

**Date and Time:** Monday 18 January 2021 13:17:00 CET

**Job Number:** 134316353

**Documents (67)**

1. [*sanctions for Mr Lukashenko*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617K-0861-JBK9-20CB-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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2 [*"Der Spiegel": Poland and Hungary may not get "a single penny"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1XJ-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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3 [*Donald Tusk for "Wyborcza": Biden's presidency does not mean problems for Poland, only for PiS politicians*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1YT-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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4 [*France has the most cases of coronavirus in Europe. But it is taking a cautious approach to shutting down its economy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1WR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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5 [*"Die Welt": A horror movie scenario in Poland. The health care system has partially collapsed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1Y0-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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6th [*US election. Biden receives congratulations from around the world. Tusk writes of the end of right-wing populism*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R202-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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7th [*curfew across Italy. Hospitals overloaded, in Tivoli patients had to lie on the floor*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1WK-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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8. [*Diplomacy made in Poland. We are a lonely red-and-white island in a stormy sea [ANALYSIS].*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0GN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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9. [*Germany urges Joe Biden's team to drop sanctions on Nord Stream 2*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0HN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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10. [*lucrative business with Lukashenko. Companies from Germany still cooperate with Belarusian*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0K4-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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11th [*G20 Summit: Angela Merkel demands global solidarity in coronacrisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0JY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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12. [*Running with the right hand to the right wall*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0H2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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13. [*a potential post-Brexit would be a total disaster for farmers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0HW-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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14th [*France. A mink infected with coronavirus was detected on one of the farms. Thousands of animals will be slaughtered*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0JX-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0JN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 15th [*Germans are fleeing for early retirement. "FAS": that's already 3.5 million benefit recipients*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0JN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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16. [*Italian students fight to return to school*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0J2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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17. [*dispute over the EU budget. Zbigniew Ziobro hits out at the Germans: I don't want to hit historical tones, but...*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0PB-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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18 [*The Hungarians are not letting their guard down. Orbán's government goes toe-to-toe with the European Union*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0S4-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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19. [*the collusion of nephews in a bad cause. Europe will not forget this*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0P5-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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20. [*Prof. Góralczyk: Orban is playingPoland. There is no friendship with him - he is cynical to the core*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0S7-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0RV-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 21st [*Solidarna Polska shows a report on the "violation of the rule of law by the Netherlands". It suggests using Article 7*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0RV-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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22 [*The Union, its budget and its funds. How Poland benefits from it [FAQ].*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0SC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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23. tailor-made [*propaganda. How the takeover of Polska Press will pave the way for polexit*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TB-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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24 - [*Sikorski on EU budget veto: The game is about whether Morawiecki will keep the prime minister's portfolio*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0N0-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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25th [*Veto. Morawiecki about money, Ziobro about the rule of law. This is how the camp of power manipulates facts*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0P6-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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26. [*Walesa, Kwasniewski and Komorowski on the veto: This is a betrayal of the decision of 13.5 million Poles*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0T6-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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27. [*dispute over the EU budget. Kwaśniewski: There will be some blah blah, which will be declared a success in Poland*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0PG-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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28. [*Majority of Poles against Polexit, but one in three respondents believes anti-EU propaganda [OPINION POLL]*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TG-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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29. [*the German scare, or how the Law and Justice party is turning friends into enemies*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G0-WG01-JCVT-R022-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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30. [*Poland and Silesia need support from the EU, come to your senses [letter to Morawiecki].*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0NW-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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31st [*Brussels sets condition on EU budget. RMF FM: Agreement by tomorrow or Poland will lose 64 billion euro*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0R8-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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32nd [*Veto waiver in exchange for billions for climate? Poland and Hungary could make such a concession*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0T7-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0S2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 33rd [*EU finally has its "Magnitsky list" - sanctions for human rights violations*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0S2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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34. [*Andrzej Dudz failed in Vilnius. Maybe he will succeed in Prague?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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35 [*Miller on EU budget veto threat. "To understand the logic, to grasp this immensity of stupidity is an enormous difficulty"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0MM-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 36th [*Polish court issued a European Arrest Warrant for Manzheley. The Belgians refused*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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37. [*Kaczyński in a corner. PSL vice-president: the authorities have gone soft*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0RX-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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38 - [*Why is Orlen buying Polska Press? It is an attempt by the Law and Justice party to win back the electorate*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0T4-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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39. [*Ukrainians want to work in the West. "Rzeczpospolita": Polish criminals profit from it*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0MS-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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40th [*Sweden changes approach. A sad end to experimentation with a coronavirus pandemic*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0RS-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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41 [*Germany is once again selling out the free media to autocrats. This is a blemish on Angela Merkel's image*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TM-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** European Union OR Ue OR Euro\* OR European\* OR EU OR European

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 07, 2020 Fino a dic 07, 2020 |

42. [*Italy, Austria and Switzerland tighten restrictions. Poles must be quarantined*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0RJ-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 07, 2020 Fino a dic 07, 2020 |

43 [*British Press: Johnson gives way on fisheries, chances of trade deal with EU grow*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R027-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

44 - [*"We only have two problems: Boris and Johnson" [CORRESPONDENCE FROM LONDON].*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R049-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R04M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 45th [*European Commission has approved aid for LOT. The carrier will receive several hundred million PLN*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R04M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

46 - [*Brexit. Changes for bank customers from 2021. More expensive transfers, need to change the card*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R041-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

47th [*Opening on S2. Morawiecki: Warsaw is becoming a European capital in terms of modernity of infrastructure*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R03C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R057-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 48th [*UK and French governments have agreed on open borders. Tests will be required*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R057-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

49th [*"Armageddon" on the British-French border. Government announces help for Polish drivers, Duda also reacts*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R052-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

50th [*France opens its border with the UK. Services are preparing collection points in ports and car parks*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R05D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

51. [*The EC has given its consent to state aid for LOT*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R04W-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

52. THE [*REDACTION COMMENTARY; The time of trial has begun*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-NHH1-JBK9-23GX-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

53 [*Polish drivers stranded in the UK. Minister Adamczyk: Several thousand cars*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R03T-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** European Union OR Ue OR Euro\* OR European\* OR EU OR European

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

54 [*UK. New strain of coronavirus and food supply problems*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R034-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

55. [*DHL and Poczta Polska suspend shipments to the UK. The reason is a new strain of coronavirus*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R019-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

56th [*Brexit. Orange will keep lower rates for calls to the UK*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R047-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

57 [*France will rescind borders for traffic with England. "They gave a taste of brexit without a deal"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R05B-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

58th [*Russian Foreign Ministrysummons ambassadors. It is about sanctions after Navalny's poisoning*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R039-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R043-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 59th [*Italians are testing everyone who has recently arrived from the UK. Several cases of a new strain of coronavirus*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R043-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R547-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 60th [*European Medicines Agency has issued a positive opinion on Moderna's vaccine. This is the second vaccine approved in the EU*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R547-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** European Union OR Ue OR Euro\* OR European\* OR EU OR European

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: gen 06, 2021 Fino a gen 06, 2021 |

61 [*Prosecution protects Ziobra. There will be no investigation into money for municipalities with anti-LGBT resolutions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R53M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: gen 06, 2021 Fino a gen 06, 2021 |

62 [*Moderna vaccines in Poland next week*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R54H-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: gen 06, 2021 Fino a gen 06, 2021 |

[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R548-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 63rd [*European Medicines Agency has authorised Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R548-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: gen 06, 2021 Fino a gen 06, 2021 |

[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R538-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 64th [*European Medicines Agency will assess Moderna's vaccine today. "The benefits outweigh the risks"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R538-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: gen 06, 2021 Fino a gen 06, 2021 |

65 - [*Does the EU not have enough vaccines? Moderna's formulation gets the green light*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R54J-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: gen 06, 2021 Fino a gen 06, 2021 |

66. [*Dworczyk on Moderna vaccines: about 840 thousand doses should arrive by the end of March*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R54N-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: gen 06, 2021 Fino a gen 06, 2021 |

67 [*Mass complaints to Strasbourg? Women complain to Poland for the abortion ruling*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R533-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: gen 06, 2021 Fino a gen 06, 2021 |

[***Sanctions for Lukashenko***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617K-0861-JBK9-20CB-00000-00&context=)

Fact Poland

November 7, 2020 Saturday

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**Section:** KORONAWIRUS; P. 3; No 262

**Length:** 71 words

**Byline:** Dp

**Body**

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko (66) and 14 other representatives of the country's authorities will not enter the ***European*** Union. Such sanctions were imposed on Friday by the ***European Union*** for the fraudulent presidential elections and violence against protesters.

In addition to the head of state, the list included his son, the chief of staff of the presidential administration, or the president of the Constitutional Court and ministers.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Journal

**Journal Code:** FAK

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (88%); Indictments (73%); Investigations (73%); Children (68%); Celebrities (67%); Law Enforcement (63%)

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (94%); Organic Chemicals (81%); Mining + Extraction (71%); Traveler Safety + Security (68%)

**Load-Date:** November 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"Der Spiegel": Poland and Hungary may not get "a penny"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1XJ-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 7, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 445 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** Will Hungary and Poland veto the ***EU*** budget to prevent the "money for rule of law" mechanism from coming into force? According to "Spiegel", these threats are unfounded.

**Body**

Hungarian Prime Minister [*Viktor Orban*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=viktor+orban) and the "strong man" of Polish politics, Deputy Prime Minister [*Jarosław Kaczyński,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=jaros%B3aw+kaczy%F1ski) describe the ***European*** Union as an "apparatus of oppression". Both politicians "mock (the EU), bark, criticise and yet cash in big money". Until now, Brussels has only been able to look on helplessly and pass billions more in aid funds to the governments in Warsaw and Budapest," write Markus Becker and Jan Puhl in an analysis in the latest edition of the weekly Der Spiegel.

"This situation is about to come to an end". - the authors point out. ***The European*** Parliament and the German government acting on behalf of the ***EU*** have agreed on options that will enable funds to be cut in the future for countries that violate the rule of law, Becker and Puhl explain.

According to this agreement, the transfer of funds from the ***EU*** budget is to be conditional on compliance with standards of the rule of law. "Officially, the idea is to prevent corruption in the use of funds. In reality, this instrument has the potential to punish populist governments such as Orban or Kaczynski," - reads "Spiegel".

The authors stipulate that the compromise must be accepted by the ***EU*** Council of States, but neither Poland nor Hungary has the possibility to veto it. "Orban and Kaczynski are left with only one way to block the mechanism: they would have to torpedo the entire ***EU*** budget including the reconstruction fund (for countries affected by Covid-19)" - they explain, adding that the entire package is worth ***€1***.8 trillion and must be approved unanimously.

"This is a threat without substance, as Hungary and Poland are condemned to this aid". - believes "Der Spiegel". If both countries dared to use their veto, Brussels could create the aid fund anew, under international agreements, but without Warsaw and Budapest. In that case, Poland would be left without a penny," write Becker and Puhl, citing the opinion of the head of the ***EU*** representation in Poland, Marek Prawda.

"Der Spiegel" points out that the Polish government is under pressure. The Polish authorities "crossed a red line" by openly ignoring the ***EU*** Court of Justice. According to Becker and Puhl, the domestic situation is also complicated. The authors recall the recent ruling of the Constitutional Court on abortion, which brought thousands of people onto the streets and led to a 10 percentage point drop in support for PiS.

"Taking EU funds away from Poland could lead to a further drop in support for PiS. Especially since, according to one poll, 72 percent of Poles support the new ***EU*** mechanism." - Becker and Puhl conclude in the latest issue of the weekly Der Spiegel.

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/pl/start/s-11394) website[*.*](https://www.dw.com/pl/start/s-11394)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (87%); Indictments (78%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (80%); Mining + Extraction (80%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (67%)

**Load-Date:** November 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Donald Tusk for 'Wyborcza': Biden's presidency does not mean problems for Poland, only for PiS politicians***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1YT-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 7, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** Bartosz T. Wieliński

**Highlight:** He often joked that his real name was John Bideński. After his victory, the pressure to restore democratic standards in Poland will be even stronger, says Donald Tusk, former prime minister and head of the ***European*** Council.

**Body**

Joe Biden's victory in the US presidential election marks a fundamental and very positive change for ***Europe*** and for ***Euro-Atlantic*** relations. In the history of ***America-Europe*** relations, Donald Trump has been an exceptional president. Unique in his reluctance and denial of intense Atlantic cooperation. He cheered on Brexit, he did not hide his scepticism towards the ***European*** Union.

In many of the conversations I have had with him, he has made very clear his organic aversion to a united ***Europe***. He said that, for him, ***the EU*** is worse than China. And China, after all, has become his obsession.

Joe Biden is undoubtedly a transatlantic politician. I have never had any doubt that, for him, cooperation between the Union and the US is the absolute cornerstone of American foreign policy and, at the same time, of a responsible global policy.

We met when he was Vice President and I was Prime Minister.

He often joked that his real name was John Bideński. This is what his friends from the American Polish community called him.

Biden is known for his affection not only for Poland, but for our entire region. Therefore, all speculation that Biden's victory will mean some problems for Poland is absurd.

The change in the White House will mean problems for PiS politicians. Because it is PiS that is the problem for Polish-American relations.

Recently, comments have been made by Law and Justice politicians that are very much in line with the very radical voices of President Trump, that the elections are rigged and that the votes need to be counted afresh. Minister Krzysztof Szczerski from the President's Chancellery even allowed himself to remark that in American elections there will be a second round, i.e. a court ...

I don't know if that is President Duda's position. It would be a disaster if they were both rooting for these unconstitutional ideas to annul democratic elections.

Admittedly, I do not think that America will tremble because of what Minister Szczerski said. The problem, however, is what the politicians who govern Poland have in their heads. If in the last four years they have spoiled almost everything when it comes to Poland's strategic interests, then in the last days, when it was clear that Biden's victory was on the horizon, they should at least have refrained from foolish comments.

Now PiS politicians must change their attitude towards the democratically elected president in the USA. The government's and president's exclusive bet on Trump and cooperation with the radical right around the world was one of the worst mistakes in the history of Polish diplomacy.

In theory, it will not be difficult to convince the new administration that Poland will be a loyal partner of America and that our friendship is timeless. But to do so will require a downright revolutionary change in the PiS's thinking about America, the elections, and the situation in ***Europe*** and the world in general. I don't know if they are capable of this.

PiS politicians now seem mentally closed and confused.

Certainly, the new president will not support centrifugal movements in ***Europe***. The White House will no longer be a support for anti-European populists. This could mark a significant turn in ***European*** politics.

I do not know whether this will reach the heads of those currently in power in Poland, but we must return to respecting the fundamental standards of democracy. Even the Trump administration has not been able to put up with anti-Semitic antics, attacks on free media or an independent judiciary. Trump's America has even taken the liberty, through the mouth of Ambassador Mosbacher, of reprimanding the Law and Justice government on these issues, in a very unpleasant manner.

If attacks on the foundation of democracy continue in Poland, the PiS government will lose its ability to build good relations with Washington. Because under Biden the pressure to restore democratic standards will be even stronger. And this applies to everything from violations of the rule of law to aggressive policies towards the LGBT community.

If we want the damage caused by PiS to be minimal, a change of attitude must take place immediately.

The Trump phenomenon alone shows that anything is possible in politics. His presidency was, after all, something unprecedented. He made lies the cornerstone of the political narrative, maintained overt and ambiguous relations with Putin and other dictators, mixed business with politics.

However, I am convinced that the Trump era will not be repeated. The far-right circles in America will continue to exist, but Biden's victory has clipped their wings badly.

I hear about commentators' anxiety that Trump will continue to muddle through US politics for a long time to come, but I think if anyone is going to feel anxiety in the near future it will be the outgoing president, not the one who takes office in January. In fact, many political leaders must be worried about what will happen if they lose power. This is also a memento for politicians in ***Europe*** and Poland. Losing power also means losing impunity.

Listened to by Bartosz T. Wieliński

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (94%); Military Weapons (89%); Terrorist Organizations (89%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (67%); Chemistry (67%); Weapons + Arms (65%); Law Courts + Tribunals (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (80%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** November 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***France has the most cases of coronavirus in Europe. But it is taking a cautious approach to shutting down its economy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1WR-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 7, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 709 words

**Byline:** Piotr Moszyński, Paris

**Highlight:** In France, there is a new daily record of new SARS-CoV-2 infections: more than 58,000. The French owe this high detection rate to the very high number of tests performed: almost 2.2 million per week.

**Body**

On Thursday, 363 people died from COVID-19 in French hospitals. The outbreak has killed more than 39,000 infected people in France since the beginning of March. Hospitals admitted nearly 3,000 patients diagnosed with COVID-19 on Thursday, bringing the total number of hospital admissions to more than 28,400, as admissions continue to outnumber discharges.

Out of almost 2.2 million tests performed every week, 20.7% are positive. Another important indicator - the number of COVID-19 cases found per 100 000 population - was 451.6 last night.

The authorities assess the situation as "very serious". At a press conference on Thursday, health minister Olivier Véran did not announce any significant new restrictions - except perhaps a ban on the sale of alcohol from 10pm to 6am to prevent late-night meetings and libations - but he emphatically warned that if the rules of the current national lockdown were not scrupulously respected, the outbreak now flooding France could turn out to be "higher and longer" than the previous one.

The health ministry is also concerned that the epidemic has now spread to all regions of the country, even those that were virtually unaffected during the first wave. This severely limits the possibility to take measures which at the time made it easier to control the situation - such as transferring patients from regions where hospitals were overcrowded to those where there were many vacancies. It is also now more difficult to redeploy medical staff from regions less affected by the epidemic to those fighting a large outbreak, because there are simply very few of those less affected.

It is also worrying that France is the country with the most cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection in ***Europe*** so far (in absolute numbers): 1.6 million out of 8 million infected.

Not surprisingly, authorities at all levels are very insistent that rules are followed to reduce the risk of infection. It's not just about wearing masks, washing hands regularly, etc. The government is putting strong pressure on employers, reminding them that allowing remote working is not a courtesy on their part, but an obligation - in any case, wherever this is possible due to the nature of the work and the technical equipment. The head of the labour ministry stressed that for the time being, the stage of reminding and encouraging is underway, but if this does not help, inspections and penalties will begin. According to the ministry's assessment, only 8 out of 24 million employees are currently working remotely.

Local authorities are also taking various initiatives to improve the situation. In the Paris region, for example, 50 railway stations are now equipped with containers and temporary collection points for swabs for SARS-CoV-2 tests. The first two have already appeared at the East and Lyon railway stations in Paris. To avoid long queues, appointments for the test must be made online. The result is received within 24-48 hours.

However, points are being set up at commuter rail stations (there are already the first five) where slightly less reliable tests will be used, but which produce a result in 15 minutes.

French people can still benefit from the tests free of charge and without medical referral. Since the beginning of June, 19.5 million tests for SARS-CoV-2 have been carried out in France, compared to only 2.3 million during the first wave of the outbreak. The cost of one PCR test is ***€74***. These costs are covered by the Sécurité Sociale (equivalent to the National Health Service). This institution has so far had to allocate about 1.6 billion ***euros*** for this purpose, and by the end of the year this bill will increase even more.

The growing number of tests being carried out is threatening to overload laboratories, which is already starting to translate into longer waits for results. This week, test results are delivered in less than 24 hours in 42 percent of cases (a week earlier it was 48 percent). Only 7 percent of those tested have to wait more than three days for a result, but a week earlier it was less - 4 percent.

In order to make infection detection as efficient as possible, pharmacists, nurses and nurse practitioners, GPs and even companies wishing to test their employees are to be given the right to carry out so-called rapid tests, which do not require laboratory analyses. Medical personnel are to be paid separately for this.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (75%); Terrorist Organizations (64%); Human Rights Violations (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** November 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"Die Welt": A horror movie-like scenario in Poland. The health care system has partially collapsed***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1Y0-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 7, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 327 words

**Byline:** DW

**Highlight:** What German politicians warn about has already happened in Poland: an overload of the health care system - we read in "Die Welt".

**Body**

Describing the hectic transformation of the National Stadium in Warsaw into a makeshift covidium hospital, the correspondent of "Die Welt" assesses that the health care system in Poland has partially collapsed. As we read, Poland has been hit by a second wave of coronavirus like no other country in ***Europe***.

The newspaper notes that Poland records more new cases of the coronavirus than more than twice the size of Germany. "Additionally, Poland conducts as little testing as almost any other country in the ***EU***. (...) Experts have long assumed that the actual number of new infections is five or even ten times higher than in official health ministry data."

As we read, it is true that the Czech Republic records more new cases of infection per million inhabitants than Poland, but it is the Polish care system that appears to be closer to widespread collapse than any other in ***Europe***. "Already at the beginning of October, a patient died outside a hospital because there was no free place for him. Ambulances are queuing outside hospitals and drivers don't know where to take patients."

The author of the text Philipp Fritz writes that a horror movie-like scenario is coming true in Poland, which experts have been warning about for months, and other countries are trying to prevent it by announcing lockdowns. "So far, nothing is helping the situation. The government, which has long underestimated the virus and made no preparations for a new increase in the number of cases, and in the summer even gave the impression that the epidemic was over, is in the throes of criticism." - Fritz points out.

As we read, the ruling Law and Justice party and President Andrzej Duda have clearly lost support in the polls, so now they urgently need successes. The author also recalls the [*offer of help to Poland made by the President of Germany*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,168930,26451563,prezydent-niemiec-do-dudy-daj-mi-prosze-znac-czy-w-obecnej.html) and the reaction of President Andrzej Duda, who did not refer to the proposal, but replied that "Germany can count on Poland too". As we read, among medics in Poland such an attitude could cause astonishment and anger.

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/pl/start/s-11394) website.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (63%)

**Load-Date:** November 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***US election. Biden receives congratulations from around the world. Tusk writes of the end of right-wing populism***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R202-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 7, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 489 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Michał Litorowicz

**Highlight:** As predicted by the largest American media, the Democratic candidate Joe Biden has won the US presidential election. Although this is still an unofficial result of the presidential race, congratulations for the politician have poured in from all over the world, including Poland.

**Body**

On Saturday afternoon, the Associated Press and CNN reported that Joe Biden would win the US presidential election. This prediction was also shared by FOX News television. In each of these predictions, Biden beat the Republican candidate and incumbent President Donald Trump, winning more than 270 electoral votes - the number needed to win the US presidential election.

If the media predictions are confirmed, the Democratic Party candidate will become the 46th President of the USA, while Kamala Harris will take over as Vice President.

Although Biden's triumph was announced by the main American media, it is important to remember that this is still an unofficial result (although very likely) and the counting of votes is still ongoing. However, Biden has already declared that he will be "the president of all Americans". Importantly, he has been congratulated on his victory by politicians from both the US (including former president Barack Obama and senator Mitt Romney) and the rest of the world, including Poland.

The Democratic candidate was congratulated on Twitter by President Andrzej Duda, who, however, did not mention winning the election, but a "successful campaign". "Congratulations to Joe Biden on a successful presidential campaign. As we await the nomination of the Electoral College, Poland is determined to maintain the Polish-American partnership at its current excellent level, which can result in an even stronger alliance," Duda wrote.

Not everyone liked the "proclamation" of the Polish president - interestingly, it was even criticized in the public media, namely in TVP Info. - I am a bit surprised that President Andrzej Dudzha does not keep a cool head and react to the statement of AP [Associated Press - ed.] and not official factors. There is not even a completed vote counting procedure. It is very risky to make a binding statement in this situation. One should keep a bit more cool blood - said Grzegorz Górski, a lawyer and professor at the Catholic University of Lublin.

The president's entry was criticised, but already in a slightly different context, by KO MP and former head of the Ministry of Defence Tomasz Siemoniak. "Unfortunately, I am sorry to write this. President Duda with this entry acts against the interests of Poland. It would be better for him to remain silent. Let him and Mr Szczerski [head of the President's Cabinet - ed.] wait for the second and third round of these elections," Siemoniak wrote.

Former Prime Minister Donald Tusk also commented on the victory. "Trump's defeat may be the beginning of the end of the victory march of far-right populists. Also in ***Europe***. Thank you, Joe," wrote the head of the ***European*** People's Party.

Congratulations to Biden and Harris also flowed from the head of Polish diplomacy Zbigniew Rau. "We look forward to the possibility of cooperation with the new American administration. We remain determined to develop our strategic partnership and strengthen transatlantic relations". - the foreign minister stressed.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (93%); Torture (86%); Military Weapons (83%); Arms Control + Disarmament (77%); Weapons + Arms (77%); Human Rights Violations (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (84%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (75%)

**Load-Date:** November 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Curfew all over Italy. Hospitals overloaded, in Tivoli patients had to lie on the floor***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:618G-08G1-JCVT-R1WK-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 7, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 591 words

**Byline:** Bartosz Hlebowicz, Florence

**Highlight:** More antivirus restrictions came into force on Friday. However, the lockdown will be milder than the spring one. Everyone is unhappy with this compromise

**Body**

The curfew lasts in Italy from 10pm to 5am on Friday. Bars and restaurants can stay open until 6pm, and will be closed in regions deemed particularly at risk from the virus. For the moment, tighter restrictions apply to Lombardy, Piedmont, the Aosta Valley, Calabria (they are in the red zone), Puglia and Sicily (orange zone).

Across the country, secondary schools are switching to distance learning, and in red regions the second and third years of secondary school are also switching. Where lessons take place in schools, all children must wear masks. In red regions, all shops except grocery shops and pharmacies will remain closed for at least two weeks.

The lockdown is necessary because Italy is not coping with the second wave of the pandemic. As many as 37 800 new infections were reported across Italy on Friday, including more than 10 000 in Lombardy alone. 446 people died. 124 new patients were placed in ICUs.

COLDIRETTI, the association of Italian agricultural entrepreneurs, estimates that restaurants, pizzerias and agritourism farms in the six affected regions will lose ***€2***.7 billion and that the lockdown will bring 40 percent of establishments to the brink of bankruptcy. Yet the closure of restaurants in Germany has already caused huge losses among Italian producers.

The Turin retailers' association is appealing to citizens to refrain from Christmas shopping for a fortnight. Entrepreneurs fear that, as in the first phase of the epidemic, online retail giants will profit from the closure of shops.

The mayor of the small Calabrian town of Carolei has even announced that the new restrictions will not be observed here. - There will simply be no controls here. We only have four infected people, none of them symptomatic. I cannot risk the collapse of our local economy because of them,' he announced.

"The government is losing control, the regional administrators never had it. Conte and his ministers have for too long sold a beautiful but inflated illusion of Italy as a role model. During the summer, too many politicians were thinking about the election campaign, too many Italians about 'getting back to full life'. Why have we only now realised that, as a result of the previous government's 'reforms', 7,200 health workers, who today would be needed like bread, have taken early retirement this year?" - writes 'La Stampa' editor-in-chief Massimo Giannini.

The new restrictions have been met with frontal criticism from regional heads. Nello Musumeci, president of Sicily (1,300 infected on Thursday): "An absurd and unreasonable decision". Attilio Fontana, president of Lombardy (almost 9,000 infected in one day): "This is a slap in the face for Lombardy and its people". Piedmontese President Alberto Cirio (over 3,000 infected) alleges that the government made the decision based on "old" statistics (i.e. a week ago).

