



Brussels, 24 November 2020

*Re: Call for Action - De facto ban of abortion in the Republic of Poland and illegitimacy of the "Constitutional Tribunal"*

Dear Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, dear Commissioner Věra Jourová, dear Commissioner Helena Dalli, dear Commissioner Didier Reynders,

**The ruling of the Polish “Constitutional Tribunal” on the de facto ban on abortion, even in cases of severe foetal impairment, is the straw that has broken the camel's back.** Thousands of people have taken the streets of Poland to protest for their rights, to stand up to the government’s recent and current infringements of the rule of law, women’s fundamental rights and the right to bodily autonomy. This ruling puts people's lives and their health at risk, violates Poland’s international human rights obligations and showcases the dire situation of democracy and rule of law in the country.

**As EU citizens and European Members of Parliaments, we declare our heartfelt solidarity with Polish citizens resisting this situation.** While the Polish government’s attack on the independence of the judiciary in Poland has been going on since 2015, we are convinced that it is more important than ever to finally stand up for our common EU values. Polish citizens are EU citizens and they rightly insist that EU institutions, in particular the European Commission, must defend their rights.

**We call upon the European Commission to give testament to these common values and to use all available tools at their disposal.** As such, we urge the European Commission to launch an infringement procedure against Poland on matters of the “Constitutional Tribunal” as well as “LGBTI-free zones”. Furthermore, we urge the Commission to determinedly act on the recently decided rule of law conditionality for the future EU budget. Our hard-fought rights and values, which we are rightly proud of, are at stake.

Yours sincerely,  
“All of Us” Coordinators in the European Parliament

Malin	<b>BJÖRK</b>	Sweden	MEP
Maria	<b>NOICHL</b>	Germany	MEP
Terry	<b>REINTKE</b>	Germany	MEP
Ernest	<b>URTASUN</b>	Spain	MEP
Chrysoula	<b>ZACHAROPOULOU</b>	France	MEP

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Dovilė	<b>ŠAKALIENĖ</b>	Lithuania	MP

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Fourat	<b>BEN CHIKHA</b>	Belgium	Senator
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Robert	<b>BIEDROŃ</b>	Poland	MEP
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Isabel	<b>CARVALHAIS</b>	Portugal	MEP
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Sara	<b>CERDAS</b>	Portugal	MEP
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Faika	<b>EL-NAGASHI</b>	Austria	MP
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Heléne	<b>FRITZON</b>	Sweden	MEP
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Jens	<b>GEIER</b>	Germany	MEP
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Beatriz	<b>GOMES DIAS</b>	Portugal	MP
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Guillaume	<b>GOUFFIER-CHA</b>	France	MP
Sandro	<b>GOZI</b>	France/Italy	MEP
Heike	<b>GREBIEN</b>	Austria	MP
Francisco	<b>GUERREIRO</b>	Portugal	MEP
Sylvie	<b>GUILLAUME</b>	France	MEP
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José	<b>GUSMÃO</b>	Portugal	MEP
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Domagoj	<b>HAJDUKOVIĆ</b>	Croatia	MP
Satu	<b>HASSI</b>	Finland	MP
Anja	<b>HAZEKAMP</b>	Netherlands	MEP
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Agnes	<b>JONGERIUS</b>	Netherlands	MEP
Raimond	<b>KALJULAI</b>	Estonia	MP
Fabienne	<b>KELLER</b>	France	MEP
Anita	<b>KUCHARSKA-DZIEDZIC</b>	Poland	MP
Alice	<b>KUHNKE</b>	Sweden	MEP
Miapetra	<b>KUMPULA-NATRI</b>	Finland	MEP
Merja	<b>KYLLÖNEN</b>	Finland	MP
Aurore	<b>LALUQ</b>	France	MEP
Katrin	<b>LANGENSIEPEN</b>	Germany	MEP
María-Manuel	<b>LEITAO-MARQUES</b>	Portugal	MEP
Martin	<b>LITSCHAUER</b>	Austria	MP
Katarzyna	<b>LUBNAUER</b>	Poland	MP
César	<b>LUENA</b>	Spain	MEP
Pierfrancesco	<b>MAJORINO</b>	Italy	MEP
Nico	<b>MARCHETTI</b>	Austria	MP
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Samira	<b>MARTI</b>	Switzerland	MP
Marisa	<b>MATIAS</b>	Portugal	MEP
Predrag Fred	<b>MATIĆ</b>	Croatia	MEP
Eleni	<b>MAVROU</b>	Cyprus	MP
Radka	<b>MAXOVÁ</b>	Czechia	MEP
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Michelle	<b>MEUNIER</b>	France	Senator
Mattea	<b>MEYER</b>	Switzerland	MP
Alessandra	<b>MORETTI</b>	Italy	MEP
Rebecca	<b>MOYNIHAN</b>	Ireland	Senator
Barbara	<b>NEBLER</b>	Austria	MP
Hannah	<b>NEUMANN</b>	Germany	MEP
Niklas	<b>NIENAB</b>	Germany	MEP
Barbara	<b>NOWACKA</b>	Poland	MP
Jan-Christoph	<b>OETJEN</b>	Germany	MEP
Carina	<b>OHLSSON</b>	Sweden	MP
Grace	<b>O'SULLIVAN</b>	Ireland	MEP

