rule of law in Poland. This speaks for itself.

He admitted that Polish MPs also voted for the resolution, which, in his opinion, is "quite surprising".

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs said that "it is gratifying to see that the legal institutions that we use, i.e. the solutions, whether in terms of disciplinary matters or the structure of the judiciary or the mechanism for appointing judges, are elements taken from other legal systems".

As he said, 'The Council of Europe yesterday, if that was to be the conclusion, states that these are the worst elements from other systems'.

If the worst element of the German system is the mechanism for appointing judges there, if the worst element of the French system is the mechanism for disciplining judges there for political statements, then I will say this: until now we have not heard that these are bad elements, until now it has worked, for years it has not bothered anyone especially the Council of Europe, the European Commission or the Venice Commission.

- Jablonski's attention.

When asked whether Poland "will not get its money's worth" if it does not withdraw from the judicial reform proposed by the Law and Justice party, due to the possibility of linking the EU budget with respect for the rule of law, he answered: "there is absolutely no such threat, because the EU budget is set unanimously".

Whether there will be such a conditionality mechanism must be accepted by all countries. Moreover, the proposal, which was also put forward by Commissioner Jourova in May 2018, was strongly criticised by the EU's legal services (...) The legal services pointed out that this proposal is incompatible with the EU treaties, that it is too arbitrary, that these criteria are unclear, that it is basically a circumvention of the treaty procedures, so this regulation cannot be accepted.

- stressed Jabłoński. (PAP)

On Tuesday 140 delegates voted in favour of the resolution by the Council of Europe's IG, 37 against and 11 abstentions. From among the members of the Polish delegation to the Polish Union of the Council of Europe participating in the vote, the resolution was supported by five delegates from the Civic Coalition and one from the Left. Six delegates from the Law and Justice party were against.

In the votes on the resolution, Law and Justice (PiS) parliamentarians submitted over 30 amendments, but they were rejected. Two delegates from the KO, six from the Law and Justice party and one from the KO voted in favour of the amendment, co-authored by MP Śmiszek.

**d) Do Rzeczy**

https://dorzeczy.pl/kraj/127777/opozycja-ze-wsparciem-rosji-ws-rezolucji-przeciwko-polsce-co-za-upadek.html

# Opozycja ze wsparciem Rosji ws. rezolucji przeciwko Polsce. "Co za upadek"

**Opposition with Russian support for the resolution against Poland. "What a fall."**

"Polish opposition MPs shoulder to shoulder with Russia. What a fall" - Dominik Tarczyński, Law and Justice deputy, quoted the events during the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Delegates from the RE countries worked today on a resolution on the rule of law in Poland.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe today debated the situation of justice and democracy in Poland. The delegates of the RE countries discussed the resolution on this issue. Voting on the report is to take place after 4 p.m., but some events and statements during the debates have already aroused great emotions.

Even Russians allowed themselves to criticise the state of democracy and the rule of law in Poland. Politicians connected with the Kremlin were convinced that "Poland must return to the Council of Europe principles".

- We are very concerned about the combination of the positions of Minister of Justice and Prosecutor General. (...) Court presidents will receive financial benefits, which is a threat to the independence of the judiciary. We support the resolution on Poland - said Aleksandr Bashkin, a Russian senator participating in the session of ZPRE. As the Russians stressed, the authorities "should protect the independence of judges, which is a fundamental issue". - We support the resolution, we want to help our colleagues from Poland to change the current situation and return to the principles of the Council of Europe - Bashkin emphasized.

The resolution against Poland was also supported by parliamentarians of the Polish opposition. "Today in Strasbourg I appeal to the Law and Justice government to respect the judgments of Polish and European courts and tribunals and to withdraw from the changes undermining the independence of the judiciary". - wrote on Twitter by Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz (PO) and shared a photo from her speech.

There is a ZPRE session in Strasbourg. At 10 o'clock the debate on the rule of law in Poland began. The meeting is also intended to discuss the procedure for dealing with situations where a Member State fails to meet its obligations as a member of the RE.

**e) Radio Maryja**

https://www.radiomaryja.pl/informacje/lewica-i-po-jednym-glosem-z-rosja-przeciwko-polsce/

LEFT AND CIVIC PLATFORM WITH ONE VOICE WITH RUSSIA AGAINST POLAND

The Council of Europe discussed the rule of law in Poland on Tuesday. A resolution was adopted for which Russian delegates also voted side by side with representatives of the Polish opposition. It is on the initiative of the opposition that Poland is to be included in the monitoring procedure.

The state of judicial reform in Poland is bad - this is the main idea behind the report prepared by the deputies of the Council of Europe. It warns against "violating the rules of democracy in Poland". The changes implemented by the authorities in Warsaw were criticized by representatives of Germany, France and Belgium, among others. They argued that democracy, citizens' rights and sexual minorities are at risk in Poland. They were supported by members of the Left and the Civic Coalition.

- Over the last five years we have witnessed the systematic destruction of the foundations of Polish democracy - said Krzysztof Śmiszek, MP from the Left.

- Free courts, free people - called Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz, member of the Civic Coalition.