- My gentleness and patience have their limits. The attacks have passed all limits. Instead of accepting their share of responsibility, they ignore the plight of their own regions," Health Minister Roberto Speranza responds to the regional authorities.

In fact, it was the Piedmont doctors' association that called on the government to impose a total lockdown in the region because of the galloping increase in hospital admissions. From the hospital in Tivoli came shocking pictures of patients who had run out of room. They were laid out on the floor.

- We are no longer able to separate patients with coronavirus from others, doctors say. In the Lombardian Fatebenefratelli di Erba in the province of Como, ambulances with patients are crowding in front of the hospital due to a lack of seats.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Espionage (63%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (89%)

**Load-Date:** November 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Diplomacy made in Poland. We are a lonely red-and-white island in a stormy sea [ANALYSIS].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0GN-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 22, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 2981 words

**Byline:** Łukasz Rogojsz

**Highlight:** Donald Trump's loss in the US presidential election and going on the warpath with the ***European Union*** because of the link between EU funds and the rule of law are two big nails in the coffin of Polish foreign policy. A coffin into which we have placed ourselves at our own request.

**Body**

In the sports-celebrity world, a certain anecdote about Trump has been circulating for years. It concerns a memorable night for boxing fans, October 4, 1997. In Atlantic City, Andrzej Gołota, one of the most famous Polish boxers in history, was fighting for the heavyweight championship of the world with the then champion Lennox Lewis. The Briton was the overwhelming favourite of that clash. Trump watched the fight from the stands. The billionaire was asked by one of the journalists covering the gala if he bet on the outcome of the fight in his style, he denied it. When Golota was taken down in just 95 seconds, Trump was in severe shock. Already after the fight it turned out that he bet round one million dollars on the Pole's victory.

Why does a story from over two decades ago matter in the context of the state of Polish diplomacy A.D. 2020? Because, like Trump in 1997, we have bet badly in recent years. Instead of looking after Polish interests by playing a few pianos and being guaranteed at least a partial return of our contribution, we put everything we had on one card - Trump. His electoral loss to Joe Biden is a comparable shock to the United Right's diplomacy as the Golota defeat to Lewis in 1997 was to Trump. Like Trump then, we are now left empty-handed.

The sequence of events after the American media, including those sympathising with the Republican Party such as Fox News, announced Biden's victory over Trump was symptomatic of the position of Polish diplomacy. The pro-government and public media began to search as hard as they could for arguments that the game is not over yet, that there are still court protests, that the electoral frauds need to be explained, about which - importantly: without even a shadow of evidence - Trump's staff had been talking since election night.

If it had ended there, however, one could have turned a blind eye. Unfortunately, on the official level it was even worse. It is not even about the fact that President Andrzej Duda did not send a congratulatory message to Biden, stopping at just one tweet. The point is that the content of that tweet was highly specious at best: "Congratulations to Joe Biden on a successful presidential campaign. Pending the nomination of the Electoral College, Poland is determined to maintain the high level and high quality of the Polish-American strategic partnership for an even stronger alliance."

By failing to officially congratulate the Democratic politician, the Polish President has aligned himself with such heads of state as Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un. And no, this kind of delay is not natural or advisable. After 1989, no Polish president waited until the nomination of the Electoral College before sending his congratulatory message. What's more, only Aleksander Kwasniewski in 2000 withheld official congratulations for more than a month from US election day. By comparison, in 2016, President Duda congratulated Trump the very next day after the vote.

Only that Trump is a completely different story for the United Right than Biden. It is no coincidence that it is with the eccentric billionaire politician that Nowogrodzka got along best and it is him that it has bet 100% on in its foreign policy. Trump understands PiS, and PiS understands Trump. They share the same school of politics: hard-line rule, populist language that attracts voters, reforms that draw criticism and opposition, and illiberal democracy (which Trump found much harder to deal with than PiS, because he was effectively opposed by the institutions of American democracy).

We were also, in a way, doomed to Trump because of our relations with the ***European Union,*** which have been deteriorating year by year. Almost from the beginning of the government of the "good change" we fought with Brussels over the rule of law and successive reforms of the Polish justice system. Finally, for the purposes of party propaganda, the EU has been presented as a foreign oppressor that wants to impose its rules of play on us and deprive us of our sovereignty, as has happened more than once in Polish history. Trump, like Nowogrodzka, did not like the EU, he considered it a threat (especially economic) to the United States, he wanted to weaken it as much as possible (among other things, he strongly supported Brexit from beginning to end). In this dimension, the United Right and Trump were made for each other.

However, the United States has also been and continues to be a key strategic ally of Poland. Regardless of whether our country is governed by the left, the liberals or the right. It was largely thanks to the United States that we joined NATO in 1999. In this respect, the United Right has maintained the course of previous governments, only it has pressed the accelerator much harder and given up any alternatives. In the course of time, Washington went from being a key ally to being our only de facto ally (at least the Polish side was convinced of the strength of this alliance).

The American administration was also an opportunity to provide long-term military security for Poland. By implication: protecting us from possible Russian aggression. The intertwined themes of defence and anti-Russianism have been central to the political rhetoric of the United Right since it came to power. The close alliance with Trump made it possible to play this game in the media and politically, and in the end it was even possible to increase the presence of American troops on Polish soil (although the high costs of this presence will be fully covered by the Polish side).

However, there is always the question of the price. The political one we already know - on the international stage we have become completely dependent on the Trump administration. However, there was also a strictly economic price. Even as president, Trump has not shed the traits of a racial businessman. In Poland, he saw a customer who was up against the wall, who could be offered almost anything - from helicopters and fighter planes, through not cheap liquefied gas, to nuclear technologies - and at any price, and the customer would still be happy about it. For Trump, Poland was first and foremost a great business. For Poland, Trump has been a much worse business.

Our dependence on the Trump administration and our weak negotiating position in talks with the Americans was primarily due to the fact that we had burned all other bridges behind us. Especially the most important one - with the ***European Union***. But it could not have been otherwise, because Brussels stood in the way of the full implementation of the reforms that are crucial to the United Right. Especially those in the field of justice. It was with the EU that the Polish government had to wage political and legal battles over the Constitutional Tribunal, the Supreme Court and the National Council of the Judiciary. We became the first Member State in the history of the Community against which the procedure under Article 7 of the Treaty on ***European*** Union, referred to in the salons of Brussels as the 'nuclear option', was initiated.

We also quarreled with the Union over refugees from the Middle East, which our rulers threatened Poles with for several years, although there were and are no such refugees in Poland. "At the very beginning of its rule, the 'Good Change' government cast the EU as a 'black sheep' who wants to impose a rotten Western axiology, morality and customs on Poland, eradicate the Christian tradition in our country and restrict political sovereignty. In domestic politics this was very useful, as the 'besieged fortress syndrome' made it possible to mobilise the electorate and to 'cover up' the real problems of the state and the authorities. In ***Europe,*** however, we have ended up on the donkey's bench, where we sit together with Hungary.

Our battles with Brussels and the portrayal of it as a sinister foreign power have not, however, prevented us from enjoying the benefits of the EU financially to the full. The balance of Poland's 16 years in the Community is a net gain of around PLN 600 billion. Poland is to receive even more within the framework of the budget perspective for the years 2021-27 and ***the European*** Instrument for Reconstruction. In total, this means as much as PLN 776 billion. In the new EU budget, our country is to be the biggest beneficiary of the ***EU*** cohesion policy (around PLN 300 billion).

These were difficult talks, but they were very good talks, and they resulted in good development opportunities for Poland and also in a good reconstruction plan for the whole of ***Europe***. This PLN 750 billion, or, as some calculate it at current prices, well over PLN 770 billion, is a huge financial injection for the next few years.

- Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki did not hide his satisfaction in July this year.

The point is that Poland wants to... to block its adoption. The reason is to link the transfer of EU funds with respect for the principles of the rule of law. "The 'conditionality mechanism', as it is called in Brussels, was created precisely so that the ***European*** Commission would finally gain a real, and not just political, tool for exerting pressure on countries which violate the fundamental values of the Community. Such as Poland and Hungary. Obviously, Poland is not going to agree to this and is threatening to veto the budget, while at the same time using the whole situation for domestic political purposes and to mobilise its supporters.

There will be a veto. If the threats and blackmail continue, we will stand firm for Poland's vital interest. Veto. Non possumus. And this is how we will act towards anyone who uses any kind of extortion against us

- Jarosław Kaczyński, the chairman of the Law and Justice party (PiS), asserted in mid-October in an interview with Gazeta Polska.

An over-reliant relationship with the United States or constant conflicts with the ***European Union,*** however, are only part of the picture of Polish foreign policy under the 'good change' government. A key part, but not the whole picture. If one looks deeper, at relations between individual countries or even regions of the world, the situation does not inspire optimism either. Again: largely at our own request.

Back in 2015, at the beginning of Andrzej Duda's presidency, it seemed that China would play one of the key roles in Poland's geopolitical jigsaw puzzle for years to come. The overland trade route between China and ***Europe*** was to run through Poland, thanks to which our country was to gain significantly economically. The leaders of both countries emphasised the special relationship between our countries and the importance of bilateral cooperation.

I am delighted that, in my first four months as President of the Republic, I can visit the great power that is China

- President Duda said during his visit to the Middle Kingdom.

I have high hopes that the strategic partnership between Poland and China, which was concluded in 2011, will now continue

- he added.

The New Silk Road is still not a reality - currently ambitious plans have been severely thwarted by a coronavirus pandemic - and the events of the following years have severely cooled Polish-Chinese relations. Warsaw has chosen the side of the United States in the trade war declared by Donald Trump against Beijing. This is one of the reasons why we decided to work with the Americans rather than the Chinese in developing the 5G network in Poland. The nail in the coffin of our relations with China was the diplomatic-spying scandal of early 2019. At the time, the Internal Security Agency detained two people in Warsaw on suspicion of spying for China. One of them was Weijing W. - one of the directors of the Polish branch of Chinese tech giant Huawei.

Blindly following the Americans has also cost us correct relations with Middle Eastern countries. In early 2019, at the request of the Americans, we organised a so-called Middle East conference in Warsaw, the overtones of which were unequivocally anti-Iran and pro-Israel. I wish it would at least repair our relations with Israel, which under the United Right government are simply bad, if not fatal (anti-Semitism in Polish public debate, disputes over non-heritable property, the IPN law), but nothing of the sort has happened.

On the contrary, according to The Jerusalem Post, Benjamin Netanyahu, while visiting Warsaw, stated that "the Polish people collaborated with the Nazi regime in killing Jews as part of the Holocaust".

Poles collaborated with the Nazis and I know of no one who has been sued for such a claim

- stressed the Israeli Prime Minister. So we organised an event that nobody wanted to organise due to its controversial nature, we gained nothing from it and yet we were slapped in the face in our own home. A diplomatic success from A to Z.

In our ***European*** backyard, the government of the United Right tried to strengthen relations with Great Britain, which was supposed to result in a counterweight in the EU to the Berlin-Paris axis. We will never know whether the Polish-British tandem could have been this counterweight, because London has since left the ***European*** Union.

This put Poland in a difficult situation, because the United Right never wanted to maintain close relations with Germany, which has been our main partner in the ***EU*** so far. In the narrative of the 'good change', Germany treated us with superiority, served us and made money on us, and the PO-PSL government agreed to this in exchange for a courtesy pat on the back. Under the United Right, Germany was reduced to the role of a historical enemy (war reparations), an advocate for Middle Eastern refugees (dispute over migrants), or a political and cultural occupier (dispute over the rule of law), destroying the Christian roots of ***Europe.***

Every government has the right to conduct its own foreign policy, but in the end, it is accountable for the results, because in politics and diplomacy, the results are what separate the serious from the unserious. The problem of the United Right's government in the area of diplomacy is that these effects are few, and certainly fewer than could have been the case if it had made efficient use of our country's potential and the diplomatic capital accumulated since 1989.

Let us agree that exploiting our historical and geopolitical opportunities is not the Visegrad Group, which Mateusz Morawiecki's government has been shielding like a shield for several years. It has long been known that the V4 formula works from the big bell, when all four countries are against the wall and temporarily actually have common interests. Otherwise, each member of the Visegrad Group prefers to play for itself, even at the expense of its V4 partners, and that means unpredictability. The worst possible building block in foreign policy.

After Brexit, on the other hand, we started looking for a new way to find our place in the ***European*** Union and strengthen our position, which, due to increasingly frequent and sharp conflicts with Brussels, was getting weaker every month. The remedy for our problems was to be the Tri-Cities, established back in 2015 - an international economic and political initiative bringing together twelve EU countries located between the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea and the Adriatic Sea.

Apart from economic cooperation, the informal aim of the Tricity was (is it still?) to create a counterbalance for France and Germany, or more broadly for the rich Western countries, within the ***European*** Union. It was to be a strong alliance of the Central and Eastern ***European*** countries, allowing them to push the interests of the members of the initiative in the ***EU.***

That is effectively one third of ***the European*** Union. Our cooperation has three main impulses: modernisation, integration and unification

- said President Andrzej Duda in July 2017 during the Tri-More Region Summit in Warsaw.

The Tri-Centre initiative was strongly supported by Donald Trump - the American president was a special guest at the aforementioned Tri-Centre summit in Warsaw - who since the beginning of his term of office has played to weaken the ***European*** Union. The post-Brexit reality in the ***European*** Union, and more recently the coronavirus pandemic, have painfully verified the ambitious goals and plans of the Trilateral. There is no question of any 'Union within the Union'. Especially since there are almost as many chieftains as Indians in the Trojan Horse. Of the twelve countries involved in the project, not only Poland, but also Austria, Croatia and Hungary aspire to the role of project leader. This is conducive to tensions and misunderstandings, and certainly not to a political challenge to the countries of the so-called old Union.

So where are we after five years of 'good change' diplomacy, a few dozen days before the changing of the guard in the White House and in the middle of a heated dispute over the EU budget for 2021-27? Well, we are completely in the woods. After Trump's defeat, in whom those in power had pinned all their hopes, and with a more than perceptible conflict of values with Biden, we are left with Visegrad and the Triple Sea like Himilsbach with English. We have three states in the world with or aspiring to superpower status - the United States, China and Russia. One of them is a real threat to us (Russia), with the second we have 'quiet days' (China), and the third will be a great unknown for us from January (the United States). This is not a position that others would envy us.

What is more, if we veto the ***EU*** budget and the related Reconstruction Instrument, we will not only (even more) worsen our relations with Brussels, but this time we will also do a disservice to each of our 24 or even 25 (it is not known how Slovenia will behave) ***EU*** partners individually. None of them understands how it is possible to protest against respect for the rule of law, to which we committed ourselves when we signed the EU treaties, while at the same time reaching out for EU money. Finally, as a result of the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, each of these 24-25 countries is waiting like a plague for money from the so-called reconstruction fund. Each wants to start rebuilding its economy as soon as possible. If they do not receive these funds - and this will be the case if the budget is vetoed - their resentment and anger will be focused on the countries which will veto the budget. Since in the EU, sooner or later, there is always an opportunity for revenge, we can be sure that we will experience this anger in the near future.

American writer Tom Clancy, author of cult thriller novels, used to say: "Diplomacy doesn't have to be pleasant, it just has to be effective". The problem with Polish diplomacy is that it has not been pleasant for a long time, but it has not increased its effectiveness one bit.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (92%); Terrorist Organizations (89%); Military Weapons (81%); Law Courts + Tribunals (74%); Human Rights Violations (70%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (61%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Germany urges Joe Biden's team to drop sanctions on Nord Stream 2***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0HN-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 22, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 595 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** German business is pressing Democrats in the US to halt sanctions to block the completion of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia after Joe Biden's election victory.

**Body**

During the US presidential election campaign, Democratic party candidate Joe Biden promised to repair the United States' "historic partnership", which was expected to deteriorate under Donald Trump's presidency.

Now, after Biden's victory, Germany wants to use these declarations to shield Gazprom's new Baltic gas pipeline Nord Stream 2, which is being built, from US sanctions.

At the end of last year, sanctions passed almost unanimously in Congress by Democrats and Republicans led to a halt in the construction of Nord Stream 2. And now Congress is working on proposals to extend these sanctions, jointly prepared by Democratic and Republican politicians, to block the completion of Nord Stream 2 and the commissioning of this gas pipeline.

The daily [*Handelsblatt revealed*](https://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/deutschland/ostseepipeline-wirtschaft-fordert-neustart-fuer-nord-stream-2-doch-sanktionen-drohen-auch-unter-biden/26640300.html?ticket=ST-1826079-JgBcdAchiSnnWAYyBN1W-ap1) that this week the Eastern Committee of the German Economy sent a letter in defence of the Russian gas pipeline to influential Democratic party politicians such as Nancy Pelosi, who is Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Chuck Schumer - leader of the Democratic faction in the US Senate.

"With Joe Biden's election victory in Germany and the German economy, there are great hopes for a revival of the transatlantic partnership," - German business representatives write in this letter to the Democratic leaders. And after these jousts, they point out to American politicians that despite Joe Biden's victory, Democratic politicians still "want to introduce new, extraterritorial sanctions against the Nord Stream 2 project at the expense of ***European*** companies."

In this way, German businessmen have indicated that Joe Biden will not fulfil Germany's expectations and his pre-election promises if the Democrats do not torpedo the planned sanctions to block the completion of Gazprom's investment.

The letter from German business revealed by "Handelsblatt" was sent to Democratic leaders just before the US House of Representatives and Senate appointed a committee to draft a joint Pentagon budget bill for the new fiscal year. It is into this bill that sanctions for the completion of Nord Stream 2 are to be written.

Lobbyists for Gazprom's investment have already succeeded. For in the draft sanctions on Nord Stream 2, which has been accepted for further work, an amendment has already been adopted, obliging the US authorities to notify their allies (e.g. Germany) of plans to introduce further restrictions on companies helping to complete the Russian gas pipeline. In practice, this will make it more difficult to impose such sanctions.

The author of this amendment is Congressman Eliot Engel of the Democratic party, who chairs the foreign affairs committee in the House of Representatives. Engel has made no secret of his opposition to sanctions blocking the completion of Nord Stream 2.

Senator Bob Menendez of the Democrats also announced to Bloomberg news agency a week ago that sanctions for helping to complete Gazprom's investment would not extend to Germany or German officials.

[*The Argus agency,*](https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2161874-us-to-enact-nord-stream-2-sanctions-by-yearend?backToResults=true) meanwhile, [*wrote last Friday*](https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2161874-us-to-enact-nord-stream-2-sanctions-by-yearend?backToResults=true) that during the preparation of a compromise version of sanctions on Nord Stream 2, the main challenge will be a provision in the US Senate draft providing for the imposition of restrictions for testing, certification and inspections necessary to put the pipeline into operation. Some US politicians are said to be concerned that this wording allows sanctions to be imposed on state agencies in Germany and Denmark.

This could herald the Democrats' fight to remove these provisions, opening the way for Nord Stream 2 to be allowed to operate. And then sanctions will mainly threaten ships and companies from Russia, which will not stop Moscow from completing the pipeline.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (93%); Torture (82%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Computer Viruses (67%); Military Weapons (67%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (90%); Harbors + Ports (64%); Mining + Extraction (64%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Lucrative business with Lukashenko. German companies continue to cooperate with Belarusian ones***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0K4-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 22, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 694 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** While ***the EU*** imposes sanctions on the Belarusian regime, German companies continue to do business in Belarus.

**Body**

German family-owned company Eickhoff manufactures tools for the mining industry and supplies various countries, from Russia to Australia. Belaruskali, one of the largest producers of fertilisers, is also among its customers. This Soligorsk-based state enterprise, which employs 16,000 people, is an important source of state revenue. Eickhol has been supplying Belaruskali since 1975 - "regardless of the political situation in the country", company representatives said.

At the beginning of October, in front of its headquarters in Bochum, activists with red and white Belarusian flags demanded the freezing of all deliveries from Germany to the company in Soligorsk, thus demonstrating solidarity with the workers on strike there.

On Thursday (19.11.), ***the EU*** decided on more sanctions, this time aimed at Belarusian companies supporting the government there. There is no specific list of companies yet, but it is clear that ***European*** companies will have to suspend their business with [*Belarus.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=Bia%B3oru%B6)

[*Germany*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=niemcy) is among the four most important trade partners of Belarus. According to the statistical office Belstat, the value of imports from Germany in 2019 was around ***€1***.5 billion. Germany sells technical equipment, chemical products, vehicles and plastics to Belarus.

In Belaruskala, workers have been on strike since 17 August. They are demanding the resignation of President Alexander Lukashenko and an end to violence against peaceful demonstrators. The company management has put pressure on the strikers, taking away their bonuses and leading to arrests. Now 80 per cent of the workforce is not working.

Strikers' spokesman Gleb Sandros, who is abroad, was the first to try to contact Bielaruskala's foreign partners, including the German company Eickhoff. He called for the suspension of deliveries to Belarus for two to three months "until repression stops".

During protests in front of the company's headquarters in Bochum, Belarusians living in Germany handed its management a letter of protest. In response, director Ulf Achenbach was reported to have said that he "supports the democratic movement in Belarus, but business is business and such problems must be solved on a political level". - Elisabeth Chigrin, manager of an IT company in Bochum, a participant in the protests, said.

Eickhoff representatives stressed that the stoppage of deliveries would not have a big impact on Belaruskali, but it would negatively affect the safety of underground work and workers' income. For Gleb Sandros, such arguments are nonsense.

However, Eickhoff is the only company that has ever responded to the letters of Belarusians living in Germany, reports Anton Malkin. Together with a group of his compatriots, he appealed to 30 German companies to stop cooperation with Belarus. In Germany such cooperation is conducted, among others, by Bayer, Siemens, Daimler and Commerzbank.

In response to a question from DW reporters, Commerzbank explains that all business with Belarus is taken under the microscope and subjected to "strict scrutiny". Siemens is "closely monitoring the situation in Belarus" and aims to develop infrastructure "for the benefit of the Belarusian people". The car company Daimler, meanwhile, has stated that it complies with "all sanctions and embargoes against Belarus".

Also, representatives of the Hamburg-based machine-building company Hauni, which cooperates with the state-owned tobacco factory "Neman" in Grodno, assured that they comply with "all international sanctions".

In Cologne, Jörg Mährle, regional director of the German trade union centre (DGB), called for solidarity with the demonstrations and the striking workers in Belarus. Representatives of the Belarusian community in Germany want to appeal for support to German municipalities and draw public attention to the problem of cooperation of German companies with 'the bloody Lukashenka regime'.

Because for things to really change, German companies need a "signal from above", believes Elisabeth Chigrin. "If Germany declares on a political level that due to human rights violations in Belarus the supply of goods has to be stopped, it will be easier for companies to do so," the activist believes.

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/s-9097) website[*.*](https://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/s-9097)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (73%); Human Rights Violations (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***G20 Summit: Angela Merkel demands global solidarity in coronacrisis***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0JY-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 22, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 554 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle/DPA, AFP, RTR/jak

**Highlight:** The first day (21.11.2020) of the virtual G20 summit was marked by a pandemic. Its participants demanded more international cooperation in the distribution of a vaccine against coronavirus.

**Body**

As usual, it is also about more money. "To quell a pandemic, access to the vaccine must be affordable for every country. But the funds promised for this so far are insufficient," Chancellor [*Angela Merkel*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=angela+merkel) said at the G20 summit in Riyadh, which this year took the form of a teleconference. "I therefore ask everyone to support this important initiative," she - she added referring to the COVAX vaccination programme, which aims to provide at least 2 billion approved vaccines by the end of 2021 and ensure equal access to them.

So far, almost $5 billion, or ***€4***.2 billion, has been raised for this purpose, Chancellor Merkel reported. [*Germany*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=niemcy) has earmarked more than half a billion ***euros*** for the COVAX programme. By the end of 2021, its implementation will cost a total of 11 billion dollars. There are 150 countries participating in the COVAX vaccination programme, including [*China,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=chiny) but not the US. There are concerns that poorer countries will not get enough vaccines. French President Emmanuel Macron has therefore demanded to avoid a situation where "only the rich will have access to the vaccine". Its distribution, he said, "must not be determined solely by a country's purchasing power".

Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered the international community broad access to the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine developed in Russia. He assured that he supported the G20 summit's decision to guarantee fair access to the vaccine for all humanity.

Chinese head of state and party Xi Jinping has stated that China wants to increase cooperation with other countries in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic in vaccine research, production and distribution.

Saudi Arabia's King Salman ibn Abd al-Aziz, as host of the summit, also advocated making sufficient vaccines available to developing countries at an affordable price.

US President [*Donald Trump*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=donald+trump) focused mainly on praising US achievements in the fight against the pandemic and highlighted the coronavirus vaccines developed by US pharmaceutical companies Moderna and Pfizer. However, he did not mention the German company BioNTech, which is a partner of Pfizer.

Attending the virtual G20 summit was probably Donald Trump's last major public appearance as president of the United States. After participating in the teleconference for less than two hours, Trump left the participants and left the White House for his golf club in Virginia, reporters said.

Representatives of 19 industrialised and emerging countries and ***the EU*** attending the Riyadh summit warned that the eagerly awaited global economic recovery is still "uncertain, uneven and fraught with risks". Some poor countries are likely to require substantial relief for the debts they have incurred.

Chancellor Merkel therefore called for the strengthening of the World Trade Organisation (WHO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. International cooperation is the key to fighting the coronavirus pandemic, she stressed. The first day of the G20 meeting was held under the theme "Overcoming the pandemic and restoring growth and jobs".

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/s-9097) website[*.*](https://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/s-9097)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (90%); Torture (78%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Law Courts + Tribunals (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Medicine + Health (68%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (82%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Right-hand run to the right-hand wall***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0H2-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 22, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 1015 words

**Byline:** Witold Gadomski

**Highlight:** The more ambitious politicians of the right are preparing for the time after Kaczynski. What is astonishing, however, is that they seek their place only close to the right wall.

**Body**

[*Late in the evening on Thursday 19 November, 231 members of the Law and Justice (PiS) club and five from the PSL-Kukiz 15 supported a resolution supporting the government's position towards the* ***European*** *Union*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26531995,trzeszczy-w-koalicji-polskiej-powinnismy-ustalic-czy-jestesmy.html). It reads: "The Sejm acknowledges with appreciation the fact that the Polish representatives blocked further work on the budget solutions package.

The issue, of course, is the ***European*** Union budget and the Reconstruction Fund, from which Poland is to receive around ***€60*** billion, including ***€27*** billion in non-refundable subsidies. The Morawiecki government's stance is judged by optimists as a risky bluff that will worsen Poland's relations with most EU countries but will be withdrawn at the last minute, and by pessimists as a step from which the "united" but highly divisive right wing will no longer be able to withdraw. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, in demanding that Morawiecki veto the budget, reacted to the offensive of Zbigniew Ziobra's small group, which is keen to split the ruling camp. The [*chickie-run is Kaczyński's favourite tactic*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75968,26406645,kaczynski-pograzy-prawice-a-moze-i-cala-polske.html). This time it is used by a younger and smaller coalition partner, and the president gives way. He is doing so because he fears that the government will lose its majority, with the final result being early elections and the defeat of PiS. The concessions will encourage Ziobra to make another provocation and either ultimately lead to the destruction of the government or win for himself a stronger position in the right-wing camp.