Dimitrios	<b>PAPADIMOULIS</b>	Greece	MEP
Daniels	<b>PAVLUTS</b>	Latvia	MP
Mikuláš	<b>PEKSA</b>	Czechia	MEP
Anne Sophie	<b>PELLETIER</b>	France	MEP
Giuseppina	<b>PICIERNO</b>	Italy	MEP
Manu	<b>PINEDA</b>	Spain	MEP
Isabel	<b>PIRES</b>	Portugal	MP
Kati	<b>PIRI</b>	Netherlands	MEP
Lilianne	<b>PLOUMEN</b>	Netherlands	MP
Léonore	<b>PORCHET</b>	Switzerland	MP
Yasmine	<b>POSIO</b>	Sweden	MP
Isabel	<b>POZUETA</b>	Spain	MP
Agnes Sirkka	<b>PRAMMER</b>	Austria	MP
Katharina	<b>PRELICZ-HUBER</b>	Switzerland	MP
Florence	<b>PROVENDIER</b>	France	MP
Evelyn	<b>REGNER</b>	Austria	MEP
Sira	<b>REGO</b>	Spain	MEP
Daniel	<b>RIAZAT</b>	Sweden	MP
Diana	<b>RIBA I GINER</b>	Spain	MEP
Neale	<b>RICHMOND</b>	Ireland	MP
Stéphanie	<b>RIST</b>	France	MP
María Eugenia	<b>RODRÍGUEZ PALOP</b>	Spain	MEP
Azadeh	<b>ROJHAN</b>	Sweden	MP
Maria Manuel	<b>ROLA</b>	Portugal	MP
Lynn	<b>RUANE</b>	Ireland	Senator
Franziska	<b>RYSER</b>	Switzerland	MP
Hanna	<b>SARKKINEN</b>	Finland	MP
Ralph	<b>SCHALLMEINER</b>	Austria	MP
Ulle	<b>SCHAUWS</b>	Germany	MP
Joanna	<b>SCHEURING-WIELGUS</b>	Poland	MP
Andreas	<b>SCHIEDER</b>	Austria	MEP
Helmut	<b>SCHOLZ</b>	Germany	MEP
Marco	<b>SCHREUDER</b>	Austria	Senator
Jakob	<b>SCHWARZ</b>	Austria	MP
Elin	<b>SEGERLIND</b>	Sweden	MP
Nico	<b>SEMSROTT</b>	Germany	MEP
Birgit	<b>SIPPEL</b>	Germany	MEP
Saara-Sofia	<b>SIRÉN</b>	Finland	MP
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Bríd	<b>SMITH</b>	Ireland	MP
Pedro Filipe	<b>SOARES</b>	Portugal	MP
Mirka	<b>SOINIKOSKI</b>	Finland	MP
Anita	<b>SOWIŃSKA</b>	Poland	MP
Sylwia	<b>SPUREK</b>	Poland	MEP
Clemens	<b>STAMMLER</b>	Austria	MP

Nicolae	<b>ȘTEFĂNUȚĂ</b>	Romania	MEP
Mārtiņš	<b>ŠTEINS</b>	Latvia	MP
Susana	<b>SUMELZO JORDAN</b>	Spain	MP
Håkan	<b>SVENNELING</b>	Sweden	MP
Vera	<b>TAX</b>	Netherlands	MEP
Vita Anda	<b>TĒRAUDA</b>	Latvia	MP
Jon	<b>THORBJÖRNSON</b>	Sweden	MP
Jessica	<b>THUNANDER</b>	Sweden	MP
Małgorzata	<b>TRACZ</b>	Poland	MP
Katarzyna	<b>UEBERHAN</b>	Poland	MP
Miguel	<b>URBAN CRESPO</b>	Spain	MEP
Kim	<b>VAN SPARRENTAK</b>	Netherlands	MEP
Monika	<b>VANA</b>	Austria	MEP
João	<b>VASCONCELOS</b>	Portugal	MP
Hilde	<b>VAUTMANS</b>	Belgium	MEP
Marie-Pierre	<b>VEDRENNE</b>	France	MEP
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Bettina	<b>VOLLATH</b>	Austria	MEP
John	<b>WEINERHALL</b>	Sweden	MP
Hermann	<b>WERATSCHNIG</b>	Austria	MP
Tatjana	<b>ZDANOKA</b>	Latvia	MEP
Süleyman	<b>ZORBA</b>	Austria	MP

On behalf of the British All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health:

Jenny	<b>TONGE</b>	United Kingdom	Baroness
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Regional governments

Alexandra	<b>ADLER</b>	Austria	Gemeinderat Vienna
Martín Eusebio	<b>BARRA LÓPEZ</b>	Spain	Parlament de Catalunya
Oihana	<b>ETXEARRIETA</b>	Spain	Basque Parliament