A representative of the Russian Federation was also supposed to present his reservations about the situation in Poland, whose statement was part of the Polish opposition's narrative.

- We support the resolution. In this way we want to help our colleagues from Poland to change the current situation and return to respect for the principles of the Council of Europe, the rule of law and civil rights - said Aleksandr Bashkin, Russian representative in the Council of Europe.

Dominik Tarczyński, MP, answered the accusations. The politician reminded that the reform of the justice system was a pre-election promise of Law and Justice, which won the second parliamentary election.

- I have a question for the German socialists: "Who elects judges in Germany?" You. We hear from the French socialists that this report is to ensure the safety of Polish citizens. Thank you for your concern for us. We are fine. We have no burning cars in Warsaw. We don't have riots, people aren't beaten and they don't lose their lives. And this is happening now in France. Please take care of yourselves - the parliamentarian stressed.

Several deputies from Germany, Great Britain and Hungary stood up for Poland. They argued that the report is biased and in fact it is a political attack on the conservative Polish government. They pointed out that double standards are applied to Warsaw.

### f) Salon24

https://www.salon24.pl/u/andrzej111/1015679,rosja-ramie-w-ramie-z-polska-opozycja-totalna-przeciw-rzadowi-pis

**Rosja ramię w ramię z polską opozycją totalną przeciw rządowi PiS. Aktualizacja...**

**Russia shoulder to shoulder with the Polish total opposition against the Law and Justice party government. Update...**

Russia outraged by the Law and Justice party. They supported the opposition and criticised the reform of the justice system together with it. A debate on the state of democracy in Poland took place in Strasbourg. "We support the resolution, we want to help our colleagues from Poland to change the current situation and return to the principles of the Council of Europe". - stressed the Russian representative A. Bashkin. One can say, a nice inauguration of the government of the new head of the PO and the entire total opposition, and a significant, although unexpected (or to be sure) vote of support. Though there are those who say a favour or even a nail in a coffin.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe debated the reform of the Polish judiciary. The preliminary report on the matter is already known. It contains the term 'Frankensteinisation of law' and critical opinions on the changes proposed by Law and Justice. Law and Justice politicians emphasize that Poland was strongly criticized by Russia on the European forum. "Polish opposition MPs shoulder to shoulder with Russia. What a fall." - wrote on Twitter by Dominik Tarczyński, recently re-elected vice-president of the European Conservatives in the Council of Europe.

"With Targowica for centuries" - commented Marek Pęk, PiS MP, and his party colleague Paweł Lisiecki added: "So what? The total opposition and Putin's envoys 'hand in hand' together against Poland...". Paweł Rybicki, Beata Szydło's colleague wrote in turn: "This only proves how necessary a reform of the courts is. If something worries Russia, it is good for Poland". "I have the impression that the louder the opposition accuses the Law and Justice party of 'putinization', the more willing it is to provide Russia with ammunition in the information war." - added Wojciech Wybranowski from "Do Things".

What do the opposition politicians say? "Today in Strasbourg I appeal to the Law and Justice government to respect the judgments of Polish and European courts and tribunals and to withdraw from changes that undermine the independence of the judiciary". - wrote Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz on Twitter. Let us recall that Russia was partially excluded from the Council of Europe for a long time. Moscow was criticised for undemocratic

practices and the annexation of the Crimea. However, in June - despite the lack of change in Russia's position - the representatives of the Council of Europe decided to give it full voting rights in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Well, our unbroken opponents should be congratulated for such strong support from the most powerful democracy in the world. There, Putin himself is over all the judges, they know, like no one else, what the rule of law is.

P.S.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on Poland. Poland will be subject to the monitoring procedure. 140 delegates voted for the resolution, 37 against and 11 abstained. All 38 amendments tabled by the Law and Justice party were rejected, and the amendment tabled by Krzysztof Śmiszek, the bed partner of candidate for the future President of Poland Robert Biedroń, calling for Poland to be subject to the monitoring procedure, was adopted. What can be said at this point? It is probably already a total moral collapse of the fifth column, which some call a total opposition? May the Law and Justice party not hesitate and finish what it started, because if not, it will finish it, as you can see Putin, with the support of lunatics ready to do anything to regain power. Will Poles wake up in the next elections and chase this mad locust?

## 4. Social media - top tweets

Russian A. Bashkin on the Council of Europe resolution on democracy in Poland:

"We support the resolution, we want to help our colleagues from Poland to change the current situation and return to the Council of Europe principles".

Polish opposition MPs shoulder to shoulder with Russia.

What a fall...

The resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, critical of Poland, was adopted, 140 delegates voted in favour and 37 against. The resolution speaks of the "frankenstainization" of Polish law and calls for Poland to be included in the monitoring procedure .

PiS lost EVERY vote in the Parliamentary Assembly. Council of Europe. 140 to 37! Poland has been included in the permanent monitoring of the Council of Europe's rule of law. We thank the law eagles of Law and Justice for that!

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution criticising changes in the Polish judiciary. Aleksandr Bashkin representing Russia: "the reforms in Poland are not going in the right direction". 140 delegates voted for the resolution, 37 were against and 11 abstained.