What is more. in PiS itself, there is a group of MPs considering the possibility of leaving the party and forming another one. The fact that in the next elections (in 2023 or earlier) the right wing will appear in its current composition is less likely than that new entities and coalitions will be formed on the right. This is Ziobra's calculation, as well as that of some PiS MPs.

For the 50-year-old Ziobra, this is the last bell to play in the forefront of Polish politics. Kaczyński has refused to let him return to PiS, and Solidarna Polska enjoys the support of only a few percent of voters, so on its own it has no chance of success. However, the situation will be different if the right wing splits into several entities that will reunite. In such a situation, Ziobro as one of the most recognisable politicians, who always gets a good result in the elections in his district, will be one of the leaders of the new grouping, perhaps the most important. It is in Ziobro's interest not only to stir up confusion on the right, but also for the Morawicki government to fall and for the right to lose power for a while. This will accelerate change, which for an ambitious justice minister is desirable. He is young enough to count for another four years. Neither Kaczynski, nor Macierewicz, nor many PiS politicians who have stood by Kaczynski for several decades, have that comfort.

[*For almost 20 years, PiS has been the party of Jaroslaw Kaczynski, who has imposed a charter that allows the president to throw out any unruly politician.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75968,26493550,ksiega-zapowiedzianej-dyktatury-co-kryje-statut-pis.html) There is no natural successor. Behind the apparent unity there are factions viciously fighting each other. Kaczyński is 71 years old, but it is doubtful that he will lead the right-wing team once again in the next elections. Not only does he make mistakes that reduce support for his party, but some of his statements and decisions indicate that he is losing touch with reality. How does he imagine the government will continue to function if Poland is deprived of the Reconstruction Fund? Why, in the midst of an economic and epidemiological crisis, is he provoking a women's revolt and, at the same time, discontent in the countryside over a controversial law? Even the most devoted acolytes have probably stopped believing that the president has a strategy, only that it is difficult to understand by the "little ones".

The more ambitious politicians are therefore preparing for the time after Kaczyński. It is astonishing, however, that they seek their place only close to the right wall. The dozen or so MPs suspended for some time because of their opposition to the 'five for the animals' are the right wing of PiS eagerly invited to Radio Maryja.

Kaczyński gave in to Ziobra's blackmail. He did not throw him out of the government when, without consulting other politicians of the right-wing camp, he organised a press conference during which he determined the government's position on the EU budget. Why, however, did politicians who rationally assess Poland's chances in the struggle with the Union and the importance of the Economic Recovery Fund for our economy not use similar tactics? I think that there is no lack of them in the Law and Justice party itself, and even more so in Gowin's party, who creates himself as a pragmatist focused on economic issues. Pragmatism, however, is considered a betrayal of the right-wing ideals on the right, so pragmatists prefer to remain invisible. This is a tactic for the short term, which in the long term means giving ground to the radicals. The support of the more pragmatic politicians of the right for the anti-European course imposed by Zbigniew Ziobra and the radicals is incomprehensible and illogical.

In all likelihood, we can assume that the current political scene is on the eve of significant decomposition. If elections were held today, the right-wing party - as the polls indicate - would not win a majority, although it would still be the strongest grouping. PiS could get along with the Confederation, but both parties are unlikely to win enough seats to co-govern. After the elections, therefore, a multi-party government will be formed, not very coherent in terms of programming, whose main task will be to restore the rule of law and remove from state institutions and companies persons whose main qualification is a family or social relationship with right-wing politicians.

Right-wing pragmatists will share the fate of the whole camp that is governing Poland today - they will be removed from influence, the public media and the more important parliamentary committees. Their situation would be completely different if today they dared to reveal their views and proclaim the obvious - Poland must be a country governed by the rule of law, and membership of the ***European*** Union is a condition for the development and security of our country.

In a country where there are more than two parties on the political scene, the ability to form coalitions is an important currency. Today's Law and Justice party does not have such an ability, whereas right-wing pragmatists would have, if they dared to admit today that they are pragmatists.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (69%); Terrorist Organizations (68%); Medical Devices (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A potential post-Brexit will be a total disaster for farmers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0HW-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 22, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** Krystyna Naszkowska

**Highlight: The** sword of Damocles hangs over Polish farmers, although few realise this. Both our government's veto of the EU budget for 2021-2028 and Poland's exit from the EU spell disaster, albeit on a different scale.

**Body**

The difference is that the veto will directly hit the vast minority of villagers, the majority will seem irrelevant.

This is because around 70% of those who receive subsidies are not actually farmers, but merely holders of agricultural land and derive their income from other, non-agricultural sources. For them, investment transfers are not important, only subsidy transfers. A veto will ensure them this. It means [*adoption of the so-called provisional budget for the coming year instead of the new seven-year budget*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26529942,budzet-ue-unia-kombinuje-jak-odwolac-weto.html), and the provisional guarantees payment of direct subsidies at the current level, i.e. about ***EUR*** 15 billion (this year it was on average about ***EUR*** 250 per hectare, i.e. about PLN 1125).

Not all of the remaining 30% invest either, so many react very calmly to the announcement of the veto. First of all, they do not really know what it means in reality, and what is more, they hear from experts on TVP that the provisional is more beneficial for them than a regular budget.

However, things do not have to be that good. According to Polish People's Party ***(***PSL) ***MEP*** Jarosław Kalinowski, the rule of law clause is already a fact, so it may be applied when granting the provisional, and Poland may not get the money at all.

Over the last seven years, our agriculture has received a total of around ***EUR*** 30 billion from the EU, and a similar sum is planned for the next seven years. Half of this sum is earmarked for investment - in farms and in rural development, i.e. infrastructure, new technologies, machinery, modern barns and feedlots, improvement of animal life, etc. These are huge costs, e.g. one milking robot for cows costs around half a million zlotys and without the support of EU funds hardly anyone can afford such an expenditure.

Stopping investment even just for a year is a blow to the development of the economy. But there are also non-material issues at stake. According to Prof. Jerzy Wilkin, an economist and expert on the Common Agricultural Policy, the veto means loss of predictability of further incomes for farmers. - The CAP provides farmers with income stability and predictability. A budget adopted for seven years means that a farmer knows how much funds he will receive over the next seven years according to a scheme which he is already familiar with. This system has been in place since 2004, farmers have got used to it, and now they will get a guarantee for one year. Who will want to invest in such a situation? - Prof. Wilkin wonders.

One can, of course, assume that the veto will not be forthcoming, as this would mean an earthquake not only for us, but for the Union as a whole. Viktor Orbán, the Law and Justice party's guru on EU affairs, already seems to be softening, and the EU does not want to cut corners either, so the conflict can still be resolved. But what will happen if the conflict between Poland and the EU not only fails to be resolved, but escalates and we leave the EU?

This will already be a total disaster for all farmers, regardless of their level of wealth and entrepreneurship.

Firstly, our national budget will not be able to afford to pay the subsidies which farmers receive from the Union. Post-lexit will therefore hit every farmer, including those who do not produce anything for sale, but pocket the subsidies. For food producers, on the other hand, it will mean a drop in their income to zero. According to many analysts, it is the subsidies that are the real profit for farmers, because they sell their goods at production cost.

But the real blow would be the loss of the EU market. Before joining the EU, Poland was a net importer of food, but since 2004 we have been a net exporter. Poland has become a potentate in the production of many agricultural commodities - e.g. poultry, beef, mushrooms, many vegetables and fruit. According to some experts, the benefits that Poland derives from this are already higher than the direct money transfers from the EU.

In recent years we have also been the largest recipient of rural development funds from the Member States - anyone who compares the countryside today with its pre-accession condition can see how this has worked.

Closing the borders is not only about possible duties that will make exports less profitable, it is also about new regulations and restrictions on the movement of goods that we, as a country outside the Union, will have to comply with.

The closure of EU borders will mean that, as ***MEP*** Kalinowski predicts, "we will suffocate under our own production". Suddenly there will be much more on the Polish market than we can consume, so prices will fall. For farmers, it will be a horror - they will not receive subsidies and prices will plummet. Many of them will not survive this; they will not live to see the time when prices go up again, when the surplus is exhausted and there are not so many new products. There will be empty chicken coops and barns left in the countryside and farmers will be looking for something else to do.

Hard to believe?

For the past few years, the PiS government has avoided like hell showing the benefits that Poland has through EU membership. Prime Minister Morawiecki spoke dismissively about EU funds being enough for "sidewalks", and in his state development strategy he mentioned two countries that were supposed to be models for us - the US and the UK. Both are outside the Union.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (74%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Film (69%); Torture (69%); Insider Trading (63%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (62%); Chemistry (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Military Weapons (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%); Medical Devices + Equipment (61%); Securities + Other Investments (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (75%); Chemicals Mfg (73%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***France. Mink infected with coronavirus have been detected on one of the farms. Thousands of animals will be slaughtered***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0JX-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 22, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 314 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Michał Litorowicz

**Highlight:** French authorities have ordered the slaughter of 1,000 mink after some animals were confirmed to be infected with coronavirus. The animals are also being tested at other farms located on French territory.

**Body**

The French agriculture ministry, quoted by the Associated Press news agency, said the virus-infected animals were discovered on a farm in the Eure-et-Loire region of western France. The ministry decided to slaughter all 1,000 animals.

Testing of mink for the SARS-CoV-2 virus began in France in mid-November. There are four farms on its territory. The Ministry of Agriculture confirmed that, so far, the outbreaks have only occurred in the Eure-et-Loire region.

"Another of the farms is intact. Tests are still being carried out on the other two farms. The results are expected within a week," - the ministry reported.

The communication also reported that French farmers in contact with mink had tested negative for coronavirus.

Cases of mink infected with SARS-CoV-2 have also been confirmed in other parts of ***Europe*** - including: Greece, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark. The most notorious case was undoubtedly in the latter country.

Coronavirus mutations have been detected in 207 out of 1139 fur farms in Denmark. In order to limit the spread of the virus, the Danish Government decided that the entire mink population in the country, i.e. around 17 million animals, should be culled. So far, more than 2 million animals have been culled. The Danish authorities have drawn attention to the fact that the mutant strain of the virus could introduce enormous complications into the process of vaccine development.

However, it turned out that those in power had no legal basis for forcing breeders to slaughter mink en masse. - Even if we acted in haste, it should have been clear to us that new legislation was needed. I apologise for this," said Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen. Currently, mink can only be killed where outbreaks of coronavirus have been detected. However, Denmark has no intention of abandoning the plan already announced, and legislation is expected to be presented in the near future.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (77%); Terrorist Organizations (76%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Espionage (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Germans are fleeing for early retirement. "FAS": that's already 3.5 million benefit recipients***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0JN-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 22, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 293 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** Although the government has raised the retirement age, German citizens are increasingly willing to take early retirement. Their number far exceeds the government's earlier forecasts. Budget subsidies have exceeded 100 billion ***euros***.

**Body**

The number of Germans who give up work at the age of 63 is rising steadily. Currently 3.5 million of the 18 million pensioners are taking early benefits, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung (FAS) newspaper reported on Sunday. The editorial cites a report by the German Pension Insurance Agency, which will be discussed at a government meeting in Berlin next week.

"FAS" recalls that employees who have worked for at least 45 years and paid contributions during that time can retire at the age of 63, retaining their full benefit. In 2016, 225,640 people took advantage of this opportunity. Last year, the number of early retirees rose to 247,150.

63-year-olds without a 45-year contribution period may also take early retirement, but in their case the benefit is reduced by the period missing from the full retirement age. In 2016, almost 62 thousand people opted for this option, last year - more than 84 thousand.

[*Pension*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=Emerytury) payments from the state budget are increasing every year. This year they will exceed ***EUR*** 100 billion for the first time. The increased expenditure is due to demographic factors. The baby boomers are now entering retirement age. By 2039, the number of people in Germany over the age of 65 will increase by six million to 21 million.

Since 2012, Germany has been implementing a system to raise the retirement age from 65 to 67. The retirement age is raised by one month each year. In the final phase of this operation, between 2024 and 2029, the retirement age will be raised by two months each year. Those born in 1964 will be the first vintage to have to work until 67, unless they take advantage of early retirement.

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/s-9097) website[*.*](https://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/s-9097)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (77%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Medicine + Health (70%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Management Theory + Practice (65%); Espionage (63%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (71%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Italian students fight to return to school***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-8PC1-JCVT-R0J2-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

November 22, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 780 words

**Byline:** Bartosz Hlebowicz, Florence

**Highlight: Pupils** in Naples, Milan or Florence sit on squares and pavements in front of their schools, equipped with blankets and wi-fi laptops. In this way, they attend classes and demonstrate their desire to return to normal activities.

**Body**

She couldn't stand sitting at home anymore. A pupil at a school in Turin took her laptop and rushed outside the closed school. On November 6, Piedmont became a red zone, and that meant, among other things, the closure of most establishments.

12-year-old Anita simply sat on the steps outside the entrance to her school. With her laptop on her lap, she followed the lessons online. She comes every day. Her parents brought her a folding chair and a table. Anita was soon joined by two of her classmates and the project, which has become known as Schools for Future, has spread throughout Piedmont and Italy: pupils in Naples, Milan and Florence sit on the squares and pavements outside their schools, equipped with blankets and wi-fi laptops. This is how they take part in activities.

Anita was telephoned by the Minister of Education, Lucia Azzolina, who tried to prevent the closure of the schools until the very end, thanking her heartily.

Anita and her thousands of followers in Italy show how wrong Campania's President Vincenzo De Luca was to be the first to close schools back in October, even though at the time his region was still in the yellow zone, a relatively safe zone. When parents protested in Naples, De Luca scoffed: "Come on, who will believe that children really miss school".

In the red and orange zones, the upper classes have had to switch to distance learning, but the government is doing its best to keep at least the primary schools open. However, some regions, despite still remaining relatively safe according to government parameters, have themselves decided to close all schools.

- This makes no sense, says Agostino Miozzo, coordinator of the government's science and technology advisory team. - Since March, we have 4 million pupils who do not go to school - informs Miozzo. - This is a dramatic situation.

Puglia and Campania, among others, closed their schools more quickly. A similar decision was taken by Leoluca Orlando, mayor of Palermo, despite the fact that the president of all of Sicily, Nello Musumeci, announced that schools would be the last place to embrace the lockdown.

The situation with education in southern Italy was already far worse than in the rest of the country before the outbreak. Now the gap is widening even further.

In Italy, 13.5 per cent of pupils have dropped out of secondary education in the last five years, one of the worst figures in ***Europe,*** according to the Save the Children foundation. But while in the north and centre of the country the average is just above 10 per cent, in the south, depending on the region, it ranges from 16 to more than 21 per cent. Save the Children predicts that due to the coronavirus these rates will rise significantly.

The epidemic will also increase the number of young people not in work or education. Already in 2019, one in five women and one in four men aged 15-29 will fall into this category. In Sicily, these statistics are even dramatic: 40% of young women and 36% of young men. The epidemic will affect young women even more than men, because in patriarchal Italian society, it is on them that the main burden of combining family and professional life falls, and it is they who, more than fathers, took care of their children's education during the lockdown.

A six-month break from normal schooling will worsen the already bad statistics of teenagers who have failed to master the minimum curriculum - currently affecting one in five Italian 15-year-olds.

It's not just about the "amount" of unlearned knowledge. "How much does a smile weigh in an educational relationship, especially for the youngest, a gesture of recognition, a challenge to cope when performing in front of the whole class?" - ask the authors of the report rhetorically.

- Many politicians have decided to sacrifice schooling in the name of speeding up recovery from a pandemic, while for the vast majority of children the benefit of returning to school in the long term outweighs the risks and consequences of becoming infected with coronavirus. Distance learning is very useful when applied in emergency situations and for a limited period of time. How many youngsters do not leave their homes for weeks or months, spending hours in front of a computer screen? They are victims of the now famous "shack syndrome", which generates fears, anxiety, insomnia and many other pathologies," warns Miozzo. - Some time from now, when the coronavirus emergency is over, we will be dealing with a lost generation.

Furthermore, adult aggression towards children increases during lockdown, according to a study by Milan's Bicocca University. 29 percent of the parents surveyed admitted that they had resorted to physical punishment and 84 percent that they had "raised their voice" while doing homework with their children. One in five respondents estimated that they had been more aggressive towards their children during the lockdown than before it.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (88%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (67%); Chemistry (67%); Weapons + Arms (64%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Dispute over the budget EU. Zbigniew Ziobro hits out at the Germans: I don't want to hit historical tones, but...***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0PB-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 340 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Urszula Ziemska

**Highlight:** Zbigniew Ziobro does not change his position on the conflict with the ***European Union*** and continues to say that if ***the EU*** does not withdraw from the principle "money for the rule of law", the community's budget should be vetoed. The politician also hit out at German politicians, referring to ***European*** history.

**Body**

Poland and Hungary are on a collision course with the [***European Union***](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=unia+europejska). The Community wants to link payments from the EU budget to the so-called rule of law, but the Polish and Hungarian governments refuse to agree to this. Both have also threatened to veto the ***EU*** budget for 2021-2027. A ***European*** Council summit is to be held on 10-11 December, where EU leaders will continue negotiations on the issue. What will be Poland's position? Zbigniew Ziobro - minister of justice, prosecutor general and one of the leaders of the United Right - spoke about this on Radio [*Three.*](https://www.polskieradio.pl/9/299/Artykul/2634580,Ziobro-musimy-twardo-bic-sie-o-nasze-racje-Prawo-stoi-za-nami-traktaty-stoja-za-nami)

- The Prime Minister can count on 100 per cent support from Solidarna Polska, implementing assumptions that are in line with Polish interests, carrying out a programme of firm opposition to attempts to violate the treaties and impose solutions that hit at our vital interests," [*Zbigniew Ziobro*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=zbigniew+ziobro) assured. The minister added that if the ***European Union*** does not withdraw from 'solutions that are a violation of ***EU*** treaty provisions', the prime minister will 'resort to a veto'.

The head of the justice ministry said that negotiating the interpretation of the rule of law is not in Poland's interest, because "such declarations mean nothing in the practical operation of ***EU*** bodies". The head of Solidarna Polska also referred to the [*German*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=niemcy) presidency of the ***European*** Union.

- Unfortunately, the self-confidence of German politicians in pursuing their own interests at the expense of other countries, including Poland, which is well known from history, comes to the fore. I do not want to hit historical notes, but I think that German politicians should bear in mind that history proves that they acted even with a democratic mandate, but in a manner contrary to the law, which led to dramatic scenarios and dark, long moments, a dark night in the history of ***Europe***," said Ziobro.

According to the Minister of Justice, the solutions proposed by the German Presidency are a violation of the law and of the elementary culture of cooperation between states and "an aggressive imposition of its interests on others, contrary to the law and contrary to the rules to which we have all agreed".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Hungarians are not letting their guard down. The Orbán government is going head-to-head with Union European Union***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0S4-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 513 words

**Byline:** Michał Kokot

**Highlight:** Statements by Hungarian politicians in recent days indicate that Budapest has come to a wall on its own wish regarding a possible agreement with the ***EU***.

**Body**

Hungarian politicians have not let up over the past week, criticising ***the EU*** for trying to undermine the country's sovereignty.

Justice Minister Judit Varga once again criticised the link between the rule of law and the payment of EU funds. She considered that it was "Brussels institutions with democratic deficits that want to tell member states what it is".

Referring to the plan announced by Brussels last Thursday to fight disinformation and support independent media in the ***EU***, she said it was an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of member states. - In healthy democracies, Brussels is supposed to decide what free elections, transparent campaigning and a balanced media market are. Will an EU commissioner also decide the results of elections in a member state? - said Varga.

Hungarian politicians, referring to accusations of the demolition of the media market and the buying out of independent editorial offices by oligarchs linked to the government, have been saying for years that these are normal business transactions. They explain the government's propaganda campaigns during the elections, in which they attack EU values, by the freedom of speech.

So far, however, they have positioned Hungary as a victim of the West mainly for domestic use, just before elections at home. In negotiations with the ***EU,*** they usually changed their tone to a more conciliatory one. Viktor Orbán's recent statements, however, suggest that this has also changed...

In a letter to Manfred Weber, his old friend from the ***European*** People's Party, Prime Minister Orbán accuses him of wanting to change the law in the ***EU*** so as to "create a mechanism that will be immediately targeted against Hungary and Poland".

"In light of the statement of the ***European*** Commission, the ***European*** Parliament and the national governments, you can no longer deny this," the Fidesz leader writes to Weber. And he admonishes: "Throughout history, the Germans have asked us for many things over the years."

The statement made by Péter Szijjártó, the Hungarian foreign minister, who referred to the statements made by the ***EU*** commissioner for justice, Didier Reynders, is of similar significance. In Le Soir, Reynders stated that the responsibility for the current EU crisis lies with Poland and Hungary, "two countries that exert pressure on the independent media, undermine the independence of the judiciary and do not respect the rights of minorities". Szijjártó replied to him to "not insult the Poles and Hungarians".

- We have definitely fought against dictatorships for freedom and have done as much for ***European*** unity as the country that sent you to the ***European*** Commission,' Szijjártó announced.

The Hungarian opposition is calling on the government to come to its senses.

On Friday, many Hungarian media quoted Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Gowin as saying that Poland was close to reaching an agreement with the ***EU***.

The Democratic Coalition, currently Hungary's largest opposition party, appealed to Orbán to abandon the veto before he is "left completely alone with it". KD ***MEP*** Sándor Rónai said that the issue had led to a coalition crisis in Poland and therefore the veto could be abandoned by the Poles. - If that happens, Orbán will be in big trouble, and so will Hungary, he announced.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Awards + Prizes (68%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (68%); Chemistry (68%); Medical Science (68%); Medicine + Health (68%); Physics (68%); Writers (68%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (88%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (68%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Collusion of nephews in a bad cause. Europe will not forget this***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0P5-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 936 words

**Byline:** Janusz Lewandowski

**Highlight:** The conspiracies of the prime ministers of Poland and Hungary give the unpleasant impression of collusion between two accomplices who promise to cover for each other when they want to rob the ***European*** Union of its budget and their own countries of the rule of law. The beautiful charter of brotherhood 'for our freedom and yours' has been tarnished by collusion in a bad cause.

**Body**

The author is a PO ***MEP***, former Minister of Ownership Transformation and ***EU*** Commissioner for Budget and Financial Programming.

This is not a conflict between Warsaw and Budapest and officials in Brussels, as is being falsely portrayed.

The threat of a veto is a declaration of war, declared on millions of beneficiaries of the ***European*** Union budget in the dramatic reality of a pandemic. Whatever happens, Kaczynski and Orban are already the culprits for delaying funds that were supposed to reach those in need in January 2021. This is reason enough to irritate the length and breadth of ***Europe***. We will pay a heavy price for this.

"Nephews" inspire each other in domestic politics, but differ in international relations. Poland's PiS bet on a special relationship with Trump, and Orban on a special relationship with Putin. When Orban in the Kremlin was looking for a counterbalance to Brussels and a chance to show himself as an international player, the Russian aggression in Ukraine was ongoing. Sanctions were on the ***EU's*** agenda, not closer cooperation with Russia. Hungary took the opposite direction. Nuclear cooperation followed in 2014 with a Russian loan (***€10*** billion) to build new units at the Pacs power plant. In February 2015. Orban hosted Putin in Budapest, and the latter started with a visit to the cemetery of Soviet soldiers, a testament to the 1956 invasion of Budapest. During the war in Donbass, Orban stabbed Ukraine in the back by claiming the rights of the Hungarian minority in the country.

The latest manifestation of this comity is the import of COVID-19 vaccines from Russia. Seemingly, this completely contradicts Kaczynski's anti-Russian phobia, but when one looks into the effects of the "nephews'" foreign policy, the similarity is revealed. A country perceived as Putin's Russia's Trojan horse in the EU (Hungary) and a country perceived as the Trump administration's Trojan horse in the EU (Poland) find common ground in their mission to weaken the EU. Both countries dream of privileged relations, while they are mere pawns in the superpowers' game. Trump has wished the ***EU*** badly and Putin wants its annihilation. Trump is no longer here, but Putin is, and for him our part of ***Europe*** is a lost sphere of influence. In terms of the real effects of the policies being practised, Hungary's overt Russian option meets PiS's covert Russian option. Budapest and Warsaw are volunteers on the frontline of the Kremlin's hybrid war against the ***European Union***, acting to their own destruction!

Kaczynski's Poland and Orban's Hungary, in line with their announcement at the Krynica Forum that they could steal horses together, are indeed robbing ***Europe*** of dramatically needed funds. Not because they question the figures agreed with them in July 2020, but because they question the principle of linking numbers to the rule of law. By doing so, both countries are admitting outright that they have an impure conscience. They want a free hand in destroying the institutions that were our ticket into the ***European*** Union. The critical assessment of the state of the rule of law in both countries inspired the new conditionality in the Union's budget, which links violations of the rule of law to threats to the ***EU*** budget. It should hurt Hungary more than Poland. This is because Hungary stands out among the countries with the most irregularities in the use of EU funds. Poland is doing quite well in this respect. This is also because up to now 40% of EU funds have been managed by the marshals of 16 voivodships, and even central programmes have been agreed with local authorities.

Until now, Hungary has been more dependent than Poland on EU funds. They have played a greater role in creating an oligarchic system. The clientism of the Orban era was largely based on sharing the EU cake. However, this has been recognised and stigmatised by the ***European*** Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), which is demanding millions of ***euros*** back from Hungary. In my opinion, the possibility of misusing ***EU*** funds has already been exhausted, because Brussels has recognised the Hungarian problem. But the relatives and friends of the rabbit have already been satisfied. If only for this reason, Orban may be more ready to compromise, as long as he gets more billions from the EU for 2021-27 - because there is never enough extra money.

Kaczyński's Poland found other ways of satisfying the 'mediocre but faithful'. ***European*** funds played a secondary role. Largely programmed and agreed with the ***European*** Commission by predecessors, they left little room for manoeuvres convenient for PiS. An opportunity, worthy of a new TKM, was created by the colonisation of the public sphere. Both the administration, bloated to previously unknown proportions (the Szumowski family), and state-owned companies, where they were used without restraint, at the expense of their value.

Renationalisation, nicknamed repolonisation, served this purpose. Perhaps the Law and Justice parties, still insatiable on public assets, saw an additional opportunity in ***EU*** funds, as Budapest did. The Emergency Reconstruction Fund, which is supposed to mitigate the economic and social effects of the pandemic, is a possibility. The government is vetoing with one hand and distributing the money with the other. It seems to be asking the local governments, but in reality it knows what it wants and is dividing it up in its own way. The same fate may befall the seven-year ***EU*** budget for 2021-27 if it is centralised. Then funds worth billions of euros will be at the mercy of a central authority, as in Hungary. Then breaking the link between the funds and the rule of law becomes the understandable priority of the 'righteous and just'! Except that this bond is already prejudiced. Whether the Polish and Hungarian vetoes force the ***EU*** to seek an emergency exit or merely delay the funds that the whole of ***Europe*** is waiting for, it will be remembered. Forever. Our country, meaning all of us, will pay a heavy price for suicidal collusion with Orban in the wrong cause!

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (82%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Torture (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Law Courts + Tribunals (68%); Medicine + Health (68%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (73%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (67%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Prof. Góralczyk: Orban is playing Poland. There is no friendship with him - he is cynical to the core***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0S7-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1242 words

**Byline:** Jacek Gądek

**Highlight:** - There is no friendship with Viktor Orban. He is an experienced and cynical politician to the core. He will use everything to suit the defined interests of his country, his party and his family - says Professor Bogdan Góralczyk, a political scientist and diplomat from the ***European*** Centre at Warsaw University, an expert on China and Hungary. As he adds, in the case of the veto to the EU budget, it is Orban who is playing Poland.

**Body**

See video. Sikorski: I have not seen such a self-degradation of a country's international position:

Jacek Gądek: Who cares more about the perpetuation of the "rule of law money"? The Polish government or the Hungarian government?

Professor Bogdan Góralczyk: It is difficult to measure, but both governments have their reasons. [*Viktor Orban is subject to the*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=viktor+orban) procedure on the rule of law under Article 7 of the Treaty on ***European*** Union, and so is Warsaw. He also has a very bad image, now compounded by the case of [*József Szájer*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26565696,kim-jest-jozsef-szajer-obronca-swietosci-rodziny-zostal-przylapany.html) [Orban's close associate and ***MEP*** was caught in Brussels by the police in an illegal orgy - ed.]

These are common things, but what divides?

The decisive thing, and one which completely differentiates Warsaw and Budapest, is that Orban heads the country which, according to research, is the most corrupt in the ***European*** Union, next to Bulgaria. And what is more, Orban's son-in-law, Istvan Tiborcz, is being investigated by the EU's anti-corruption agency OLAF.

Orban also has a long-standing conflict with [*George Soros*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=George+Soros), under whose dictation - so says the government propaganda in Hungary - the ***European Union*** operates. Finally - and this also differs from the Law and Justice government - Orban has developed an alternative to the ***European*** Union, or to put it more broadly, to the West. He has good relations with Vladimir Putin and the Chinese, but also with Turkish President Recep Erdogan and the leaders of Kazakhstan or Azerbaijan. So Orban has more room for manoeuvre and I think he will use it in the current game in the ***European*** Union.

Do you think Orban - as we have already seen in the past - will "betray" the PiS government despite earlier announcements of joint action and a veto on the EU budget?

I do not know, but there are arguments in favour of Orban vetoing the EU summit. But there are also arguments that he will not veto the EU budget.

Which ones?

Hungarian society is pro-EU, although not as much as Polish society...

...because in our country as many as 89% want to remain in the Union.

In Hungary, about 70 percent are in favour of ***EU*** membership. Orban has always taken into account how the people vote. The second argument for Orban ultimately not to veto is that ***the EU*** offer is concrete money: a seven-year budget and a fund for post-pandemic recovery. Here it is worth pointing out, however, that Orban on his own recently took a two and a half billion ***euro*** loan outside the ***EU*** - on market terms, so we don't know everything about the operation, but the interest rate was certainly much higher than under the EU reconstruction fund. Moreover, Orban prepared a state budget without EU funds.

Orban is therefore much better prepared for different negotiation scenarios than Warsaw. On the other hand, Hungary is very heavily dependent on German automobile companies, which have their assembly plants in Hungary. If decisions were made for these companies to withdraw, Hungary would lie economically.

In conclusion, Poland and Hungary declare a common willingness to veto, but there are significant differences between the interests and circumstances of the two countries.

We all remember 27:1 when Donald Tusk was elected for a second term as President of the ***European*** Council. Then Orban assured his opposition, but he did not keep his word. Could we have a repeat?

Now it is the other way round.

Which is it?

Today it is Orban who is playing Poland. Orban needs the Polish government, because thanks to Poland's support, his voice is much better heard and Orban's own arguments have greater weight. After all, Poland is simply larger and located closer to Germany.

Prime Ministers Mateusz Morawiecki and Viktor Orban had personal conversations and didn't seem like a close-knit duo to you?

First Morawiecki was in Budapest, and a week ago Orban unexpectedly landed in Warsaw. Orban is more concerned that Poland does not back down. Especially since the media in Hungary - even the government media, which are more restrained anyway - echoed the statements of Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Gowin, who, however, is not betting on a veto and is looking for a compromise. Orban, meanwhile, in his weekly broadcast on Radio Kossuth - that's the government's radio station - on Friday confirmed that he was taking a hard line on the veto. That is the latest version.

But is Orban used to making radical turns?

He always used to. And it has always adapted to how it discerns its interests and uses Poland to pursue them. However, the players today are Germany, which is the strongest ***EU*** state and holds the presidency of the Union. It should be remembered that Viktor Orban and Chancellor Angela Merkel have an ongoing relationship - she has been in power for 15 years and he for 10, which is enough for them to know each other very well. Orban, by the way, has another argument that the Polish government does not have: close relations with politicians from Bavaria.

After the meeting between the prime ministers of Poland and Hungary, the assurance was given that 'we are open to new proposals and convinced that an agreement can be reached'. Sounds like a search for compromise rather than a veto?

Let us hope that we end up with an agreement. On image, which is also important, however, we will still lose. Orban doesn't have to worry about it particularly anymore, because at least since 2015 he has been waging his ideological war against Soros. Its symbol is the fact that the Central European University, created by Soros, has been pushed out of Hungary by Orban, and the Chinese Shanghai Fudan University will move into Budapest instead. This is a symbolic change.

How important is this war with Soros?

Anti-EU propaganda in Hungary says above all that ***the EU is*** acting under the dictates of Soros - he is enemy number one. Szilard Demeter, a Fidesz-linked politician and director of the Petöfi Literature Museum in Budapest, accused Soros of turning ***Europe into a*** "gas chamber" and that Hungary and Poland are the "new Jews". He later apologised, but was not expelled. The anti-EU rhetoric - unlike in Poland - is based on ideological issues, that ***the EU*** is multicultural and threatens the family.

You are drawing the picture that here Orban, although leading a smaller country, is in a stronger negotiating position than the Polish Government?

I would put it another way: Orban has room for manoeuvre and Poland does not. A veto by the Polish Government means isolation, because Poland is at odds with the Russians, the Germans, the French, the British are preoccupied with [*Brexit,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=brexit) and there is a change in the White House in the USA, and it is not to the Polish Government's liking.

Perhaps, despite all this, an agreement will be reached at the forthcoming ***EU*** summit?

It has always been the case that compromises were reached. We remember the famous Copenhagen Summit, fondly recalled by former Prime Minister Leszek Miller. At that summit, people talked for over a dozen hours before finally reaching agreement. It is not impossible that this time, too, a compromise will be negotiated. I hope so. Because - here I want to be clear - neither Poland nor Hungary will benefit from a veto, even though Orban has an alternative to the ***EU.*** Let us assume that we will leave the ***EU***, which of course will be a process, and then what? Germany will cease to be our neighbour and we will stop trading? We have no alternative to the EU.

However, PiS assures that there will be no Polexit.

Very well, let them. I myself also deal with China and I know that no one should be judged by their words, but by their actions. We are still waiting for actions.

And does the affection, the "chemistry" between the politicians - Orban, Kaczyński and Morawiecki - matter?

There is no friendship in politics, and especially no friendship with Orbán. He is an experienced and thoroughly cynical politician. He will use anything to suit the interests he defines for his country, his party and his family.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices (93%); Securities + Other Investments (88%); Manufacturing Facilities (80%); Film (63%); Indictments (63%); Investigations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (87%); Harbors + Ports (81%); Mining + Extraction (81%); Retail + Wholesale Trade (69%); Insurance (63%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Solidarna Polska shows report on "violation of the rule of law by the Netherlands". It suggests using article 7***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0RV-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 489 words

**Byline:** kn

**Highlight:** Solidarna Polska MEPs presented a report at a press conference about, as they said, "the Dutch breach of the rule of law" and "tax abuses in the ***European*** Union". Earlier, the Dutch Parliament said it would vote on a resolution allowing the Dutch government to take action leading to a legal challenge against Poland in the ***EU*** Court of Justice over threats to veto the EU budget.

**Body**

Representatives of Solidarna Polska - deputy minister of state assets Janusz Kowalski and Sebastian Kaleta (deputy head of the Ministry of Justice) on Monday presented at a press conference a report on the "violation of the rule of law by the Netherlands". As they stated, PiS ***MEP*** Patryk Jaki, among others, took part in its preparation. [*This is a response to the actions of the authorities*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26565689,holandia-chce-postawic-polske-przed-trybunalem-autor-uchwaly.html). Last week, the Dutch parliament passed a resolution obliging Prime Minister Mark Rutte to put Poland before the CJEU for violating the rule of law - as many as 124 out of 150 MPs voted in favour of such a solution.

Kowalski and Kaleta pointed out that, in the view of Solidarna Polska, the Netherlands is in breach of EU treaties, with the country's legislation allowing it to "profit from its participation in the single market" and causing part of its profits to be transported outside the ***EU***, including to tax havens.

Through companies that can be registered in the Netherlands, the profits of companies that operate in the ***European*** Union are transferred outside the ***EU***. (...) This is one big unfair competition, it is a breach of the principle of justice and an infringement of the rules of the internal market.

- said Janusz Kowalski MEP.

As he added, the report raises the question of whether the Netherlands should not be subject to the procedure under Article 7 of the Treaty on ***European*** Union for infringement of the rule of law.

This report, which deals precisely with the subject of an aggressive tax system that does not comply with the rules of the ***EU*** internal market, raises a very important question - the activation of the Article 7 procedure, i.e. the violation of the rule of law by the Netherlands in breaking the rules of the internal market

- the Solidarity Poland politician pointed out.

Sebastian Kaleta announced that the report on the rule of law in the Netherlands will now be analysed by the Ministry of Justice. - In recent days, we have seen a series of unfair attacks against Poland by the Dutch and we cannot remain silent on this issue," he said.

Let us recall that when the Netherlands announced that it was bringing Poland before the CJEU, United Right politicians also gave other examples of alleged violations of the rule of law by this country. On 2 December, the Deputy Minister of Justice, Michał Wójcik, said on TVP Info that the law on euthanasia functioning in the Netherlands could constitute an example of violation of human rights. He also pointed out that the rule of law may be broken in the Netherlands 'due to the system which makes it possible to influence the functioning of the ***European*** arrest warrant'.

Poland and Hungary are currently on a collision course with the ***European Union***. The Community wants to link payments from the EU budget to the so-called rule of law, but the [*Polish and Hungarian*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26582097,spor-o-budzet-ue-zbigniew-ziobro-uderza-w-niemcow-nie-chce.html) governments [*refuse to agree to this*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26582097,spor-o-budzet-ue-zbigniew-ziobro-uderza-w-niemcow-nie-chce.html). Both countries have also threatened to veto the ***EU budget*** for 2021-2027. A ***European*** Council summit is to be held on 10-11 December, where EU leaders will continue negotiations on the issue.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Terrorist Organizations (70%); Weapons + Arms (64%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (86%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (69%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Union, its budget and funds. How Poland benefits from it [FAQ].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0SC-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1089 words

**Byline:** Tomasz Bielecki, Brussels

**Highlight:** How much money will Poland get if it does not veto the budget deal this week? And what will happen if there is a veto?

**Body**

Poland has been allocated around ***EUR*** 96.5 billion from the EU budget for 2021-27 (the budget for the entire EU is ***EUR*** 1074 billion).

Around ***€27*** billion in grants are to be allocated to Poland from the Closure Fund (€23 billion in the 'Recovery and Resilience Instrument' and the rest in addition to cohesion policy and the Fair Transition Fund).

In addition, Poland will be entitled to ***€32*** billion in cheap loans.

The Reconstruction Fund for the whole Union is 750 billion ***euros*** (390 billion grants plus 360 billion cheap loans). All amounts have been negotiated in 2018 prices, which in the Union's accounting are raised by a standard 2% per year in ***euros*** (independent of the actual inflation rate).

Poland's cohesion policy amounts to around ***EUR*** 66.4 billion, its agricultural policy to ***EUR*** 28.5 billion (subsidies plus rural development).

The Just Transition Fund is ***€3***.5 billion (two from the Reconstruction Fund plus one and a half from the ***EU*** budget).

Programmes financed by the Reconstruction Fund should be negotiated with Brussels by April 2021. For Poland, this is not a new task, as the whole thing resembles spending ordinary EU funds.

Individual countries' annual budget contributions depend on their share of EU GDP (taking into account changes in GDP over the course of the seven-year budget period, as well as the different needs of the ***EU*** in different years).

The forecasts, which were made just before the coronacrisis, showed that

Poland's contribution will amount to ***EUR*** 4.5 billion for 2020, and in the last year of this budget - in 2027 - the last year of the budget, 2027, will be ***EUR*** 6.18bn. For comparison: in the case of Germany, the figure was to be ***EUR*** 26.5bn for 2020 and ***EUR*** 34.98bn for 2027.

The money for the Reconstruction Fund will not come from normal ***EU*** budget sources (i.e. mainly contributions from ***EU*** countries) but from bonds issued by the ***European*** Commission.

Their repayment through the ***EU*** budget will be spread over the period 2028-58.

According to current political plans, the repayment is to be financed from new EU-wide budgetary sources (e.g. digital tax). But even if repayment from contributions ended, the logic of the ***EU*** budget would remain - i.e. contributions commensurate with GDP, subsidies not at all.

Polish GDP in 2019 accounted for 3.8 per cent of EU GDP, while at the same time Poland's subsidies are 6.9 per cent of the subsidised portion of the Reconstruction Fund.

The financial responsibility for the Reconstruction Fund will be borne by the ***EU*** budget, so Poland is co-responsible for any additional debt security (according to the GDP key). But it is worth remembering that no EU country has stopped paying contributions to the EU budget even during the debt crisis.

No. But it is true that EU funds are a form of investment in, among other things, the economic cohesion of the ***EU***, which serves the common market. And as investments, if they are the right ones, they are beneficial in the long run both for the "payers" (the richer part of the Union) and for the beneficiaries.

Is it true - as Zbigniew Ziobro claims - that Western countries take more money out of Poland than Poland gets from the ***EU***?

Poland's GNI (gross national product), an indicator that does NOT include finance "flowing" abroad (in the form of profits of foreign companies), increased by 62 per cent from 2004 to 2017.

(at constant prices - Bruegel centre calculations).

This is largely thanks to ***EU*** funds - both the money and the way in which the ***EU*** spends it.

In part, yes. All the 'younger' ***EU*** countries, with Poland in the lead, have been using the 'market opening fee' argument since the negotiation of the pre-accession funds.

Yes, it is compliant. The recently recalled and critical 2018 opinion of the ***EU*** Council Legal Service referred to the original 2018 draft of this regulation. And the current draft has already taken into account those 2018 reservations.

***The EU*** will enter 2021 under a system of emergency payments - first "twelfths" (monthly "micro-budgets" modelled on last year's period) and then a provisional annual budget, which does not need unanimity but the votes of 15 of the 27 ***EU*** countries to be adopted.

Such temporary solutions for the whole of next year would mean that in 2021, cohesion policy payments to Poland would fall from the planned ***EUR*** 13 billion to around ***EUR*** 9 billion. The remaining ***€4*** billion would have to be pushed back to subsequent years.

Budgetary payments for the whole Union would fall by ***€25-30*** billion in 2021. (from a planned over ***€160*** billion for the ***EU as a whole***).

Future cohesion policy payments to Poland - should the veto be sustained - would only relate to invoices from projects started by the end of this year. In contrast, the EU would not be able to take on any new cohesion policy commitments from January 2021.

This means that beneficiaries in Poland would lose the opportunity next year to launch new projects worth up to ***EUR*** 10 billion.

In agriculture, a vetoed ***EU*** budget would not prevent further per-hectare subsidies, but would hit rural development funds.

The Erasmus programme would only pay students until the summer holidays, but there would no longer be new programmes from the start of the 2021/22 academic year.

Yes, and Brussels has warned that if Poland and Hungary do not give a clear signal to override the veto by this Tuesday 8 December, it will start working on 'option B'.

This can be done in the form of an international agreement (this is how the ***Eurozone*** rescue funds came about) or under EU law.

The ***European*** Commission wants to bet on the creation of a possible 'Fund-25' - modelled on the SURE programme, which was set up this year to help save jobs (it only covers cheap loans). In this option, the Commission would borrow for "Fund-25" on the financial markets under guarantees only from willing EU countries (in the Reconstruction Fund, these guarantees are to be mediated by the budget of the whole ***EU***) and only these willing countries would be the beneficiaries of grants and loans.

If they want to, they can, but - unless London agrees to be a huge net contributor to such a fund (and it certainly won't) - the whole thing would be radically out of kilter with the scale of the EU Recovery Fund.

Duties within the EU market would be an economic post-Brexit - a violation of the foundations of the common market, the treaties and EU integration. In addition, it would be shooting ourselves in the foot economically. Let us add that in a common market, you cannot cut off France or Germany without cutting off Hungary or Italy.

Germany is a key player in the Union, which, on this issue, is playing the role of an intermediary with a rather compromising attitude towards Warsaw and Budapest.

The 'money for rule of law' regulation is a red line for many other countries and for ***the European*** Parliament.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European Union*** (94%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (70%); ***European Union*** Regulation + Policy (63%); Human Rights Violations (63%); Terrorist Organizations (63%); Unemployed Persons (63%); Recession (62%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%); Organic Chemicals (61%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Tailor-made propaganda. How the takeover of Polska Press will pave the way for Polexit***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TB-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1130 words

**Byline:** Miłosz Wiatrowski

**Highlight:** the ruling camp has decided to conduct Cyber Monday a week late. Daniel Obajtek's announced acquisition of the Polska Press group by PKN Orlen means that Law and Justice has just bought a kit called "Polexit - do it yourself".

**Body**

"We are taking over the @Polska\_Press publishing house. Thanks to the transaction, we will gain access to 17.4 million users of portals that are part of the Group. This will allow us to effectively support sales and develop big data tools. These are key resources in the context of the planned development of the retail network". This is how Daniel Obajtek, the President of the Management Board of PKN Orlen Group, announced today the acquisition by the state-owned fuel company of a publishing house that controls 20 out of 24 regional dailies and over 150 local weeklies.

The purchase of Polska Press will undoubtedly support sales and the development of big data tools. The product, however, will not be fuel but Polexit. When we think of the Law and Justice propaganda machine, we usually think of TVP Info strips, promotional materials of Andrzej Duda broadcast in the evening 'News', which the regime in Pyongyang would not be ashamed of. And also the absurd covers of pro-government weeklies.

While undoubtedly effective, they are only the tip of the iceberg of potential manipulative techniques. Taking control of local media will allow the United Right to experiment with more sophisticated methods.

What the two victorious campaigns that made the world tremble in 2016 - the Brexit win in the UK and Donald Trump's victory in the US - had in common was getting the right message across to very diverse groups of voters.

Of course, Fox News or the tabloid "The Sun" performed a function similar to that of TVPiS and the Karnowski brothers' bulletin, i.e. they mobilised the hardcore electorate. However, on the internet, the supporters of Trump and Brexit came out with a message tailored to a much wider audience.

Are you interested in the environment and terrified by the spectre of climate catastrophe? In your browser and on your phone screen you will see an advertisement claiming that ***the European Union*** is blocking steps to defend polar bears. Are you an animal rights activist? You are faced with a board showing a matador killing a bull and a caption saying that by voting to leave the ***EU***, you oppose the torture of innocent lives.

Do you have left-wing views and support Bernie Sanders? A special ad will remind you how close Hillary Clinton's ties are to Wall Street bankers. Are you outraged by American police brutality and racism? Here's a board with evidence that Clinton is a racist.

Just as important as motivating your own voter base is discouraging supporters of the other side from voting. The data obtained by Cambridge Analytica has allowed both Trump's people and the architects of Brexit to do this. The takeover of local media definitely increases PiS's ability to fight on both fronts.

Ziobro, Kurski, Sakiewicz and co. may, of course, decide that the winning line-up does not change, and introduce into all titles controlled by Polska Press the standards known from the existing pro-government media. This is, against all appearances, at the moment the best, and in fact the least bad, scenario for the pro-democracy forces in Poland.

If Głos Wielkopolski or Dziennik Zachodni follows in the footsteps of Radio Three and loses a significant proportion of their audience with the help of clumsy propaganda, we will only have to lament the death of important institutions of public life and the throwing of taxpayers' money down the drain.

An incomparably greater threat to the future of Polish democracy would be to adopt more subtle forms of tailor-made propaganda. Instead of writing eulogies for Jaroslaw Kaczynski or threatening that Mayor Jacek Jaskowiak is a satanist paid by Angela Merkel, it is enough to write about the fact that Krakow or Poznan are standing in endless traffic jams.

Why is this happening? Local journalists will gladly report that it was the ***European*** Commission that pushed through the rules, according to which road investments do not receive EU subsidies, while track investments do. This means that not only is there no time to wait for the streets to be widened with more lanes, but many of the city's arteries will be dug up for years because "Brussels" has come up with the idea that we should all travel by tram. Distant bureaucrats tell us how to live.

There are many more examples. In the coming years, we are likely to face blackouts - every summer, power stations operate at the limits of their capacity, the transmission system is outdated and droughts mean that there is not enough water to cool the units. Imagine that Wrocław or Szczecin are struggling with blackouts. This is an excellent opportunity to remind local readers that it is the ***EU that*** limits our ability to decide our own energy policy. After all, this is not an invitation to Polexit, but only to "an informed discussion about the profit and loss calculus for our region by virtue of membership of the ***European*** Union".

At the same time, the ruling camp will be able not only to influence what is in the local media, but also to obtain detailed information on what individual readers are most interested in in their small homeland. And then, on the basis of this data, target them with an appropriately selected message.

The government's cynical policy based on financially bleeding local governments creates a fertile ground for "critical local journalism" and "looking into the hands of local authorities" - in theory objective, civic and non-partisan, in reality aimed at disgusting Poles with local governments. They are the most successful element of the institutional reform after 1989 and the forerunner of the ***Europeanisation of*** our country. Now we will find out that their incompetence and bureaucratic diktat from Brussels are behind the increased costs for waste and water, malfunctioning hospitals and overloaded schools.

The same was true in the UK, where the progressive breakdown of local public services has served the supporters of brexit well. The referendum on leaving the ***EU*** came after years of the worst austerity in post-war history. Between 2009 and 2015, the number of workers in the public sector fell from 6.4 million to 5.4 million, outstripping even the reduction in government jobs under Thatcher.

Cuts mainly affected local authorities - local government spending fell by a third. Access to local public services - schools, hospitals, old people's homes - deteriorated, and cultural centres were closed. Although decisions were taken by central government, the political cost was borne by local politicians - often representing the opposition Labour Party - and ***EU*** supporters. In the end, the easiest thing to do was to say that if it were not for Polish immigrants, there would be more places in schools and hospitals, and the money sent to Brussels could be better spent locally.

May the Lord give us Tomasz Sakiewicz at the head of the Polska Press publishing house. Coarse propaganda may offend us, but refined propaganda will ultimately enslave us.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (71%); Securities + Other Investments (69%); Torture (67%); Film (65%); Human Rights Violations (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (73%); Harbors + Ports (65%); Mining + Extraction (65%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Sikorski on budget veto EU: The game is about whether Morawiecki will keep the prime minister's portfolio***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0N0-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 225 words

**Byline:** mb

**Highlight:** "The decision has already been made. And whether the ***European*** budget will be multiannual, annual or just a provisional one, the link with the rule of law will be there - Radosław Sikorski, ***MEP*** and former foreign minister, told Gazeta.pl.

**Body**

Poland and Hungary do not agree to bind the EU finances to the rule of law. The countries are threatening to veto the ***EU*** budget for 2021-2027. In an interview with Gazeta.pl, Radosław Sikorski referred to the situation.

Let us be clear about what is being decided. It is no longer a matter of linking funds to the rule of law, because this decision has already been taken by a ratio of 25:2 in the Council and 500 votes to something in the ***European*** Parliament. And whether the ***European*** budget will be multiannual, annual or just a provisional budget, the link to the rule of law will be there. It will be possible to withdraw funds for stealing EU money. Orban is afraid of this, because he is stealing

- said Radosław Sikorski. - The ***European Union***, accepting us, set a condition that we are a country governed by the rule of law - then we met this condition, and today it says: we need to make sure that the countries that are already members also meet it - emphasized the politician. The former head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was also asked what the game is about.

The game is about whether Morawiecki will keep his position as prime minister. And here Ziobra has to be credited with great political cunning, because he has driven Morawiecki into a corner with his anti-EU rhetoric, in which, if Morawiecki withdraws his veto, he will allegedly give up sovereignty, and if he keeps his veto, he will lose 120 billion zlotys for Poland. So one way or another, you can finish him off

- Radosław Sikorski emphasised.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (62%); Terrorist Organizations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (68%); Mining + Extraction (68%); Chemicals Mfg (65%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (64%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Veto. Morawiecki about money, Ziobro about the rule of law. This is how the ruling camp manipulates facts***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0P6-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1070 words

**Byline:** Robert Kędzierski

**Highlight:** The EU's financial settlement is fast approaching. Poland and Hungary are threatening with a veto because they do not want to agree on the rule of law mechanism. The ruling camp uses many arguments that are completely different from the truth. It does not back up its convenient rhetoric with facts and calculations. We are presenting them.

**Body**

***The Eurosceptic*** Solidarna Polska and Prime Minister [*Mateusz Morawiecki*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=mateusz+morawiecki) are outdoing themselves with ideas to convince Poles of the low harmfulness of the announced veto. EU officials respond to the Polish government's declarations with their own: if Poland says "no" to the 2021-2027 financial perspective, the Reconstruction Fund, known as the new Marshall Plan, [*will be divided without our country's participation*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26582532,rmf-fm-unia-chce-prowizorium-porozumienie-do-jutra-albo.html)

The Head of Government seems to downplay this threat. He says that we do not need EU funds, we can do without them. - The reconstruction fund is essentially constructed from credit. Yes, with low interest, but we can also place such a loan on the market. It is called state bonds - he said.

However, he omitted an important fact. Only a part of the funds that would go to Poland would be a loan - ***EUR*** 34 billion. This is calculated by the development department. ***EUR*** 23 bln, i.e. PLN 100 bln, which is how much the Polish Development Fund will spend on the first and next year's shield for entrepreneurs, is to come to Poland as a grant. It will not have to be returned.

The money the ***EU*** wants to lend us, we can of course borrow on the market ourselves. Nor does Morawiecki provide any calculations. For the ten-year bonds issued by the Polish government may simply turn out to be more expensive than the loan that the EU is taking out on behalf of the 27 countries.

Nor does the head of government explain how borrowing PLN 250 billion through a bond issue is supposed to be more beneficial than borrowing PLN 150 billion from the ***EU*** and receiving PLN 100 billion "for free".

The ruling camp is also arguing that a potential veto on the EU budget could in fact be beneficial for Poland. From January, the EU would have to use a provisional budget.

"The provisional budget that will be in place if the ***EU budget is*** not adopted is better for us than the latest budgetary arrangements," - claims [*Zbigniew Ziobro.*](https://www.gov.pl/web/sprawiedliwosc/minister-sprawiedliwosci-obronimy-suwerennosc-polski-i-europe-ojczyzn) Contrary to some voices, I do not see any advantages of the provisional budget. Of course, commitments which have been entered into will be financed, as will subsidies for farmers, which are important for Poland. In other areas, however, all EU Member States would have to reckon with cuts in funding. Therefore, I count on working out a compromise by the end of the year - said Jarosław Gowin, leader of the Agreement.

Adoption of the interim financial perspective blocks the possibility of implementing long-term investment programmes. Poland must therefore reckon with postponements and delays in the disbursement of many funds, especially those planned for 2021-2022.

United Right politicians are also using a convenient narrative for themselves, claiming that linking the payment of money to the issue of the rule of law is primarily wanted by Germany. "The rule of law mechanism is now being pushed by Germany". - claims the wPolityce.pl portal in an interview with Law and Justice ***MEP*** Witold Waszczykowski. "There is no longer any question of believing the Germans that they care about any community interests. They look after their hegemonic interests in the ***European*** Union". - replies the former foreign minister.

However, this narrative does not stand up to the facts. The Netherlands wants to take Poland to the European Court of Justice. The EU supports this position, because as Professor Artur Nowak-Far from the Warsaw School of Economics, former deputy minister of foreign affairs, explains [*in an interview with Gazeta.pl,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26566145,holandia-chce-postawic-polske-przed-tsue-ekspert-ue-nie-ustapi.html) the issue of the rule of law is of tangible importance for ***Europe. -*** Citizens of the Community do not accept that there are areas in the ***EU*** where the rule of law does not exist," he explained.

Politicians from the power camp are also trying to tell the less informed that the rule of law mechanism actually means a loss of sovereignty. "The hatred of the leftist elites for Christianity makes them react with such aggression to our governments," - Zbigniew Ziobro, leader of Solidarna Polska and minister of justice, assessed on TV Trwam.

"Under the pretext of the rule of law, a mechanism has been prepared for the political enslavement of countries that do not want to submit to the ***European*** Union. It is a mechanism that transfers real power from Warsaw to Brussels and gives the opportunity to officials and the largest ***EU*** countries to exert pressure on Poland in the future. [...] This is a radical reduction of Polish sovereignty. It is also a milestone in the creation of a state that would be the ***European Union*** with its capital in Brussels. - claimed the head of the Ministry of Justice.

Zbigniew Ziobro also spoke about how the rule of law mechanism is supposed to hit sovereignty. "The definition of the rule of law is not only about the issues of the judiciary, the election of judges, the prosecutor's office, but it is also about the issues of the media, access to abortion, fundamental rights, interpreted as the rights to gay marriage and adoption of children by such couples," [*he said*](https://www.tokfm.pl/Tokfm/7,103087,26144707,ziobro-w-unijnej-praworzadnosci-chodzi-o-dostep-do-aborcji.html).

Ursula von der Leyen wrote a letter to Mateusz Morawiecki in which she explained that the mechanism for linking the EU budget to the rule of law is linked to sound financial management. "It is only about such violations that can affect the management of EU finances as well as the financial interests of the ***EU,***" - reads the EC President's letter.

"The Commission will be able to request the suspension of funds in case of infringements or risk of infringements. But only if it demonstrates that the breach of the rule of law has a direct and negative impact on the management of the budget, jeopardising the interests of the ***EU*** (Article 3)" - Oko.press explains, quoting the EU provision. As you can see, it does not mention taking away sovereignty or forcing gay marriage laws.

Leszek Miller, former Prime Minister, also commented. - The 25 states have no fears of losing their sovereignty and believe that the document is necessary. [...] 25 states say: "Ok, this is a great document, we accept it, we are not afraid of it, because we are not breaking the rule of law", and two states say: "No, no, because we will lose sovereignty". After all, this is stupid," Miller stated.

Jerzy Huasner, former minister in Leszek Miller's and Marek Belka's governments, in an interview with Łukasz Kijk, also stated that belonging to the ***EU*** means that "there is no absolute sovereignty". - There is what you might call sovereignty under interdependence. That is, the treatment "if I am dependent on you, it means I am not sovereign" is absurd in such a world. If it wants to be sovereign, it should be interdependent," the expert said.

Read also: [***Europe will*** *remember this. It's not* ***the Eurocrats who will*** *be furious, it's the ordinary Spaniards and Italians [SROCZYŃSKI'S INTERVIEWS].*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26558939,europa-nam-to-zapamieta-wsciekli-nie-beda-eurokraci-tylko.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Awards + Prizes (65%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (65%); Chemistry (65%); Medical Science (65%); Medicine + Health (65%); Physics (65%); Writers (65%); Espionage (63%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (81%); Organic Chemicals (80%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Walesa, Kwasniewski and Komorowski on the veto: It is a betrayal of the decision of 13.5 million Poles***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0T6-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 530 words

**Byline:** Open letter

**Highlight:** There is no political and social consensus on an anti-European course and no political party has a mandate to pursue it, three former presidents write in a joint statement.

**Body**

We, former Presidents of the Republic of Poland, who spared no effort in working for a free, democratic, safe, developing, respected and influential Poland in the family of ***European*** countries, today express our concern and warn you!

We appeal to all citizens of the Republic of Poland, to everyone who places concern for the future of our common good above narrow party interests and ideological considerations. A veto of the EU budget by a Member State is not a gesture unknown in the history of the ***European Union***.

The Polish veto would be an understandable decision and would find our support if ***the European*** budget were unfavourable or unjust for Poland. But this is not the case!

The budget for 2021-2027 was negotiated by Mateusz Morawiecki's government and adopted, with his support, in Brussels in July this year. This is a good budget for Poland and the Poles. We have been and will remain the biggest beneficiary of EU funds. Poland received ***€67*** billion in 2007-2013, ***€82***.5 billion in 2014-2020, while the sum of over ***€139 billion in*** grants and ***€34*** billion in loans is foreseen for 2021-2027.

Money from this budget is needed immediately for Poles to fight effectively against the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, including the defence of jobs and support for Polish businesses. This is why we stress in the strongest possible terms: ***the European*** budget, which the whole of ***Europe*** is waiting for, must not become hostage to party or even intraparty power struggles on the Polish right.

A duel ticket to see who gets who - Ziobro Morawiecki or Kaczyński Ziobra - is not worth billions of ***euros***! The threat of a veto cannot be justified by opposition to the principle of the rule of law, which applies equally to all countries in the ***European*** Union.

There is no uniquely Polish version of the rule of law, other than the ***European version*** which the Polish Government is claiming to respect. Just as there are not two types of dignity - Polish and ***European*** - or two types of freedom, near and foreign, so there are not two types of rule of law and the criteria for upholding it.

The rule of law means respect for our Constitution and ***European*** law as our common, enshrined set of fundamental values. Those fundamental principles which guard our rights and freedoms from the arbitrariness of one political formation or another. This is why this threat of a veto and the philosophy behind it of impunity for party power, which is more important than the Polish raison d'état , cannot be reconciled with Polish membership of the ***European*** Union.

The announcement of such a motivated veto is a betrayal of the decision taken by 13.5 million Poles in a national referendum in June 2003. The will expressed then is still valid!

There is no political and social consent for this anti-European course and no political party has a mandate to implement it. We therefore call on the Polish President, the Prime Minister and the Polish Government to stop blackmailing the other ***EU*** countries with the threat of a veto over the EU budget, previously adopted and announced as a huge success by the Polish government.

This is detrimental to Poland and its place in a united ***Europe***.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Investigations (69%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (63%); Traveler Safety + Security (61%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Dispute over the budget EU. Kwaśniewski: There will be some blah blah, which will be declared a success in Poland***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0PG-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 438 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Urszula Ziemska

**Highlight:** How will the upcoming ***European*** Council summit end? According to Aleksander Kwasniewski, German Chancellor Angela Merkel will play an important role in the negotiations, thanks to which a political protocol will be established and Mateusz Morawiecki will be able to prove that he is not a "softie".

**Body**

A ***European*** Union summit will be held on 10-11 December. The leaders of the 27 countries will discuss how to resolve the dispute over linking payments from the EU budget to compliance with the rule of law, which the Polish and Hungarian governments refuse to accept. Former Polish president [*Aleksander Kwasniewski*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=aleksander+kwa%B6niewski) predicted in an interview with [*TVN24*](https://tvn24.pl/polska/budzet-ue-a-praworzadnosc-aleksander-kwasniewski-komentuje-dzialania-rzadu-pis-i-polskie-weto-4769877) that an important role in these negotiations will be played by German chancellor Angela Merkel, who is ending her political activity and for whom the current German presidency of the ***EU*** is the last one.

- I think this may end up in some kind of additional political document, a protocol, which would explain these criteria for the rule of law even more precisely and which would emphasise the objectivity of these criteria, rather than their instrumental application in relation to particular countries. Some blah blah, so to speak. A diplomatic document, which will of course be announced as a great success in Poland and similarly in Hungary, but it will not change anything except one thing - this money [the budget of the ***European*** Union and the Reconstruction Fund - ed.

According to the former president, such a document is enough for Prime Minister [*Mateusz Morawiecki to*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=mateusz+morawiecki) prove that he is not a "softie".

- This is already enough, I think, for the Prime Minister himself, although of course there will be murmurs of discontent," said Kwasniewski.

The former Polish president said that what the Polish government was doing in relation to ***the European*** Union was dangerous for Poland.

- All those who say 'stand up to ***Europe***, ***Europe*** is using us, we can manage without ***European*** money' are taking us in the direction, if not of postlexit, then of being significantly marginalised in the [***European*** *Union*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=unia+europejska). I mean, we will be, but we will be a third-rate country. We do not deserve this, because we have sufficient political and economic potential to be in the ***European*** mainstream," Kwaśniewski said.

The politician also stated that in the ruling camp, "the strongest cards" are still held by Law and Justice Chairman Jarosław Kaczyński, who is, however, ***a Eurosceptic*** and does not know best the mechanisms of the ***European*** Union. He also assessed that "in a negotiating sense", Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki is much more experienced, who in turn "does not have the strength" he needs, as the attacks of Justice Minister [*Zbigniew Ziobra*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=zbigniew+ziobro) weaken him.

- You can't just come here, say something, slam the door and leave. Here you have to be willing to listen, to compromise, to look for solutions that will not be so satisfactory, but will be acceptable," Kwaśniewski said.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (78%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (74%); Chemistry (74%); Terrorist Organizations (68%); Awards + Prizes (64%); Medical Science (64%); Medicine + Health (64%); Physics (64%); Writers (64%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (67%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Majority of Poles against Polexit, but one in three respondents believes anti-EU propaganda [OPINION POLL]***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TG-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 887 words

**Byline:** Paweł Kośmiński

**Highlight:** More than half of Polish citizens think that Poland should strengthen its ties with the ***EU*** and would like to see the role of the ***European*** Commission expanded even further - a recent OKO.press poll finds.

**Body**

The survey commissioned by the portal OKO.press and conducted by the polling agency Ipsos at the end of November coincided with a heated debate concerning the upcoming ***EU*** budget. Vehemently opposed to a mechanism liking access to ***EU*** money to a rule of law principle, Poland's ruling Law and Justice party threatens to veto the budget, even if the decision would mean Poland losing multiple billions of ***euros*** in funds.

-The ***EU***, controlled by a ***European*** oligarchy that punishes its weaker members and pushes them into a corner, is not the same ***EU*** we once joined and is not an ***EU*** that has any future in front of it- said Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, addressing the Sejm. The opposition warns of an impending polexit.

The Law and Justice party claims that the ***EU*** is violating its own treaties, blames Brussels bureaucrats for their alleged power grab, and calls for more sovereignty of single member states. - We do not attack the ***European Union***. We are the ones defending it in its current treaty-based form - the Minister of Justice, Zbigniew Ziobro, who's recently been very vocal about the issue, argued last week. - What the German presidency is proposing, together with the ***European*** Commission, is a violation of the treaties, and we are defending them. That is, we are defending the ***EU*** in its current form. You could say that we are ***EU*** patriots, in a way.

Ipsos asked the respondents about the "policy Poland should support". 54% of surveyed respondents want to see a "closer cooperation in the ***EU*** and an expanded role of the ***European*** Commission", while 34% are in favor of "limiting the cooperation to economic matters and giving single member states greater independence". 7% support Poland's exit from the ***EU***, 5% have no opinion.

What's interesting, closer cooperation is supported by nearly every third voter of the ruling party (31%). Civic Coalition (Koalicja Obywatelska) voters are the largest number of respondents supporting this option, while and the smallest percentage can be found among those voting for the Confederation (Konfederacja).

However, Ipsos also asked the respondents about the ***anti-EU*** propaganda which some of the ruling camp politicians have recently been spreading.

- What we're seeing here is an effort to take away our sovereignty, even in the sphere of culture- Jarosław Kaczyński said in an interview with the right-wing daily "Gazeta Polska". He added that "even in the unfavorable reality of communist Poland, certain spheres of human freedom, the possibility to choose, could be saved." - But today, the ***EU*** institutions, all their different officials, some politicians that the Polish people have never even elected, demand that we verify our entire culture, reject everything that is especially important to us, just because - he said. Conclusion? ***EU*** institutions are worse than the USSR.

Besides, during his speech in the Sejm mentioned at the beginning of the article, Prime Minister Morawiecki did not mince his words either: - The rule of law and violations of the rule of law have become a propaganda beating stick in the ***EU***. We reject this position, we reject this approach. We remember these propaganda beating sticks only too well from the communist era.

Ipsos asked the respondents directly whether they thought that "the ***European Union*** treated its member states (e.g. Poland) the same way the USSR treated its satellites under communism". 63% disagreed with the statement (40% "disagreed strongly", 23% "disagreed somewhat"). However, 32% of those surveyed agreed with the statement (16% "agreeing strongly" and the same percentage "agreeing somewhat").

The largest group of people who believes in the parallels between the ***EU*** and the Soviet Union can be found among the Law and Justice party electorate. As much as 64% of its voters agree with the statement. However, 8% of the Civic Coalition supporters, 22% of Szymon Hołownia's Poland 2050 sympathizers, 7% of the Left party voters, 49% of the Confederation voters, and 23% of the PSL/Kukiz'15 electorate also shares this opinion.

"These results should be an alarm bell for ***pro-European*** political forces in Poland. Of course, it doesn't mean that the 32% of people who compare the ***EU*** to the USSR would also support polexit, but it shows that even the most bizarre ***anti-EU*** rhetoric can resonate in the Polish society" - OKO.press points out.

The portal has already published the results of a previous survey, which showed that 62% of Poles see the Polish and Hungarian policies as weakening their position in the ***EU***. Even more - 66%- agree with the opinion that the ***EU*** "should only grant funds to member states if their governments follow the principles of the rule of law and democracy".

The Ipsos poll commissioned by OKO.press has been conducted between November 23-25, 2020, on a representative sample of 1000 full-age Polish citizens (N= 1000) using the CATI [Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing] method.

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**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Insider Trading (75%); Journalism (70%); Cardiology (65%)

**Industry:** Newspaper Publishing (93%); Destinations + Attractions (65%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Scaring Germany, or how the Law and Justice party is turning friends into enemies***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G0-WG01-JCVT-R022-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1047 words

**Byline:** Bartosz T. Wieliński

**Highlight:** Half a century after Willy Brandt knelt down in front of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes, Germany is a close ally of Poland. The ruling camp, however, regards them as enemies.

**Body**

The anti-German rhetoric of the present government is reminiscent of the propaganda campaigns of half a century ago. On the evening of 7 December 1970, when photos of the West German Chancellor kneeling in Muranów circulated around the world, the leaders of the Polish United Workers' Party shrugged their shoulders. The censors only allowed Polish newspapers to print pictures in which a Polish soldier stands behind Brandt. Brandt kneeling, a soldier towering over him - such a triumphant message was supposed to reach the citizens.

The People's Republic of Poland normalised relations with West Germany, Bonn recognised the post-war border on the Oder and Neisse rivers, and the Chancellor - although he was one of the few West German politicians to be active in the resistance - made a symbolic gesture asking for forgiveness for the crimes committed by his compatriots. However, West Germany remained the main enemy of communist Poland. A nest of revanchism, a Nazi hydra.

- The kneeling of Brandt was an empty gesture - this is how Arkadiusz Mularczyk, an MP from the Law and Justice party (PiS), the main advocate of the fight with Germany for war reparations allegedly due to Poland, assesses it today. - Germany is eagerly playing the role of ***a*** hegemon in ***Europe*** - these are in turn the words of Zdzisław Krasnodębski, a Law and Justice ideologue and, due to the fact that he taught at the University of Bremen for many years, the party's chief expert on German issues. MEP Janusz Kowalski claims on social media that Berlin not only wants to subjugate ***Europe***, but is using Polish opposition politicians to do so. This is a special case, as Kowalski, on behalf of Solidarna Polska, holds the position of deputy minister of state assets. No member of the Polish government has so far spoken about the German threat.

The reluctance and fear of the PRL authorities towards Germany can be understood. The country was ruled by a generation that remembered the hell of war, and the recognition of the Oder-Neisse border, crucial for Poland's security despite Brandt's treaty, was contested by the German right for three decades. Today, however, while those in power in Poland constantly talk about an alleged German threat, Warsaw continues to enjoy considerable German support and special favours.

Even when the Law and Justice party was dismantling democratic institutions, the most important Polish politicians were received in Germany with the highest honours. Apart from Budapest, Berlin is the main destination for the PiS team's foreign visits. In 2016. Angela Merkel even invited Jarosław Kaczyński for confidential talks to the government palace in Meseberg. Many ***European*** leaders have not received such an honour, and Kaczyński was, after all, only a ranking MP at the time. Prime Minister Morawiecki lamented to Merkel that if he failed as head of the Polish government, Zbigniew Ziobro would come to power. The former head of Polish diplomacy, Jacek Czaputowicz, who met with the head of the German Foreign Ministry Heiko Maas extremely often, praised the quality of cooperation with Germany.

From the point of view of the Law and Justice party, there is much to praise, because it was behind-the-scenes pressure from the Chancellery which hampered the EU Commissioners' enthusiasm to get down seriously to Poland's violation of fundamental EU principles. Officially, Berlin remained silent as the independent judiciary in Poland was being taken over piece by piece, it did not react to the anti-LGBT campaign or to the repeated attacks on the free media. It was largely Germany's stance that caused the Article 7 disciplinary procedure initiated by the ***European*** Commission against Poland in January 2016 to stall. The German presidency is also currently trying - against the position of many Western countries - to water down the mechanism that would condition EU budget payments on respect for the rule of law. The point is that Poland cannot be harmed by new regulations.

Why do the Germans remain silent about what is happening in Poland? It is largely a guilt complex over the Second World War and its victims. The country that murdered millions of Poles believes that Poland must not be lectured. The German reticence and unwillingness to take on more responsibility for the EU was pointed out in 2011 by the then head of Polish diplomacy Radosław Sikorski, who said that he feared German inaction. A few years later, Germany's inaction gave PiS valuable time. And it also gave rise to the current Polish power elite's belief that a united ***Europe*** is weak.

At the same time, a partner like the Law and Justice party is useful for Germany in its intra-EU games, if only to put the brakes on Emmanuel Macron's imperial drive for a separate core of ***Europe*** or strategic independence from the US. However, Poland under the PiS government has consistently deprived itself of coalition capacity in the ***EU.*** The dispute over the EU budget veto has shown a fracture even within the Visegrad Group.

The third point is the sentiment of Angela Merkel, who in the 1980s, during a visit to Poland, was enamoured of freedom. Merkel believes that German-Polish relations are a long-term project in which one must patiently invest. And to keep silent.

For years, the anti-German campaign has been a standard political tool of the Law and Justice party, which it uses to cover up internal crises. When Andrzej Duda's victory in the presidential elections was hanging in the balance, the PIS propaganda apparatus charged towards Berlin, President Duda denounced German journalists by name at rallies, German diplomats were summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs demanding that Germany stop meddling in Polish elections, the new German ambassador Arndt Freytag von Loringhoven - which is unprecedented - was not allowed to come to Poland. When he was finally granted permission and began a pilgrimage to Polish memorials, the propaganda authorities reacted to these gestures with contempt. And when German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, having learned that Andrzej Duda had contracted the coronavirus, sent him a personal letter and offered help, the German authorities rejected the offer with indignation. Now, the Berlin campaign is intended to cover up the growing cracks in the ruling coalition.

This week's EU budget summit will put relations between Berlin and Warsaw to another test. Contrary to what PiS propaganda claims, it is not Berlin that insists on freezing budget payments to countries that violate the rule of law. This is the demand of the Dutch and Scandinavians. Germany is only trying to mediate between them and Warsaw. It will be interesting to see whether they remain silent when the PiS government vetoes the bill.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (88%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Torture (75%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (65%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (93%); Organic Chemicals (89%)

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Poland and Silesia need support from the EU, come to your senses [letter to Morawiecki].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0NW-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 392 words

**Byline:** Łukasz Kohut

**Highlight:** The Polish-Hungarian veto means that from the academic year 2021 the Erasmus+ student programme will not function, but also many other funds - including the Fair Transformation Fund - a fund so important for Silesia and the whole of Poland for a fair energy transition and for the necessary fight against the worst air pollution in the whole of ***Europe***. As an MP from Katowice, you should know this and fight strongly for these funds - letter to Prime Minister Morawiecki.

**Body**

Honourable Prime Minister,

I am writing this letter to you - on 6 December - on Finnish Independence Day. Why am I mentioning this? I spent some fantastic months at the University of Applied Sciences in Varkaus, Finland, as part of the ***European*** Erasmus programme. There I experienced a truly civil society, but most of all I experienced tangibly one of the best education systems in ***Europe***. This was all quite a long time ago - in 2006 - but many of the friendships from that time still remain to this day, and the experience I gained in Finland allowed me to fulfil my professional dreams of becoming a Member of the ***European*** Parliament.

I am very concerned by the fact that politicians from your party and allied parties are arguing that the consequences of a veto of the EU budget will not be felt by citizens, because a 'favourable stopgap' will apply. You are well aware that the Polish-Hungarian veto means that from the academic year 2021, the Erasmus+ student programme will not function, but also many other funds, including the Fair Transformation Fund - a fund which is so important for Silesia and for the whole of Poland, and which is intended to ensure a fair energy transition and the necessary fight against the worst air pollution in the whole of ***Europe***. As a Member from Katowice, you should be well aware of this and fight strongly for these funds.

The provisional budget can only fund recurrent expenditure and programmes, and student exchanges are not one of them. Erasmus+ is a programme launched by the ***European*** Commission on 15 June 1987. It covers higher education and is intended to fund student mobility to study in another ***European*** country. I, as a member of the Committee on Culture and Education, fought for the highest possible funding for Erasmus - also because of my personal experience. The same applies to the Fair Transition Fund. This is a completely new fund and will not be included in the interim either.

I would ask the honourable Prime Minister to come to his senses and to reject the veto, as it will do enormous damage to the whole of Poland - to all its citizens.

I am keeping my fingers crossed for you in this matter, and I believe that a positive role in the history of Poland and ***the European*** Union will be more important to you than an internal, political game.

sincerely

Łukasz Kohut

Member of the ***European*** Parliament

[*Piszcie:listy@wyborcza.pl*](mailto:listy@wyborcza.pl)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Investigations (76%); Indictments (74%); Celebrities (64%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (78%); Harbors + Ports (75%); Mining + Extraction (75%); Traveler Safety + Security (69%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Brussels sets condition on budget EU. RMF FM: Agreement by tomorrow or Poland will lose 64 billion EUR 64 billion***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0R8-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 191 words

**Byline:** elaborated by. Robert Kędzierski

**Highlight:** Commentators had expected that the ***EU*** budget and the Reconstruction Fund would not be decided until the end of the week, during the summit. However, unofficial voices coming from Brussels are calling for a significant acceleration. It is possible that Poland will have to present a clear position on Monday or Tuesday. We risk losing 250 billion zlotys (64 billion ***euros***) - of which 100 billion zlotys is a non-refundable grant - and adopting a provisional budget that is less favourable for Poland.

**Body**

Talks on a possible veto on the Budgetary Perspective and the Reconstruction Fund may be suddenly accelerated. There are many indications that the EU does not want to wait until the summit for a final decision. It expects a decision "by tomorrow", or Tuesday. - That is, by Tuesday.

"We need an agreement or a clear signal from Poland and Hungary by today, tomorrow at the latest. If not, we are heading towards scenario 'B'. It means: a budget stopgap unfavourable for Poland and a cornafund for 25 ***EU*** countries. Poland loses 64 billion ***euro*** - [*RMF FM's*](https://www.rmf24.pl/raporty/raport-unijny-budzet/news-bruksela-stawia-warunek-stanowisko-polski-i-wegier-ws-unijne,nId,4900875) Brussels correspondent Katarzyna Szymańska-Borginon reports on Twitter.

The adoption of "plan B" would mean that the so-called provisional budget would come into force, under which, for example, investments cannot be carried out. Poland would also be cut off from ***EUR*** 64 billion (around PLN 250 billion) from the Reconstruction Fund. Part of this amount is a low-interest loan and part a non-refundable grant.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki recently argued during a Facebook appearance that EU funds are not needed by Poland because it can issue bonds.

Read also: [*Veto on the rule of law. We know what regulations the Polish government was afraid of*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26519662,weto-ws-praworzadnosci-wiemy-jakich-przepisow-przestraszyl.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Resources + Personnel Management (69%); Employment Services (68%); Securities + Other Investments (65%); Public Health (64%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Giving up the veto in exchange for billions for the climate? Poland and Hungary could make such a concession***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0T7-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 305 words

**Byline:** elaborated by. Kamil Rakosza

**Highlight:** In addition to the issue of the Polish-Hungarian veto of the EU budget, ***EU*** members will face the topic of climate neutrality at the upcoming ***European*** Council summit. According to rumours, concessions on the "climate" issue may contribute to the abandonment of the ***EU*** budget blockade.

**Body**

The possible change of the Polish-Hungarian position is [*reported by RMF FM correspondent Katarzyna Szymańska-Borginon*](https://www.rmf24.pl/fakty/swiat/news-znamy-propozycje-dla-polski-i-wegier-w-zamian-za-odstapienie,nId,4900979). - The idea is that at the end of the game everyone will get something and go home saying that they have won," the journalist reports.

"There has been speculation in Brussels that Poland could win specific billions of ***euros*** in energy transition aid in exchange for a veto waiver and an agreement to, for example, an explanatory declaration and a postponement of the rule of law mechanism (until the CJEU has spoken). This would mean that Poland could force concessions from the rest of the ***EU*** on 'climate' issues with its veto." - RMF FM reports.

How, then, could Poland achieve concrete solutions for the economy by saying "we are ready to accept the proposal for clarification of the rule of law mechanism in exchange for concessions on climate issues". This includes, for example, more money from the Just Transition Fund, more money from the Modernization Fund and recognition of gas as compatible with the so-called New Green Deal.

"We need an agreement or a clear signal from Poland and Hungary by today, tomorrow at the latest. If not, we are heading towards scenario 'B'. It means: a budget stopgap unfavourable for Poland and a cornafund for 25 ***EU*** countries. Poland loses 64 billion ***euro*** - [*RMF FM's Brussels correspondent Katarzyna Szymańska-Borginon reported on Twitter*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26582532,rmf-fm-unia-chce-prowizorium-porozumienie-do-jutra-albo.html).

The adoption of "plan B" would mean that the so-called provisional budget would come into force, under which, for example, investments cannot be carried out. Poland would also be cut off from ***EUR*** 64 billion (around PLN 250 billion) from the Reconstruction Fund. Part of this amount is a low-interest loan and part a non-refundable grant.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki recently argued during a Facebook appearance that EU funds are not needed by Poland because it can issue bonds.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Weapons + Arms (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (84%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EU finally has its 'Magnitsky list' - sanctions for human rights violations***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0S2-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 662 words

**Byline:** Tomasz Bielecki, Brussels, Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** EU Foreign Affairs chiefs today approved a new ***EU*** sanctions regime to be imposed for human rights violations. Efforts for this reform, which was slowed down by Hungary among others, took nearly a decade.

**Body**

- At last we have a sanctions regime in the Union that will help us prosecute perpetrators around the world," said EU diplomatic chief Josep Borrell.

Foreign ministers in the Council of the ***EU*** today unanimously approved the EU equivalent of the 'Magnitsky list', a 2012 US law that allows the swift imposition of restrictions on those guilty of human rights violations.

They are to consist of a ban on entry into the Union and - this is usually much more severe - the freezing of assets, including financial assets within the Union.

Sergei Magnitsky was a Russian lawyer and whistleblower who exposed massive abuses by the Russian tax authorities. [*As a result, he was taken into custody on false charges, where he died in 2009, without proper medical care.*](https://wyborcza.pl/1,75399,15842304,Norwegia_bedzie_scigac_rosyjskich_funkcjonariuszy.html) The passing of the sanctioned 'Magnitsky list' in the US sparked outrage from the Kremlin, and in retaliation even suspended adoption procedures in Russia involving Americans at the time.

Some ***EU*** countries initially wanted the new EU sanctions regulations to bear Magnitsky's name, but it was eventually agreed that this would suggest narrowing the focus of sanctions to Russia, while now it also includes Belarus, China and Venezuela, among others.

Imposing sanctions in the Union - for example, for "striking at the territorial cohesion of Ukraine" (i.e. the annexation of Crimea and the war in Donbass) or for "violating the ban on chemical weapons" (i.e. poisoning Alexei Navalny) - is a rather complicated legal process also because these restrictions can be challenged in the ***EU*** Court of Justice.

Worse still, the Union has to date lacked a regulation that would allow the blacklist to be extended rapidly, regardless of the context of political events (war, rigged elections), but 'simply' for violations of human rights - from crimes against humanity, to trafficking in human beings and the 'disappearance' of dissidents, to systematic attacks on freedom of expression and assembly.

The first ***EU*** sanctions under this new regime are likely to be imposed as early as the first weeks of 2021.

- The defenders of the Union's fundamental values could not wait any longer. ***The EU*** must remain a support in the fight for human rights, freedom and democracy. We have heard many times from friends in Russia and Belarus that such sanctions are the right way forward," commented Latvian Sandra Kalniete, who is piloting the issue in the ***European*** Parliament today.

However, the EU sanctions reform does not - unlike in the US - cover corruption cases, and in principle decisions will still be taken by countries in the ***EU*** Council.

Streamlining the decision on restrictions for human rights violations was by no means easy.[*debates dragged on for a decade, with quite fierce resistance from, among others, Viktor Orbán's government, which was explained in Brussels - although this is diplomatic speculationwithout hard evidence - by Russian lobbying in Hungary.*](https://wyborcza.pl/magazyn/7,124059,22310445,wplywy-kremla-na-swiecie-kto-za-tym-stoi-lista-nazwisk.html)

Work on the reform accelerated largely under pressure from the Netherlands, when MPs there in 2018 gave their Foreign Affairs chief Stef Blok just five months to convince other ***EU*** countries and make progress in the EU forum. Otherwise, the Netherlands was to proceed with the development of its own sanctions regime, which did not happen because - then newly appointed - EU diplomacy chief Josep Borrell promised in 2019 to speed up Brussels' action regarding the ***European*** "Magnitsky list".

Today's reform does not cancel but complements the existing sanctions rules, on the basis of which, at the end of next week, the ***EU*** should expand the blacklist of Belarusians by nearly 40 names.

It currently covers around 60 people, including, since 6 November, Aleksandr Lukashenko, because 'as President of Belarus, under the authority of the state organs, he is responsible for the violent repression carried out by the state apparatus before and after the 2020 presidential elections, in particular for the rejection of key opposition candidates, the arbitrary arrests and brutal treatment of peaceful demonstrators, as well as the intimidation and violence against journalists'.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Medicine + Health (68%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (65%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (64%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Andrzej Dudz failed in Vilnius. Perhaps he will succeed in Prague?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TN-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 547 words

**Byline:** Paweł Wroński

**Highlight:** After the defeat in Lithuania in November, where the Polish president did not hear any words of support for the PiS policy, Andrzej Duda is now flying to the Czech Republic. How about Milosz Zeman saying something nice to the Polish ear?

**Body**

President Andrzej Duda will meet Czech President Milosz Zeman in Prague on Wednesday, on the eve of the ***European*** Union summit on the ***EU*** budget. Officially, the meeting is to be devoted to cooperation within the Visegrad Group, but the Polish side is counting on the Czech president's verbal support of the PiS government's stance.

The Czech Republic is one of the countries that have adopted the ***EU*** budget with a mechanism making the transfer of money conditional on respect for the rule of law. Except that President Zeman has so far tended to show more restraint towards ***the European*** Union than the government of Andrej Babisz. In 2018, during a visit to Warsaw and a dispute over the Supreme Court, Zeman said that Poland "has the right to sovereignty" and criticised the ***European*** Commission's integrationist drive. In his view, the Commission seeks to "impose certain views", which "violates the responsibility for states' own decisions inside their own borders". In 2016, during the dispute over the Constitutional Court, Zeman said that the Polish government had every right to pursue its mandate obtained in the elections and should not be exposed to "moralising from the ***European*** Union".

Wednesday's visit is of a working nature and only press statements will be scheduled after the presidents' meeting. Last week the head of the presidential office Krzysztof Szczerski said that the main topic would be cooperation within the Visegrad Group. Poland will take over the presidency of the V4 for six months from November next year.

A fortnight ago, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Union of Lublin, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund Augustus, President Duda was in Vilnius, where a centre-right government is being formed after the elections. At a meeting with President Gitanas Nauseda, he explained that "we Poles do not agree to dictates and the introduction of non-treaty solutions" or to the hegemony of larger states. In response, he only heard a call for dialogue and compromise. Gabrielius Landsbergis, the proposed head of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called for human rights to be respected and said that countries that are used to lecturing other countries on this issue should respect them at home.

To date, President Duda has not been active in disputes over vetoing the ***EU*** budget. Only during the 190th anniversary of the November Uprising did he speak about the importance of sovereignty and the fact that the insurgents killed seven generals who "supposedly claiming to be Poles and Polish officers served a foreign power", adding that today no one remembers their names and "let this be an important memento for today". - which was understood to be a reference to the attitude of the opposition criticising the veto.

He devoted much more attention to other matters - over the past month he met with bus operators, with the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Foreign Service Day, with the National Broadcasting Council, he took part in the virtual congress of "Gazeta Polska" and in a discussion with experts on the role of vitamin D in combating COVID-19 and with the authors of the appeal to save Polish culture, he supported the action of plasma donation. On 26 November, he congratulated Moldovan President Mai Sandu on winning the elections. So far, such congratulations have not been received by US President Joe Biden, whom Andrzej Duda congratulated only on a successful election campaign.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Espionage (62%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Medicine + Health (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (84%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Miller on threat of budget veto EU. "To understand the logic, to grasp this immensity of stupidity is an enormous difficulty"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0MM-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 277 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Magdalena Bojanowska

**Highlight:** - Understanding this logic, grasping this immensity of stupidity, which is presented on this occasion, is really a huge difficulty - said Leszek Miller, commenting on Poland's threats to veto the EU budget. He stressed that the only practical result of the veto would be a lack of money for our country.

**Body**

The governments of Poland and Hungary do not agree to link EU finances to the rule of law. The countries are threatening to veto the ***EU*** budget for 2021-2027. Former Prime Minister Leszek Miller addressed the issue.

I remember the prime minister's triumphant return from Brussels, when he was delighted with the negotiated amounts (...) At that time it was a success, but now it is not. Success will be when Poland vetoes the budget and does not get the money.

- The politician said on [*Polsat News*](https://www.polsatnews.pl/wiadomosc/2020-12-06/ogarnac-ten-bezmiar-glupoty-to-olbrzymia-trudnosc-miller-o-grozbie-weta/). As he stressed, "to understand this logic, to grasp this immensity of stupidity, which is presented on this occasion, is really a huge difficulty". He added that the prime minister is not negotiating the set amounts: neither the trillion ***euro*** resulting from the financial perspective, nor the 750 billion from the Reconstruction Fund.

It is a bizarre situation that the Prime Minister does not want to veto these items because he does not like them. He is still delighted with them. He wants to veto an accompanying document which, regardless of whether there is a veto, will still be adopted

- Leszek Miller stated. He pointed out that the only practical result of the veto would be a lack of money for Poland.

Miller also commented on the government's accusations that the mechanism linking the budget to the rule of law is incompatible with the treaties and limits the sovereignty of states. The former prime minister stressed that this could be said by someone who had not read the document or was lying.

The 25 countries have no fears of losing their sovereignty and believe that [the mechanism - editor's note] is needed so that the money transferred along the way is not stolen. (...) Stupidity is dangerous when it is born, and even more dangerous when it bears its first fruits

- said Leszek Miller.

The EU summit will take place on 10-11 December.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Awards + Prizes (94%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A Polish court has issued European Arrest Warrant for Manzheley. The Belgians refused***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TC-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 359 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Daniel Drob

**Highlight:** Onet reports that a Krakow court issued a ***European*** Arrest Warrant against Dawid Manzheley in 2013. The reason was a sentence for fraud imposed several years earlier. The execution of the EAW was refused by a court in Brussels.

**Body**

"On 22 July 2014, the execution of the EAW was refused by the judgment of the Chamber of Charges of the Brussels Court of Appeal" - [*Onet was*](https://www.onet.pl/informacje/onetwiadomosci/nowe-informacje-ws-dawida-manzheleya-belgia-odmowila-wykoniania-ena-w-2014-r/lv72twd,79cfc278) informed by the District Court in Krakow.

According to the portal, in 2013 the Cracow SO issued an EAW in connection with a sentence that was imposed in 2008. It concerned, among other things, fraud. Dawid Manzheley was sentenced to 2.5 years' imprisonment. The sentence was suspended until 2010, when the court decided to suspend it. According to Onet, the Belgian court stated that 'there are serious reasons to believe that the execution of the EAW could jeopardise the fundamental rights of the requested person'.

The portal reports that police and prosecutors in Brussels have not responded to the question of whether Maznheley is wanted in Belgium. According to the newspaper La Derniere Heure, there is no ***European*** Arrest Warrant issued for the man. The Polish police say otherwise, according to which the EAW is in force.

On Friday, 27 November, Brussels police intervened in what turned out to be an orgy at an illegal party. According to media reports, more than 20 men took part in the orgy, and during the arrest of the participants in violation of sanitary restrictions, two of them invoked their diplomatic immunity. A Hungarian ***MEP*** and an Estonian diplomat took part in the party.

The gathering was reported to the police because the noise indicated that restrictions on the number of people allowed to attend a social gathering were being breached. One person - later revealed to be ***an MEP*** - tried to escape from the police through a window.

It soon emerged that the organiser of the party was Dawid Manzheley, a resident of Wadowice, wanted by the Polish police. "The Gazeta Krakowska daily reported that he was the son of a retired police officer and the grandson of the popular baker and confectioner from Wadowice, Stanisław Zguda, from whom you can buy the famous cream puffs. - Yes, it is him! We recognised him immediately when we saw his face on the news," says the man in an interview with the Gazeta Krakowska daily. - He could have taken over the bakery from me, but at the age of 16 he forged a stamp and fired employees without my consent. Then it got worse and worse. He didn't finish school. He fell into bad company," he said, quoted by the newspaper.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Weapons + Arms (70%); Medicine + Health (67%); Espionage (64%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (69%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Kaczyński in a corner. Vice-President of the PSL: The authorities have gone soft***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0RX-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 323 words

**Byline:** Justyna Dobrosz-Oracz

**Highlight:** A trial of strength in the camp of power. According to our information, Gowin had the green light from Kaczyński to go to Brussels. His words about a possible compromise on the EU veto made the Ziobrists furious. And not only.

**Body**

Video available to subscribers.

It was not a lone charge by the deputy prime minister. [*Gowin, an opponent of the veto, was to check in Brussels whether there was any room for manoeuvre before the EU summit this week.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,82983,26519530,kompromitacja-wiceministra-grzmial-weto-albo-smierc-a-nie.html) Gowin's associates behind the scenes convince us that the President of Law and Justice "evaluated positively" the mission of the leader of the Agreement, although publicly Gowin is criticised by many Law and Justice politicians. The Deputy Prime Minister's associates hope that the German Presidency will propose an interpretative declaration on the "money for the rule of law" regulation. - Gowin was sent to Brussels to beg for mercy. The idea is that the United Right camp can get out of this situation with a face. They have gone soft," says PSL ***MEP*** Krzysztof Hetman, who has been following the negotiations.

According to him, it may happen that there will be some "paper detailing the provisions" and this "piece of paper will be called a success by the authorities". The [*former head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Radosław Sikorski*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,82983,26564082,sikorski-orban-ma-najwiecej-do-stracenia-bo-najwiecej.html) does not exclude such a scenario. - If someone has to shovel into his head once again what has been written down for a long time, it is feasible - says the KO ***MEP.*** He appealed in the Sejm to TVP for the station to "stop lying about ***the EU***".

[*The opposition hopes that common sense will ultimately prevail.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,82983,26529079,weto-w-ue-nie-jest-rozwiazaniem-mowil-premier-w-sierpniu.html) - Whoever vetoes the budget belongs to the camp of national treason. This camp should be broken up. We call on Gowin to leave the camp of national treason," PSL president Władysław Kosiniak- Kamysz thundered in the Sejm.

Jarosław Gowin has met with EU commissioners in Brussels on Thursday. [*The Deputy Prime Minister argued at the conference that a compromise on the* ***EU*** *budget*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,82983,26543655,kontruchwala-senatu-pis-raza-sformulowania-rzad-pis-grozba.html) and the conditionality mechanism [*is possible. -*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,82983,26543655,kontruchwala-senatu-pis-raza-sformulowania-rzad-pis-grozba.html) Even if not in the form of reopening the discussion on the shape of this regulation, then in the form of binding interpretative declarations - he said, for which he was publicly criticised by the radical wing of the Law and Justice party and Zbigniew Ziobro.

According to the Minister of Justice, the Deputy Prime Minister's position is not in line with Polish interests.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (83%); Torture (81%); Terrorist Organizations (78%); Human Rights Violations (74%); Law Courts + Tribunals (63%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (93%); Organic Chemicals (76%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Why is Orlen buying Polska Press? It is an attempt by the Law and Justice party to win back the electorate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0T4-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1328 words

**Byline:** Agnieszka Kublik

**Highlight:** When Jaroslaw Kaczynski proclaimed in July that "media in Poland should be Polish", he was misrepresenting the truth. He wanted to say: 'They must be ours'. That is why the energy concern Orlen will take over the local media from Polska Press.

**Body**

It has happened. The state is taking over the private media. And repolonises the German ones. And PiS has already taken the so-called national media, maintains them and profits from this - these media only speak the messages from Nowogrodzka.

TVP and Polskie Radio have been receiving not only billions from the government for the past three years (officially as compensation for licence fee concessions), but also advertisements from state-owned companies. In the same way, the PiS state supports its private media - a stream of advertisements from state-owned companies has been flowing to "Gazeta Polska" or wPolityce.pl since 2015.

Viktor Orbán followed the same pattern in Hungary - he abolished the independent media, buying publishers by the government or businessmen friendly to the government.

And especially the local press is a source of information mainly for the PiS electorate - from smaller towns, without higher education, worse off, elderly. However, the iron electorate of PiS may be shrinking. According to an Ipsos poll for the OKO.press portal, only 16% of respondents are sure to support the ruling camp. As many as 59 percent declare that they will definitely not vote for Kaczyński's party.

[*On Tuesday, Orlen, the fuel trading company, announced that it would take over the media - taking over the publishing house Polska Press.*](https://wyborcza.biz/biznes/7,177151,26583350,orlen-przejmuje-polska-press-medialny-koncern-pis.html#S.DT-K.C-B.2-L.1.zw) This publishing house is owned by the German company Verlagsgruppe Passau. It has 20 regional newspapers across Poland (out of 24 regional dailies): "Dziennik Bałtycki", "Dziennik Łódzki", "Dziennik Zachodni", "Gazeta Krakowska", "Głos Wielkopolski", "Gazeta Wrocławska", "Polska Metropolia Warszawska", "Express Bydgoski", "Nowości Dziennik Toruński", "Express Ilustrowany", "Kurier Lubelski", "Gazeta Pomorska', 'Gazeta Lubuska', 'Dziennik Polski', 'Kurier Poranny', 'Gazeta Współczesna', 'Nowa Trybuna Opolska', 'Echo Dnia', 'Gazeta Codzienna Nowiny', 'Głos Dziennik Pomorza (Głos Szczeciński, Głos Koszaliński, Głos Pomorza)'.

The publishing house also includes regional TV supplements: "Tele Magazyn", "Super Tele", "TV Pilot", "Tele Program". Finally, advertising weeklies: "Moto Express", "Autogiełda Wielkopolska", "Jarmark", "Motojarmark". And the Polska Press group includes very popular Internet services.

Polska Press also has six printing plants (in Łódź, Poznań, Sosnowiec, Bydgoszcz, Białystok and Koszalin). It also has its own Information Agency Polska Press, which prepares a daily news service for regional newspapers.

Kaczyński, through a state-owned giant, is taking over the local press at a time when Poland and Hungary are announcing their veto of the ***EU*** budget because they do not want to be tried for lack of rule of law, which is measured, among other things, by the independence of the media from power. And the EU summit is already on 10 and 11 December.

This must have attracted attention in Berlin or Brussels. The EU now knows that Kaczyński is prepared to ruin democracy in Poland further. The takeover of the Constitutional Tribunal, the National Council of the Judiciary, the Supreme Court, the common courts, the prosecution service and the public media has already terribly weakened our tripartite division of power.

The purchase of the German publishing house is yet another sign to Brussels that Poland's rulers are serious about their rule of law. Perhaps Donald Tusk, the former president of the ***European*** Council, was right when he speculated that Kaczyński "is ready to block EU aid to Poland so that he can continue to violate the rule of law with impunity".

Why did Orlen announce the purchase of the publishing house just now, just before the EU summit where Budapest and Warsaw are threatening to veto it? It would seem to be the worst moment.

Or perhaps not? Because of the pandemic, the local press has weakened, so it is bargain cheap. Or maybe the Law and Justice party has assumed that we are all so stressed out by the daily battle with the coronavirus that changing the ownership of 20 local titles will not cause a ruckus? Or maybe it's a message to their voters: we keep our promises, even if the EU and the US scold us for it? Or maybe they are just waiting for a ***European*** scolding to say: 'Didn't we say so? The EU is interfering, what should we read, it's an attack on our independence'?

Because violent tidying up of the media market, i.e. deconcentration and repolonisation, was announced by the Law and Justice party since spring 2016. - We should, step by step, of course in accordance with the rules of civilised countries, i.e. by buying out these media, bring them to be Polish - said President Kaczyński in May 2016. In his opinion, it is unacceptable in a sovereign country that "the media are in large part in the hands of external owners and that they use this politically". In the subtext there is always the insinuation that these media are not guided by the Polish raison d'etre, but by the raison d'etre of their owners.

In July 2017, President Kaczynski commented that "there is a morbid concentration of media", so his party will deconcentrate it for the good of Poland and citizens.

Then he repeated it on TV Trwam: "We need to change the situation in the media. We do not want that somewhere outside Poland's borders a decision is made: we support a given presidential candidate, and the one who, from a given point of view, is worse or bad, we simply destroy, even using the most disgraceful methods. The authorities in Poland cannot agree to have part of the national nervous system in foreign hands.

In July this year, already after Andrzej Duda won the presidential election, Kaczyński returned to the problem of media owners. He dropped the slogan: "Media in Poland should be Polish". And it was no coincidence, Duda won by a small number of votes (the difference between Duda and Trzaskowski was only 422,385 votes, the least in the history of presidential elections since 1990) - and this made Kaczyński realise how important the media are.

Kaczyński saw Duda's victory as the result of a "fight on the principle of one against all". - We won despite an extremely harsh campaign, often breaking all the rules. There was a powerful, we think, also externally inspired media front at work,' the PiS president explained. - There are groups of people in Poland who believe that someone is attacking democracy or civil liberties in Poland, because they are told so by a large part of media.

What next? The largest publishers with a predominantly foreign capital share are the Swiss-German-American RASP Group (owner of the Onet portal, 'Fakt', 'Newsweek' and 'Przeglad Sportowy'), the German Bauer Media (RMF, Interia portal, colour press) and, in the TV market, the American-owned TVN Group.

They all offended Kaczyński. Fakt" was the most fiercely attacked paper this year. It was, for example, about the publication of details of the sentence on the paedophile pardoned by President Duda and the very strong opposition to this decision.

Accusations were heaped on "Fakt" that it was German. Duda shouted at rallies that "we will not have Germans electing our president", the chargé d'affaires of Germany was summoned to the Foreign Ministry.

Kaczyński then spoke of "foreign interference in the Polish elections", and TVP vetted the past of Katarzyna Kozłowska and Aldona Toczek, the editor-in-chief and deputy editor of "Fakt".

Kaczyński announced in July: - We have no intention of setting anything up. However, the situation in the Polish media is quite strange in comparison to other countries, now also those close to us, such as the Czech Republic. It has changed there and we also think that it should change. The media in Poland should be Polish, for one thing. We cannot forbid them to take part in what appear to me to be externally inspired campaigns, to destroy some and ignore others, to present a completely false picture of Poland and the world. We can lead to the situation that there will be more media which look at reality more realistically than at present. We will try to act in this direction.

Kaczyński said in the summer that no work on the media deconcentration project was underway. - But I do not exclude the possibility that they will be undertaken. We will try to do everything so that the situation in this regard is normalised, but we will not do anything that would harm the freedom of the media,' the Law and Justice president said.

And Kaczyński probably thinks that he has just kept his word. The trouble is that most people know that the opposite is true - this is the beginning of the end for free media in our country.

And there will be no democracy and rule of law in Poland without free media.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Arms Control + Disarmament (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Weapons + Arms (75%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (89%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (74%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Ukrainians want to work in the West. "Rzeczpospolita": Polish criminals profit from it***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0MS-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 221 words

**Byline:** mb

**Highlight:** An increasing number of people from the East, mainly from Ukraine, go to work in Germany, the Czech Republic and Scandinavian countries. They do this on the basis of forged documents, including Polish work visas. This situation is being exploited by criminal groups looking to make money - reports "Rzeczpospolita".

**Body**

Since March, Germany has been open to workers from outside the ***European*** Union, but it is difficult to get a visa. This is why Ukrainians come with false documents or Polish visas. This is easy to obtain, because since 2008 Poland has had a simplified procedure for employing workers from the East. Illegal immigrants are recruited by criminals who assure them that they are working in Germany for a Polish company - emphasizes [*"Rzeczpospolita"*](https://www.rp.pl/Przestepczosc/312069963-Polska-mafia-przerzuca-Ukraincow-do-pracy-na-zachodzie.html).

Some Ukrainians treat Poland as a transit country from which they can move on. - Mainly to Germany, and they risk even knowing that if they are caught working illegally, they will not be able to re-enter later," Joanna Konieczniak, a spokeswoman for the Oder Branch of the Border Guard, told the daily. Illegal immigrants are also caught in Germany.

The gang, led by Germans and Poles, allegedly smuggled 82 people into Germany through temporary work agencies over a six-month period - during the raid a further 44 ***EU*** citizens employed on the basis of forged documents were found

- Rzeczpospolita" writes and adds that the mafia was to earn about ***EUR*** 1.5 million on this procedure.

According to data from the Border Guard Headquarters, 1 023 people using false documents were detained until September. This is almost twice as many as last year at this time.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (83%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Sweden is changing its approach. A sad end to experimentation with a coronavirus pandemic***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0RS-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1409 words

**Byline:** Marta Urzędowska

**Highlight: Soaring** numbers of sick people, thousands more dead than neighbours, falling GDP and rising unemployment, failing hotels and restaurants - the Swedes admit that the controversial strategy has failed to build collective resilience or protect the economy. That is why the new restrictions will no longer be voluntary.

**Body**

After a surge in new SARS-CoV-2 infections and a record high death rate per population, the Swedish government abandoned its attempt to combat the pandemic with purely voluntary measures and bring about a decline in the number of cases by developing collective immunity.

The list is long. From banning gatherings to closing schools and restricting the sale of alcohol, just like Europeans elsewhere on the continent, the Swedes are now bracing themselves for a winter of restrictions linked to the coronavirus pandemic. On the one hand, they are trying to protect the healthcare system from being overloaded, while on the other they are trying to limit the number of deaths from COVID-19, which, relative to the population, is one of the highest in the world in Sweden at the moment.

Thus ends the Swedish experiment of fighting a pandemic without top-down restrictions, with the assumption that the Swedes will manage only through voluntarily maintained safety measures. As the Wall Street Journal notes, until now the country has been set as an example in all discussions about the legitimacy of local and national lockdowns introduced around the world - difficult economically and socially, but reducing the number of infections and deaths.

Supporters of the Swedish model argued that it is good for the economy and does not restrict citizens' fundamental freedoms. Critics replied that it was putting people's lives at risk, especially the elderly and sick. Today, after a complete change of strategy, the Swedish Government itself sides with the supporters of restrictions.

In the spring, when the first wave of the pandemic was sweeping across ***Europe*** and other countries were introducing lockdowns and compulsory wearing of masks, the Swedes broke free. Not only did they not close schools, companies, gyms or playgrounds, but they allowed residents to freely use bars and nightclubs, where - as experts warn - the virus spreads particularly easily. Not only in the spring - at the beginning of November Swedes were still organising mass cultural and sports events at their best. The government assumed that the public, guided by common sense, would protect themselves effectively, and restrictions were unnecessary.

But by the end of November, when the country's death toll had reached 700 per million population and hospitals were starting to overflow, the government decided to make a U-turn. Prime Minister Stefan Lofven went on television and asked Swedes to cancel all non-essential appointments. This time, however, he did not stop at requests - he announced a ban on meetings with more than eight people, cinemas were closed and, from Monday, secondary schools were also closed.

- The authorities chose a completely different strategy from the rest of ***Europe*** and because of this our country suffered a lot during the first wave - admits Piotr Nowak, a doctor taking care of COVID-19 patients at Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, in an interview with the daily. - We have no idea how it is possible that they did not foresee the second wave - he adds.

Since the start of the pandemic, more than 7 000 people have died from coronavirus infection in Sweden, compared with far fewer in neighbouring countries. Comparable-sized Denmark, Finland and Norway have recorded 878, 415 and 354 deaths respectively. The result? For the first time since the Second World War, the neighbours have closed their borders with Sweden.

- "We don't want to say that Sweden is the black sheep, but it's certainly a different sheep," explains Vivikka Richt, a spokeswoman for the Finnish health ministry, quoted in the Wall Street Journal.

Dr Nowak admits that the optimism of the authorities has never been shared by local doctors and nurses. They have repeatedly warned that the virus cannot be controlled by voluntary measures alone, and that waiting for Swedes to develop collective immunity is a bad idea.

As the journal describes, one of the main reasons why Sweden has insisted on its strategy for so long is the legally guaranteed high degree of independence of the Public Health Agency. The most important face of the Swedish approach has been its head Anders Tegnell, the country's leading epidemiologist. Although he declines an interview today, in earlier interviews with the Wall Street Journal he reiterated that lockdowns are unnecessary and their introduction unjustified. And his agency has even advised Swedes against wearing masks. Tegnell himself also warned that the wait for the first vaccines would take longer than expected.

It turns out that the Swede was wrong. Already, several companies have announced that their vaccines work and are safe, with vaccination set to start in the UK later in December and in many ***European*** countries early next year. At the same time, Tegnell himself admitted at the end of November that "there is no indication" that collective immunity had been developed in the country.

As the Wall Street Journal describes, the Swedish strategy has not only failed on health grounds. It turns out that - contrary to the predictions of its supporters - it did not pay off economically either. According to the central bank, Swedish GDP in the first half of the year fell by 8.5 percent, and unemployment is expected to rise by nearly 10 percent by the beginning of next year.

The pandemic, despite the lack of restrictions, has hit private businesses hard - shops, restaurants and hotels are facing a wave of bankruptcies, because, although the number of their customers fell sharply in the pandemic, they did not receive state aid due to the lack of lockdowns. According to an American daily, the Swedish authorities offered less support to local companies than was the case in other ***European*** countries.

- It is worse than a lockdown. It's been a disastrous year for the whole business. And because they haven't closed us down, they don't give us any decent support, even if they tell people: 'Avoid going to restaurants'" - grumbles Jonas Hamlund, quoted in the Wall Street Journal, who had to close one of his two restaurants in the city of Sundsvall and lay off 30 people.

Just like Anna Lallerstedt, the owner of three popular restaurants in Stockholm, opened by her parents back in the 1980s. In November she had to close two of them, laying off a hundred people. She admits that her last restaurant, which only employs a dozen or so people, could also fail when the number of sick people rises in the winter and there is a shortage of guests during the crucial Christmas period. - But maybe we should have started wearing masks earlier? - he wonders today.

- They have achieved literally nothing," quips Jacob F. Kirkegaard, an economist at the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics. - They have self-inflicted a wound and economically they have achieved nothing, he adds.

Experts admit that - although there was no lockdown in Sweden - the fear of the virus and the advice of the rulers to avoid social contact have strongly affected demand. - Countries where restrictions were mandatory are in a better position today, explains Lars Calmfors, economist and member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. - 'We like to think we are very rational and pragmatic, but for months the authorities insisted on their approach, even though more and more evidence showed it was a failure,' he explains. - Today I don't recognise my country myself,' he adds.

According to the daily, the prime minister's speech marks a decisive degradation of Tegnell, who has effectively given up on controlling the government's fight against the pandemic. Some researchers also argue that the failed experiment has eroded Swedes' trust in authorities and experts. According to a November Ipsos poll, 82 percent of respondents worry that hospitals are overstretched, and 44 percent believe the authorities are not acting effectively enough to fight the pandemic. Just a month earlier, only 31 percent of respondents held this view. For now, however, support for Tegnell himself is not falling - he is still supported by the majority of Swedes.

- The disease is spreading more and more in Stockholm, we have a very, very serious situation here, admits Björn Eriksson, head of the capital's health service, quoted in the daily. He alarms that local hospitals and doctors are facing an increase in the number of COVID-19 patients and that the strained system can only be saved by the introduction of stricter measures.

According to the New York Times, the Swedish failure proves that it is not true that in a pandemic governments have to choose between saving lives and saving jobs. In Sweden, meanwhile, neither has succeeded - more people have died and the economic losses are the same as everywhere, which means that the lack of restrictions has cost Swedes their lives, health and jobs at the same time.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Weapons + Arms (65%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (78%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Germany is once again selling out the free media to autocrats. This is a blemish on Angela Merkel's image.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0TM-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 502 words

**Byline:** Bartosz T. Wieliński

**Highlight:** The takeover of 20 of Poland's 24 regional dailies is taking place with the silence - if not the approval - of Chancellor Angela Merkel. Berlin has previously turned a blind eye to violations of press freedom in Hungary.

**Body**

The timing of the takeover of the regional newspapers and portals of Polska Press by the state-owned company Orlen was indeed appropriate. On Monday, 7 December, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Chancellor Willy Brandt kneeling down in front of the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes, a historic gesture which began Polish-German reconciliation. German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was due in Warsaw today to lay wreaths at the monument with President Andrzej Duda. A coronavirus pandemic thwarted the plans, but the ceremony took place anyway, except that instead of the presidents, it was attended by the heads of their chancelleries. The German press published a moving address by the head of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Heiko Maas, on the significance of the former Chancellor's gesture.

[*At the same time, Orlen announced that plans to enter the press market had taken concrete shape.*](https://wyborcza.biz/biznes/7,177151,26583350,orlen-przejmuje-polska-press-medialny-koncern-pis.html)Media freedom in Poland will be curtailed once again.

The takeover from the German company Verlagsgruppe Passau of 20 of the 24 regional newspapers published in Poland is taking place with the silence (if not the approval) of Chancellor Angela Merkel. I can already hear reassuring German diplomats saying that the purchase of the newspapers is pure business, that politics has nothing to do with it. This is patently untrue, such transactions do not take place in a vacuum. All the more so since the Law and Justice politicians, while calling for repolonisation, have never hidden how they imagine the new media order. The example of TVP does not give much hope that regional newspapers will retain their independence from the PiS state behind Orlen. The question is whether the staff purge will be as abrupt as in the winter of 2016 in the public media, or rather spread out over time.

The fact that the Law and Justice party threatens the free media has long been known in ***Europe*** and in the USA, as the State Department reacted to the attacks on TVN. Germany is proud of its democratic media. In practice it is more difficult for them to defend their values.

Besides, this is not the first time. In 2015, the Hungarian company Deutsche Telekom sold the large portal Origo.hu, critical of the government, to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's people. The portal was subjected to Madziarization. Today it plays in Orbán's media team. This transaction was tacitly accepted by Berlin, which knew what it would lead to.

Berlin did not only turn a blind eye to the violations of press freedom in Hungary and Poland. Angela Merkel tolerated Hungary's authoritarian drift for years, and was also forgiving of the Law and Justice party. This was explained by the fact that the Germans, with a sense of responsibility for the crimes of the Third Reich, could not lecture the Poles, that a German reaction would arouse anti-German sentiment, and finally that Chancellor Merkel had too much affection for our country because of her contacts with activists from the underground Solidarity movement.

On the night of Thursday to Friday, Chancellor Angela Merkel will persuade Prime Minister Morawiecki not to veto the ***European*** Union budget and the Reconstruction Fund. Perhaps she will offer him some rotten compromise, for the sake of ***European*** unity of course. Silence in the face of violations of the rule of law and restrictions on media freedom does not serve ***Europe.*** It is a stain on the image of the German Chancellor.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Human Rights Violations (71%); Medicine + Health (71%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (68%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Italy, Austria and Switzerland are tightening restrictions. Poles must be quarantined***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G6-VJP1-JCVT-R0RJ-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 7, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 226 words

**Byline:** Jakub Mieżejewski

**Highlight:** Travellers arriving in Italy from Poland will soon be required to undergo an unconditional 14-day quarantine. Switzerland and Austria are also introducing similar restrictions.

**Body**

Although the number of new cases during the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic is falling across ***Europe***, many countries are still choosing to maintain restrictions on free movement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced new rules for Poles travelling from Poland to Italy. From 10 to 20 December it will be necessary to present a negative coronavirus test done 48 hours before arrival in the country. In the absence of a test, it will be necessary to undergo quarantine. From 21 December to 6 January, travellers will be required to undergo a 14-day [*quarantine*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=kwarantanna). From 7 to 15 January 2021, the obligation to have a test returns. However, those who stayed in Poland between 21 December and 6 January will still have to undergo quarantine.

"Deutsche Welle reports that Austria has decided to impose a 10-day quarantine for all travellers from high-risk countries, i.e. countries with a rate of 100 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants over the past 14 days. In Poland, for example, the rate is 610.5. The new restrictions will apply from 7 or 19 December until 10 January.

Switzerland is also introducing similar restrictions. From 14 December, travellers from 17 countries will have to undergo a 10-day quarantine. Due to the large number of new cases, Poland is also included in this group.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (83%); Military Weapons (77%); Espionage (74%); Human Rights Violations (69%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%)

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***British press: Johnson gives way on fisheries, chances grow for trade deal with EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R027-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 604 words

**Byline:** Stanisław Skarżyński, London

**Highlight:** The Guardian and Financial Times write that London has almost doubled down on its expectation that British fishing grounds will be open to EU countries. The ***EU*** has rejected the proposal, but the rift between the two sides is narrowing

**Body**

The issue of the distribution of fishing quotas in British waters was the latest on which London and Brussels could not find room for agreement. The issue called into question the entire Free Trade and Security Agreement, which is to govern the ***European*** Union's relationship with the United Kingdom from 1 January.

However, it looks like a compromise is on the way. According to the British press, David Frost, the chief negotiator of the agreement from the British side, was to present in Brussels a proposal that greatly increases the chances of reaching an agreement. "The Guardian and Financial Times write that London, which initially expected a 60 percent reduction in the share of EU catches in British waters, has significantly softened its negotiating position and proposed a reduction of only 35 percent. This is nowhere near the 25 percent reduction proposed by EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier.

Fishing in UK waters is worth around ***€1***.5 billion a year. Only 57 per cent. (***€850*** million) was taken by British curtilages. Fishermen from other ***EU*** countries (mainly Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Spain) caught fish worth ***€650*** million a year in British waters.

It is this ***EUR*** 650 million that is at stake because, at the end of the transitional period, control over territorial waters will be exercised by London alone, which may or may not have agreed to EU boats fishing in the British zone.

This was one of London's strongest assets in the negotiations, as the no deal scenario meant that key ***EU*** countries were threatened with the collapse of an entire sector of the economy.

London initially wanted the ***EU to*** reduce the catch of its boats in British waters by as much as 60 per cent for just three years of the transition period. (***€390*** million). Brussels' response was completely incompatible - ***the EU*** was prepared to give back 15 per cent of the fishing quotas (around ***€100*** million) and to do so in six or seven years.

It was the ***European Union that*** gave way first, a few days ago, by proposing a 25% reduction (EUR 160 million) and a six-year transition period. (***EUR*** 160 million) and a six-year transition period. Although the United Kingdom publicly announced that this was not a proposal and that it expected further concessions, it was supposed to respond at the negotiating table with a significant realisation of its expectations, namely a proposal of 35% (EUR 230 million) and a five-year transition period. (230 million ***euros***) and a five-year transition period.

The ***EU*** has rejected London's new proposal. Both sides will now try to find a compromise solution within the disputed 10%. The rapid conclusion of the negotiations is indicated by the fact that time is no longer scarce, but simply nonexistent.

On Sunday, another 'deadline' set by the ***European*** Parliament, which must ratify the agreement before it enters into force, was breached.

***MEPs*** are furious that the ***European*** Commission is putting them in the position of a fait accompli without giving them the chance to thoroughly scrutinise the London deal. It is not yet known whether the EP will vote on the deal before the new year. If the EP does not meet, it could come into force as a provisional until ***MEPs*** approve it.

In the UK, an extra session of parliament is scheduled for 30 December. It does not look like the scenario of a rebellion within the ruling party discussed in the media will materialise - according to most calculations, the deal will be approved.

However, fisheries are not the only problem. In addition to the issue of fishing quotas, work is still unfinished on the 'level playing field', a set of regulations to guarantee fair competition between British and EU companies after Brexit.

[*THE WORLD IN 5 MINUTES: The newsletter where the sun never sets [REGISTER].*](https://wyborcza.pl/0,166389,25016698.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Insider Trading (84%); Film (69%); Employment Services (63%); Suits + Claims (63%)

**Industry:** Chemicals Mfg (82%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (76%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%); Organic Chemicals (67%); Meats (63%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"We only have two problems: Boris and Johnson" [CORRESPONDENCE FROM LONDON].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R049-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 1383 words

**Byline:** Stanisław Skarżyński, London

**Highlight:** Cut off from the world because of a new strain of coronavirus, chaos in tackling a galloping epidemic and a Brexit that exacerbates all the problems - the UK is facing the end of 2020 like no country in the world.

**Body**

Intensive negotiations have been taking place between London and Paris since yesterday to unblock the movement of freight between Dover and Calais. Despite [*Boris Johnson's announcement*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26629906,johnson-rozmawial-z-macronem-ruch-towarowy-rozwiazemy-w-kilka.html) yesterday [*that the talks would take "several hours"*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26629906,johnson-rozmawial-z-macronem-ruch-towarowy-rozwiazemy-w-kilka.html), there were still indications from Downing Street on Tuesday morning that official confirmation of the opening of the border was expected "at any time".

The UK is committing to a coronavirus test for every driver leaving the country to ensure that a new strain of the virus does not get out of the UK, according to information released by the Home Office, the UK's interior ministry. - The testing can be launched relatively quickly, the Home Secretary Priti Patel assured the BBC.

France's decision to close the border has caused chaos in the UK because it means the closure of the rail tunnel carrying lorries between France's Calais and England's Folkestone and the shortest ferry crossing between Dover and Calais.

This has happened at the worst possible time, when normal freight traffic has been overlaid by the pre-Christmas logistics peak and feverish preparations for Brexit, which will drastically change the rules for transporting goods between the UK and the ***European Union*** from 1 January.

The crossings are out of action for the second day. 1,500 lorries are parked in the county of Kent in makeshift car parks on the M20 motorway and at Manston airport, and across the country lorry and van drivers are camping in car parks hoping to unblock traffic before Christmas. English authorities assure that they are organising help for drivers, but those responding say there are problems with food and water, not to mention sanitary facilities and possible medical help.

It is not known how many cars were stopped on the ***European*** side - although in theory traffic from France to the UK is not blocked, many companies choose not to send cars and drivers across the Channel without knowing when they will be able to return.

The border closure has led to growing fears of supply shortages. Learning from the spring experience, when Britons rushed to the shops to buy up food and cleaning products, the government, experts and retailers are unanimous in ensuring they have everything in abundance for Christmas and much longer.

The possible extension of the blockades could disrupt the supply of very few goods with a short shelf life. These are mainly fruit and vegetables, especially broccoli and citrus.

Unsurprisingly, a bigger problem has occurred on the French side. Trade and transport organisations there have been pressing Emmanuel Macron's government, pointing out that the 1,500 lorries parked in the UK are already stuffed with seafood and meat bought by ***European*** operators, which will run out of ***European*** shops before Christmas - and which will smell as bad after Christmas as it will be dangerous to consume.

However, there is also trouble with goods where the best-before date is not the most important factor. Companies on both sides fear that if the crossings are not unblocked quickly, the traffic jams will not be relieved before the new customs rules come into force after 1 January.

This could mean that all the goods in the vehicles on both sides of the border would have to be cleared and documented, resulting in bottlenecks not of weeks but of months.

Britain is again awaiting Downing Street's decision on tackling the coronavirus, a new strain of which is spreading across the country. That the new strain is already across the country was confirmed by Sir Patrick Vallance, the government's chief scientific adviser.

In recent days, the number of new cases has shot up again, exceeding 30,000 new infections per day - nearly 36,000 infections were confirmed on 20 December, the most since the beginning of the epidemic. Hospital admissions are also on the rise, although the daily number of deaths (an average of 450 per day) due to COVID-19 is still far from what it was in the spring, when during the first wave the weekly average number of victims approached a thousand. Epidemiologists warn, however, that it is only a matter of time before new infections and hospitalisations are followed by a sharp rise in deaths - all the more so as health services are at capacity.

Calls are coming from all sides for a third deep lockdown to be introduced across the country. The 'stay at home' rule is currently in place in London and much of the South East of England, but the rest of the country is still to have a Christmas holiday where three households can meet for dinner indoors. Experts are virtually unanimous that this will end tragically.

The Prime Minister, however, continues his tradition of delaying decisions for as long as possible. The same was true in March when the UK delayed lockdown, in November when the number of cases began to rise sharply, and last week when he waited to respond to a new strain of coronavirus.

As a result, the phrase that Britain's biggest problem is neither the virus nor brexit, but a Prime Minister who can't make timely decisions, is resurfacing in the press comments. "We have two problems: Boris and Johnson," mocked one commentator on a popular TV show. It came to a head when the Northern Ireland government voted to ban people from the UK. Although the idea failed in the vote, the proposal itself was seen as a testament to the collapse of confidence in the government in London.

Many are expecting Johnson to make a last-minute decision again, imposing a lockdown or moving more parts of the country to a level four emergency. The problem is that last-minute decisions cause chaos - the announcement on Saturday that London would be closed from Sunday caused chaos at train stations, with people trying to flee the capital before the new restrictions took effect. The same was true on Sunday as people rushed to airports in a bid to get out of the UK in time for the flight ban to take effect. The British Government did not decide to close the airports, and the tardy reaction of some other countries meant that tens of thousands of people ended up on board planes that airlines had put to the races.

This was the case in Poland. The Law and Justice government announced on Monday morning that there would be a ban on flights on Tuesday, but the relevant regulation did not appear in the Dziennik Ustaw until the evening.

LOT used these few hours to send as many as two capacious Dreamliners to the closed-down London (the original timetable included one), and Wizzair also organised additional connections to many cities in Poland.

One ticket cost between PLN 2.5-3 000 each, but people wanting to meet their families for Christmas bought them almost all. As a result, about 10,000 people who are not obliged to undergo a coronavirus test could fly to Poland on the last day.

To make matters worse, LOT was selling tickets for flights that it already knew could not take place - even for some time after the regulation was published.

Part of the explanation for the Prime Minister's course of action may lie in figures provided by the Office for National Statistics, which show that in November alone the UK borrowed £13.6 billion to fund public sector needs. In total, the UK's debt has risen by an astronomical £240bn this year - as much as the Crown has not borrowed since the 1960s, when post-war debts were still being paid off.

Johnson appears to be delaying the decision until Christmas so as not to enrage the public with another abrupt rule change, with businesses closing shops across the country at the last moment when they can try to bounce back from pre-Christmas preparations.

In the background, of course, is brexit - anti-Brexit organisations and parties insist that if the UK did not leave the ***European*** Union, it would have access to the £750 billion Reconstruction Fund. The French ***EU*** commissioner gave them an extra ball to cut, saying that "if the UK had chosen to stay in the ***EU***, today we could have helped them fight a new strain of coronavirus".

WORLD IN 5 MINUTES: The [*newsletter where the sun never sets [REGISTER].*](https://wyborcza.pl/0,166389,25016698.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Medicine + Health (70%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Espionage (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (65%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Commission European Commission has approved aid for LOT. The carrier will receive several hundred million zloty***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R04M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 247 words

**Byline:** Kamil Rakosza

**Highlight: *The European*** Commission has approved a Polish state aid measure to support LOT for losses suffered as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. "The aid includes a loan of PLN 1.8 billion and a capital injection of around PLN 1.1 billion," - The Ministry of Development, Labour and Technology said.

**Body**

LOT plays an important role in terms of employment and communications in Poland and the Central and Eastern ***European*** region. The airline is suffering significant losses as a result of the travel restrictions which Poland and other governments have had to impose in order to limit the spread of the virus. With the support package, Poland will provide LOT with the liquidity it urgently needs in the current situation.

It should be stressed that most ***European airlines*** are facing a dramatic situation caused by the [*coronavirus*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,173953.html) pandemic. Almost all the leading airlines have been granted state aid by the ***European*** Commission.

The aim of the aid is to ensure the liquidity, profitability and restoration of the capital structure of [*PLL LOT*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=pll+lot) before the COVID-19 outbreak. "Since, according to the information provided by the management board of PLL LOT, the company will lose its liquidity on 31 December 2020, there is a need to adopt this programme quickly," - the Council of Ministers' information underlined.

The total budget of the support programme for Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT S.A. amounts to a maximum of PLN 2.94 billion and assumes that LOT Polish Airlines will benefit from the following state aid tools:

The programme will be financed from the following sources: recapitalisation - from the COVID-19 Fund, loan from the Polish Development Fund ([*PFR*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=pfr)) - the funds will be raised mainly through the issue of bonds for the implementation of government programmes, including in particular the PFR financial shield for micro, small and medium-sized companies 1.0 and the PFR financial shield for large companies.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Amusements + Gambling (94%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Brexit. Changes for bank customers from 2021. More expensive transfers, need to change the card***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R041-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 318 words

**Byline:** elaborated by. Kacper Kolibabski

**Highlight:** On 1 January the UK will officially leave the ***European*** Union. This means big changes in regulations, including financial regulations. As a consequence, changes also await bank customers.

**Body**

The United Kingdom had until 1 January to come to an agreement with the [***European Union on the***](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=ue) terms on which cooperation between them would take place. The transition period is inexorably coming to an end, while negotiations continue. There is little sign that an agreement will be reached before the new year. That means a lot of change for the UK, often bad change. But whatever the outcome of the talks, there will be modifications to financial services regulation.

[*As reported by bankier.pl*](https://www.bankier.pl/wiadomosc/Co-brexit-oznacza-dla-klientow-bankow-Zmiany-od-2021-r-8024447.html), the changes will affect, among others, transfers and the use of payment cards. After 1 January, the UK will still be recognised as part of SEPA (Single ***Euro*** Payments Aera). Thus, payments with the UK will be made according to the existing rules, and Polish [*bank*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=banki) customers will still be able to make transfers in the SHA, OUR and BEN cost options. However, there may be a change in the cost of operations.

As for payment cards, there may be problems with strong SCA authentication if this procedure is abolished. This means that not all payments will be able to be processed as transactions will be processed outside the ***European*** Economic Area. - In exceptional situations where the payee does not support the required 3DS 2.1. or 3DS 2.2. protocol-compliant transaction security standard, such a payment transaction may be rejected, the banks inform.

Changes will also affect basic payment accounts, which have been introduced under the PAD Directive (Directive on the comparability of payment account fees, the transfer of a payment account and access to a basic payment account). These are so-called free EU accounts that offer a debit card with the account. After 1 January such a card will be useless in the [*UK.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=wielka+brytania) In addition, you will not be able to send a transfer from such an account to an account in this country.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices (69%); Medical Devices + Equipment (69%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (77%); Electrical Component + Device Mfg (62%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Opening on S2. Morawiecki: Warsaw is becoming a European capital city in terms of modern infrastructure***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R03C-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 287 words

**Byline:** Jakub Mieżejewski

**Highlight:** On Tuesday, December 22, an over 15-kilometre section of the S2 expressway between the Warszawa Wilanów and Lubelska junctions was opened, with a new bridge over the Vistula. - Thanks to such a large investment, Warsaw is becoming a ***European*** capital in terms of modern infrastructure, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said.

**Body**

"The consortium of Gulermak Agir Sanayi Insaat ve Taahhut (leader) and Przedsiębiorstwo Budowy Dróg i Mostów Mińsk Mazowiecki (partner) is the contractor for the section from the Warszawa Wilanów junction to the Wał Miedzeszyński junction, which is about 6.5 km long. On the other hand, the section from the Wal Miedzeszyński junction to the Lubelska junction, about 7.5 km long, was built by Warbud. Contracts for the construction were concluded in December 2015. The first with a value of approximately PLN 758 million and the second with a value of approximately PLN 562 million." - [*GDDKiA'*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=GDDKiA)s announcement reads.

Drivers will be able to access the route via four interchanges: Warszawa Wilanów, Wał Miedzeszyński, Patriotów and Lubelska. The commissioned section connects the [*S2 route*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=S2) with the A2 motorway towards Mińsk Mazowiecki.

A new 1505-metre long bridge over the Vistula River is also part of the route. The bridge is 533.6 m long, and the two flyovers over the floodplains are 342.8 m (on the Wilanów side) and 628.98 m (on the Wawer side) respectively. Pedestrians and cyclists can use the pavement and cycle path on both sides of the crossing. The route, or rather a section of just over 500 m in length, passes over two flyovers through the Mazowiecki Landscape Park.

Morawiecki: Thanks to the ring road, Warsaw is becoming a ***European*** capital in terms of modern infrastructure

Prime Minister [*Mateusz Morawiecki*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=mateusz+morawiecki) was present at the opening ceremony. - It is a great joy that today we can open a part of the Warsaw Southern Ring Road. Thanks to such a large investment Warsaw is becoming a ***European*** capital city in terms of modern infrastructure - said the head of government, adding that the bypass will attract entrepreneurs. - It is a road, which will increase the investment attractiveness of Warsaw and the surrounding areas. The inhabitants have been waiting for it for several dozen years - he added.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (93%); Nondurable Goods (81%); Indictments (76%); Prices (75%); Investigations (65%); Dna (63%); Labor + Employment (63%); Negligence (63%); Children (62%)

**Industry:** Insurance (94%); Retail + Wholesale Trade (92%); Organic Chemicals (75%); Liability Insurance (63%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The UK and French governments have agreed to open their borders. Tests will be required***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R057-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 231 words

**Byline:** Michał Litorowicz

**Highlight:** Britain has reached a border agreement with France, British Transport Minister Grant Schapps announced on Twitter. The Channel Tunnel has been closed since Sunday due to the detection of a new strain of coronavirus in the British Isles.

**Body**

"Progress and agreement with the French government on borders. We will provide more information to hauliers tonight. Carriers still unable to run services to [county - ed] Kent," UK Transport Minister Grant Schapps tweeted.

In turn, the French Minister for ***European*** Affairs, Clément Beaune, has conveyed that re-entry from the UK to France will be possible from Wednesday. The condition for crossing the border - whether citizens of France, other ***EU*** countries or the UK - will be to present a negative coronavirus test (PCR or antigen test) within 72 hours before the date of departure.

The French side also confirmed Schapps' assurances that the exact freight arrangements were to be presented on Tuesday evening.

According to the French government, air, train and ferry traffic will also resume on Wednesday.

Following news of a new strain of coronavirus found in the UK, many ***European*** countries have decided to ban flights from the UK. France has also decided to close the Channel Tunnel, the only (non-maritime) route linking the UK to continental ***Europe.***

The decision has left scores of drivers, including those from Poland, stranded at the border with France. Around 3,000 lorries are waiting to cross the channel in Kent.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Resources + Personnel Management (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (74%); Electrical Component + Device Mfg (73%); Entertainment + Arts (67%); Wireless Networks (67%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"Armageddon" on the British-French border. Government announces help for Polish drivers, Duda also reacts***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R052-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 493 words

**Byline:** IAR/op. Daniel Drob

**Highlight:** Thousands of drivers are unable to return to the continent from the UK following the French government's decision to block entry to France. - We are slowly running out of patience," one Polish driver tells Radio Zet. Additional help for the Poles has been announced by Infrastructure Minister Andrzej Adamczyk. In turn, Krzysztof Szczerski, head of the President's Cabinet, said that the decision to open the borders for transport from the UK could be made on Tuesday.

**Body**

Following news of a new strain of coronavirus found in the UK, many ***European*** countries have decided to ban flights from the UK. France has also decided to close the Channel Tunnel, the only (non-maritime) route linking the UK to mainland ***Europe.*** The decision has left many drivers, including those from Poland, stranded on the border with France. Maciej Wroński, head of the Transport and Logistics Poland union, believes that the situation may affect even several thousand people.

- I have been standing here for 36 hours. They don't want to let us out, no toilets, no help. We are standing here in three thousand cars. The Polish government is not interested in us. We don't know anything, we don't know if we will ever leave, no information. Armageddon is happening here," said [*RMF FM*](https://www.rmf24.pl/raporty/raport-koronawirus-z-chin/europa/news-polscy-kierowcy-ciezarowek-uwiezieni-w-wielkiej-brytanii-dos,nId,4942956) Grzegorz, one of the drivers stranded on the islands.

- There is no information on how long this situation will last. My passengers include pregnant women, parents with small children. We don't know when we will move from here," Marcin Gribnerg, a driver who transports people between Poland and the UK, told [*Radio Zet. -*](https://wiadomosci.radiozet.pl/Polska/Nowy-szczep-koronawirusa.-Polscy-kierowcy-zawodowi-utkneli-w-Wielkiej-Brytanii) Nobody is interested in us. It is impossible to call the embassy. And yet we run legal companies, registered in Poland. We are slowly running out of patience - the man complains.

The association Transport and Logistics Poland has asked for help from the Polish government. RMF FM reports that Infrastructure Minister Andrzej Adamczyk met with representatives of the transport organisations this afternoon. The drivers are to be supported with, among other things, food and water, which will be delivered through British charities.

Andrzej Duda has joined the case. Head of the President's Cabinet Krzysztof Szczerski said that on the President's instructions he had spoken with French Minister for ***European*** Affairs Clement Beaun and Head of the French President's Chancellery Alexis Kohler about opening the borders for transport from the UK. "We hope that decisions will be announced later today," - Krzysztof Szczerski wrote on Twitter.

Earlier, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said he had intervened with the French President and the UK Prime Minister over drivers stuck in traffic jams after France closed its border. The Prime Minister expressed hope that the traffic jam at the border would be quickly cleared and drivers would be able to move on. Maciej Wroński, however, believes that it will take many days for the traffic jam at the border to be relieved. - Even if the ferry crossings were unblocked at the moment and trucks started arriving, it will take at least several days to resolve the whole dispute. We will not miraculously multiply ferries," he said.

The Dover and Folkestone area was already experiencing increased traffic. The reason is the end of the Brexit transition period. On 1 January next year the rules will change, but it is not clear what they will be, because there is an impasse in negotiations between the Union and London. As a result, companies wanted to make deliveries in time for the end of December.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (86%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Awards + Prizes (65%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (65%); Chemistry (65%); Medical Science (65%); Medicine + Health (65%); Physics (65%); Writers (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***France opens its border with the United Kingdom. Services are preparing collection points in ports and car parks***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R05D-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 311 words

**Byline:** oprac. Wiktoria Beczek / IAR

**Highlight:** The foreign ministry has reported that France is partially restoring traffic at its border with the UK from midnight. The ministry notes that Polish citizens will be able to enter France after presenting a negative coronavirus PCR or equivalent test up to 72 hours ago.

**Body**

"The movement of people between the UK and France is partially restored from 0:00 on 23 December this year. Citizens of the ***European*** Union and the ***European*** Economic Area, as well as citizens of other countries who reside in the ***European*** Union or the ***European*** Economic Area, or who need to move to France for the necessary purpose indicated in the annex to the communication on the opening of the border, may cross the border," - [*reads the communication from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*](https://www.gov.pl/web/francja/koronawirus---informacje-dla-podrozujacych-z-i-przez-francje).

The French government has announced that the entry ban on people, including carriers, coming from the UK will be partially lifted at midnight. That hour marks the end of a two-day border closure imposed by French authorities on Sunday following the detection of a new strain of coronavirus on the islands.

At midnight, the movement of car, rail and sea freight carriers arriving in France from the UK will resume, regardless of the nationality of the workers. Carriers will also be tested.

British authorities are preparing special pick-up points at ports and car parks for lorry drivers blocked in the UK since Sunday. The new sanitary regulations at the French-British border will remain in force until at least 6 January.

On social media, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides a link to a list of honoured antigen tests, the result of which can be presented when entering France.

Following news of a new strain of coronavirus found in the UK, many ***European*** countries have decided to ban flights from the UK. France has also decided to close the Channel Tunnel, the only (non-maritime) route linking the UK to continental ***Europe.***

The decision has left scores of drivers, including those from Poland, stranded at the border with France. Around 3,000 lorries are waiting to cross the channel in Kent.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (78%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Terrorist Organizations (69%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EC approves state aid for LOT***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R04W-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 475 words

**Byline:** Edyta Bryla

**Highlight:** LOT has announced that it will receive PLN 2.9 billion in state aid. The ***European*** Commission has just given its approval.

**Body**

LOT will receive a PLN 1.8 billion loan from PFR and its share capital will be increased by PLN 1.1 billion through the issue of new shares to be taken up by the State Treasury. As LOT points out in its press release, it intends to repay most of the nearly PLN 3 billion in aid, together with interest, over six years from its profits.

Rafał Milczarski, LOT's CEO, says that the main cost of the airline's operations are aircraft lease payments. Due to the crisis, LOT negotiated a reduction so that it could apply for state aid. - An airline is a drive for the economy, tourism and a guarantee of the state's logistical security. We know how to return to the path of intensive development, and we will do it - says Milczarski.

For the "quick and efficient" notification of state aid to LOT, Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Gowin thanked Commissioner Margrethe Vestager on Twitter.

The loan amount will not exceed 25 percent of LOT's 2019 turnover and "will cover the company's investment and working capital needs," according to ***the*** Commission release. The loan is to be granted before June 30, 2021.

The recapitalisation aid will make it possible to avoid the insolvency of LOT, which would have serious consequences for the Polish labour market, the network of routes and foreign trade, writes the EC in justification of the decision.

The EC also stipulated that the aid must not exceed the minimum necessary to save the company. It also imposed a ban on the payment of dividends and a cap on the remuneration of LOT's management board. It will also not be able to receive bonuses until a minimum of 75 percent of the public aid has been repaid. LOT must also withdraw from buying other companies in order to grow.

Politicians have already given assurances that state aid will be granted to LOT. Jacek Sasin, deputy prime minister and minister of state assets, said in September: "The freezing of air traffic has obviously translated into the company's situation. LOT's board is indeed making superhuman efforts to stabilise the company's financial situation. I have no doubt that external support will be needed here".

- LOT has agreed several hundred million savings with leasing companies in recent months. However, this is still not enough. 2021 is still expected to be poor, although IATA analyses say that the second half of next year and the following years will already be much better for the airline industry. The rebound depends on the speed of loosening restrictions in connection with the introduction of mass vaccinations, a person connected with the matter told Business Insider.

LOT asked for a much higher amount - PLN 4.5 billion. In the company's management report for 2019, it can be read that the company "plans to obtain state aid for a total amount of approximately ***€1*** billion, after having concluded negotiations with lessors aimed at permanently and materially reducing the company's burden of lease payments".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Amusements + Gambling (94%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***REDACTION COMMENTARY; The testing period has begun***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-NHH1-JBK9-23GX-00000-00&context=)

Fact Poland

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Section:** POLITYKA; Str. 2; No 299

**Length:** 192 words

**Byline:** Katarzyna Kozłowska

**Body**

Editor-in-Chief of Fakt

It looks like a Christmas present for a ***Europe*** weary of fighting the plague in Poland. ***The European*** Medicines Agency yesterday gave fast-track approval to a vaccine against COVID-19. "This is a big step in the fight against the pandemic, it's a historic moment in the scientific world," - said yesterday Emer Cooke, the head of this institution. I, however, think that this is only the time for the big test.

For months, ***European*** decision makers, including the Polish Government, have pinned all their hopes for stabilising the situation on the development of an effective vaccine. It is on this that the exit strategy from the epidemic crisis is based.

But although vaccination has been going on for a good few days in the USA and the UK, there is no sign of over-optimism. The main doubt is how effective such a vaccine will prove to be. In recent months, authorities have repeatedly argued that surviving COVID-19 does not protect against re-infection. So how will the vaccine protect? Will it be able to cope with further mutations of the virus.

We will only be answering these questions in the coming year. Let us keep our fingers crossed that we will emerge victorious from this ordeal.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Journal

**Journal Code:** FAK

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (83%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Awards + Prizes (65%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (65%); Chemistry (65%); Espionage (65%); Medical Science (65%); Medicine + Health (65%); Physics (65%); Writers (65%); Arms Control + Disarmament (62%); Torture (62%); Weapons + Arms (62%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (87%); Organic Chemicals (75%)

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Polish drivers stranded in the UK. Minister Adamczyk: Several thousand cars***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R03T-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 265 words

**Byline:** oprac. Jakub Mieżejewski / ISB News

**Highlight:** Andrzej Adamczyk has announced that the Ministry of Infrastructure is making very active efforts to deal with Polish drivers stranded in the UK after France closed its border due to the emergence of a new mutation of the coronavirus in the UK.

**Body**

On Saturday, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the detection of a new strain of coronavirus that is much more contagious than the current one. As a result, many ***European*** countries have decided to ban flights from the UK. France has also decided to close the Channel Tunnel, the only (non-maritime) route linking the UK to continental ***Europe.***

This unexpected decision has now left many Polish drivers stranded in the United Kingdom. - We estimate that the number of trucks on the British-French border, which are driven by Polish drivers, is much higher than the total of cars reported by the French. Organisations of truck transport entrepreneurs estimate that it is several thousand cars," said infrastructure minister Andrzej Adamczyk.

The minister stressed that the situation of the drivers was deteriorating by the hour, running out of supplies and hygiene products.

The government representative said that the ministry was making efforts to get the French to lift the restrictions. According to his information, there will be a meeting between the British Prime Minister and the French President on Tuesday 22 December to discuss opening the border.

- In a moment I will talk to the German transport minister, I will also ask him what we can do together for entrepreneurs who cannot enter the continent, he added. He also expressed hope for active cooperation of prime ministers of countries where other drivers stuck at the border come from; Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Estonia, Czech Republic, Latvia, among others.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices (93%); Medical Devices + Equipment (83%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (77%); Employment Services (70%); Music Groups + Artists (70%); Parole + Probation (70%); Recruitment + Hiring (70%); Suits + Claims (70%); Torts (69%)

**Industry:** Electrical Component + Device Mfg (94%); Organic Chemicals (90%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (89%); Entertainment + Arts (77%); Wireless Networks (77%); Market Research (70%); Electronic Sensors + Detectors (67%); Mobile Devices (67%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***UK. New strain of coronavirus and problems with food supplies***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R034-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 374 words

**Byline:** Kacper Kolibabski

**Highlight:** food supply problems in the UK may be coming sooner than forecast. So far it has been mainly about brexit. Now a new, fast-spreading strain of coronavirus has arrived.

**Body**

Last week the UK health department announced the discovery of a new type of [*coronavirus*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=koronawirus). Preliminary tests show that it is fortunately not vaccine-resistant and does not cause more serious illness than COVID-19. However, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the strain is 70 per cent more contagious than SARS-CoV-2.

[*As a result*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,26625984,kolejne-kraje-zakazuja-lotow-z-wielkiej-brytanii-chodzi-o-nowy.html), [*many* ***European*** *countries have closed their borders with the UK and halted flights from the country*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,26625984,kolejne-kraje-zakazuja-lotow-z-wielkiej-brytanii-chodzi-o-nowy.html). This could spell serious trouble for Britons as early as Christmas.

The UK's Food and Drink Federation (FDF) has said that [*food*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=jedzenie) supplies could be severely disrupted over the holidays. A new strain of coronavirus is to blame, leading to border closures with the UK, reports Sky News. FDF is echoed by Andrew Opie, director of food and sustainability at the British Retail Consortium. In his view, although it will technically be possible to send supplies, albeit from France, few distributors will opt to do so unless they are guaranteed that the lorries can leave the Isles immediately.

The drivers themselves also do not want to drive. The queues at the border with the Old Continent are enormous and the car parks where the lorries stand do not even have toilets, reports Vanessa Ibarlucea, spokeswoman for the French Road Transport Federation.

The [*shops*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=sklepy) themselves are also already making announcements. Sainsbury's, which is the country's second largest retail chain, says there could soon be a shortage of fresh fruit and vegetables if the problems are not resolved quickly. At the same time, the company assures that it has stocks to ensure there will be no shortage of food in time for Christmas.

However, in addition to a new type of coronavirus, the British have another problem - Brexit. On [*1 January the country will officially leave the* ***European*** *Union, and it has still not been established on what principles trade with the Community will take place*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26606154,poki-zycia-poty-nadziei-mowi-boris-johnson-ale-twardy.html). The return to the general rules of trade and customs duties (World Trade Organisation regulations), may lead to a jump in prices in shops. In Britain, consumers and companies have been stockpiling for a long time, which has [*paralysed many ports andborder crossings*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26627741,wielka-brytania-olbrzymie-kolejki-na-granicach-ciezarowki.html). [*In fact, the British Government itself has appealed to shops to stock up on food.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26609105,brexit-rzad-apeluje-do-sklepow-robcie-zapasy-rosna-ceny.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (86%); Military Weapons (82%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Securities + Other Investments (70%); Awards + Prizes (68%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (68%); Chemistry (68%); Medical Science (68%); Medicine + Health (68%); Physics (68%); Writers (68%); Film (64%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Harbors + Ports (64%); Mining + Extraction (64%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***DHL and Poczta Polska suspend shipments to the UK. The reason is a new strain of coronavirus***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R019-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 275 words

**Byline:** Jakub Mieżejewski

**Highlight:** DHL and Poczta Polska have decided to suspend shipments to the UK. The decision is linked to the emergence of a new strain of coronavirus and the ban on flights to and from the UK introduced in many countries.

**Body**

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and scientists announced on Saturday 19 December that a new strain of coronavirus had emerged which is much more contagious. As a result, many ***European*** countries have decided to ban flights.

In addition to limited freedom of movement, the decision by some courier companies to suspend sending parcels to the UK is a major setback. [*DHL, among others,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=dhl) has decided to make this move. A spokesman for the company announced on Monday that parcel deliveries to the UK and Ireland have been suspended until further notice. This applies to both private and business parcels. Postcards and letters will be delivered without any changes.

[*Polish Post*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=poczta+polska) has decided on a similar step. The state-owned company says in a communiqué that the decision is linked to the ban on flights from the UK, which came into force on the night of 21 to 22 December. "Therefore, the Polish Post informs that from December 21 until further notice, it suspends the receipt of all postal items (letters, parcels and EMS parcels) to Great Britain". - the announcement reads. For now, it is not known when the restrictions in this regard will be loosened.

A ban on flights from the UK to Poland came into force on the night of 21-22 December. [*The government plans to extend it until 6 January 2021*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,26629437,zakaz-lotow-z-wielkiej-brytanii-polski-rzad-planuje-przedluzenie.html). The reason for the decision is the emergence of a new strain of coronavirus.

In addition, aircraft from nine countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Georgia and the United States (with the exception of airports in Illinois and New York) will still not be accepted.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Human Rights Violations (77%); Awards + Prizes (68%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (68%); Chemistry (68%); Espionage (68%); Medical Science (68%); Medicine + Health (68%); Physics (68%); Writers (68%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (82%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Brexit. Orange will keep lower rates for calls to the UK***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R047-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 306 words

**Byline:** Jakub Mieżejewski

**Highlight:** Orange Polska has decided to introduce a five-month promotion for subscribers in the UK. During this period they will pay the same amount for roaming as they do now.

**Body**

At the beginning of 2021, the United Kingdom will leave the structures of the ***European*** Union. One of the consequences of [*brexit*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=brexit#e=TagLink) will be the absence of a uniform lower roaming rate for the entire ***EU.*** Operators present on the Polish market have announced that the [*UK*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=wielka+brytania) will be moved to a second tariff zone, which will entail an increase in fees for telecommunications services.

Higher charges will be avoided, at least initially, by Orange Polska customers. The operator said on Tuesday 21 December that a promotion will run from 1 January until the end of May under which its subscribers in the UK and its dependent territories, such as Gibraltar, will pay existing service rates.

"They will be billed for phone calls, SMS and MMS in the same way as in the country - if they use unlimited offers, they will not pay extra for them, and if they have packages of minutes or SMS in their tariff plan, once they are used up, they will be billed at domestic rates. Internet use will be possible within the packages granted in the tariff plan - in the same way as in roaming in the ***EU***". - communicated the operator.

The promotional offer will be available to individual and business customers, users of pre-paid offers, as well as persons using the services of nju mobile and Orange Flex.

As of 15 May 2020, the following maximum rates for international calls and SMS from Poland to countries of the Community were in force in Poland and other countries of the ***European Union, in accordance with the*** EU regulation:

For comparison, [*according to the rates announced by Orange a fortnight ago, outgoing calls will cost in Orange PLN 4.94 per minute*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26562506,brexit-zmieniaja-sie-ceny-polaczen-do-wielkiej-brytanii-znamy.html). Receiving a call from the UK to Poland will cost the Polish user PLN 2.02 per minute. An SMS will cost PLN 1.51 and the use of 1 MB of data transfer will cost PLN 31.76.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***France will repeal borders for traffic with England. "They gave a taste of brexit without a deal"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R05B-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 423 words

**Byline:** Stanisław Skarżyński, London

**Highlight:** At least until 6 January, only citizens and residents of the ***European*** Union will be allowed to enter France from England, only for a valid reason and only if they have a negative test for coronavirus.

**Body**

France completely closed its border with the UK on Sunday to prevent a new, more contagious strain of coronavirus from entering its territory. [*Numerous ferry crossings and the Channel Tunnel were closed for 48 hours.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26632076,mamy-tylko-dwa-problemy-boris-i-johnson-korespondencja-z.html)

On Tuesday evening, the French government announced that it would partially open the border - only for citizens and residents of the ***European*** Union and those travelling for a valid reason and only if they have a coronavirus test taken within the last 72 hours.

While France does not insist on the PCR test, which takes about 24 hours to complete, the UK has a mammoth undertaking to organise a system of testing, waiting and certification of results for the thousands of drivers stranded in the UK. The Road Haulage Association of Great Britain alone has estimated the number of waiting lorries at 7 000.

In Kent alone, 1 500 lorries are parked on the M20 and at the airport, which has been converted into a makeshift car park, and across the country, lorry and van drivers are camped out in car parks and petrol stations - from refrigerated vans carrying tonnes of seafood, fish and meat to be sold in ***Europe*** before Christmas, to smaller, private vans whose drivers were trying to make a living by carrying parcels to Poland, Romania, Italy and Spain on their way to Christmas.

It is only up to the UK to get them out and how quickly.

The timing of the border closure couldn't have been worse - the normal transport of goods was overlaid by the pre-Christmas logistics peak and hectic preparations for the UK's exit from the ***European*** Union.

Although officially no one is daring to question France's decision as being justified by fears of a new strain of the virus, the Financial Times wrote that parts of Boris Johnson's government are convinced that "Emmanuel Macron's decision to abruptly close the border was driven by a desire to let the UK test what a no deal Brexit might look like when the transition period expires on 1 January".

France firmly rejected these theories - in a statement, the Elysée Palace wrote that "it was not a question of retaliation, but of responsibility".

However, the link with Brexit is obvious, [*because if no deal is signed, the UK will be facing renewed border chaos in just over a week, but this time at its own request.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26630474,brytyjska-prasa-johnson-ustepuje-w-sprawie-lowisk-rosna-szanse.html)

[*WORLD IN 5 MINUTES: The newsletter where the sun never sets [REGISTER].*](https://wyborcza.pl/0,166389,25016698.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (75%); Terrorist Organizations (63%); Human Rights Violations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Russian Foreign Ministry summons ambassadors. It is about sanctions after Navalny's poisoning***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R039-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 332 words

**Byline:** oprac. Magdalena Bojanowska/IAR

**Highlight:** Moscow has closed its borders to several ***European*** Union citizens who recommended sanctions against Russia over the assassination of Alexei Navalny. It has not been made public who they are referring to. All that is known is that notes to this effect were given to the Swedish, French and German ambassadors, who were summoned to the Foreign Ministry.

**Body**

A statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry indicated that the restrictions were in response to earlier actions by ***European*** Union countries. Brussels imposed sanctions on some Russian officials, including the heads of investigative and security services, in connection with the assassination of Alexei Navalny.

The countries that initiated such a step have not presented any evidence on this matter

- Russian diplomats wrote.

A Russian opposition activist has published material from a journalistic investigation, which shows that the bombers are officers of the Federal Security Service. The politician will also post a recording of his phone conversation with one of the alleged assassins on the internet. The man, introduced as Konstantin Kudryavtsev, admitted that Navalny wanted to poison the military substance from the Novichok group by placing it on his underwear. The FSB claims that the video is fake.

Alexei Navalny lost consciousness while flying from Tomsk to Moscow. The pilot landed in Omsk, where the oppositionist was treated by Russian doctors for two days. Omsk specialists argued that the patient had not been poisoned, but only had metabolic problems. Navalny's family and colleagues did not believe in their words and transported the politician to Berlin. There it was concluded that there was an attempt to poison the oppositionist with a militant preparation from the Novichok group of substances with a paralytic and convulsive effect. This information was also confirmed by two independent laboratories in France and Sweden.

The Kremlin denies it had anything to do with the poisoning of Alexei Navalny. In a conversation with Emmanuel Macron, accessed by the daily Le Monde, Vladimir Putin argued that the oppositionist could have poisoned himself. And in October, the Russian president even suggested that he had saved Navalny. - I personally asked the Prosecutor General's Office to allow Alexei Navalny to leave Russia," Vladimir Putin said. He said that if the authorities were behind the poisoning of the oppositionist, they would not have allowed him to leave the country.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Resources + Personnel Management (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Electrical Component + Device Mfg (68%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Italians are testing everyone who has recently arrived from the UK. Several cases of a new strain of coronavirus***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61KD-D8G1-JCVT-R043-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 795 words

**Byline:** Bartosz Hlebowicz, Florence

**Highlight:** According to Italian virologists, there is nothing to suggest that the British strain of coronavirus is any more deadly than previous ones. What worries them, however, is that it transmits very quickly.

**Body**

On Sunday, Italy's health minister halted services from the UK. From London alone, 16,000 passengers have flown directly to Milan and Rome in the last two weeks. When other connections between the two countries are added, as well as flights with a connecting flight in France, the Netherlands or Germany, the number of people who should already be in isolation and awaiting testing could be as high as over 44,000.

The first Italian patient to be confirmed with the English coronavirus at a military hospital in Rome's Celio district on Sunday morning is a 42-year-old Italian secret service agent. The woman has no serious symptoms. She was most likely infected from her partner (an Englishman, a 45-year-old bank employee in the City of London) who flew to Rome on 6 December. Due to signs of a cold on 14 December, they both went to a Roman hospital for swabs, which turned out to be positive. Both, and their immediate family, remain in home isolation.

According to the latest figures, which, however, change from hour to hour for obvious reasons, the presence of the English strain is currently suspected in Italy in a dozen people: three in Rome, three in Palermo and one in Trieste, as well as in seven passengers who flew from London to Naples on Sunday and who tested positive.

Hundreds of Italians were stranded at London airports - some were already on a plane when the Italian government announced the blockade. Desperate people are setting up Facebook pages to share their situation: someone lost his job in England, could no longer afford to rent a flat, was returning home to Italy, and now all that is left is the airport. Someone else's contract has ended and they have been detained at the airport after checking in.

"Never in my life have I felt as I do today: like a dog abandoned by Italy" - writes another person. Valentina Sangiorgio, 33, a doctor from Turin who works in a London hospital, has booked a new ticket for 7 January, the day after the end of the blockade ordered by the health minister. But it is not clear if this one will not be extended.

- We were about to board at Stansted airport," says Sangiorgio. - Moments earlier a plane had left for Palermo. Suddenly, without giving any reason, it was announced that the flight was cancelled. Families with small children and senior citizens waited for hours to board. Then the ordeal of collecting the luggage began: the suitcases from all the cancelled flights were put on one belt. Unimaginable chaos and crowding. When my father found out that we would not spend Christmas together, he cried. It will be the first Christmas of its kind.

- I am furious: The English have known about the new strain of the virus for three months and didn't warn anyone. Now we should introduce a full lockdown across the country," comments Walter Ricciardi, chief advisor to the Minister of Health.

- I have been saying for a month that the English strain is much more contagious, adds Ranieri Guerra, a virologist representing Italy at the World Health Organisation.

In general, however, Italian specialists argue that there is no reason for alarm: the British strain is no more dangerous than others and there is no reason to doubt the effectiveness of the vaccine. It is only necessary to vaccinate as many people as possible as soon as possible.

A team of researchers from the University of Bologna isolated the English strain as early as late September/early October.

- This mutation, also present in the United States and Australia, is without doubt the most interesting and dangerous of the hundreds of mutations we detect every day, says Federico Giorgi, a member of the team.

But he also reassures: "The purpose of vaccines is in any case to 'disarm' the protein that allows penetration of cells in the human body. The British mutation has simply 'polished' the virus a little so that it can enter organisms more easily, but it has not changed the basic form of the protein. Therefore, the vaccine will stop the disease. We can rest assured... for at least a year or two. After that, a new vaccine will probably be needed.

- At least 13 different variants of Sars-Cov-2 have become widespread in Italy in recent months, but they have not boosted the epidemic. It is more convenient for the virus to turn into a parasite and live in symbiosis with its host than to cause excessive damage that would kill it, explains Massimo Ciccozzi, an epidemiologist at Rome's Università Campus Bio-Medico. - Since September, the infectivity of the virus in ***Europe has*** increased, but the mortality rate has not.

On Monday, 137 000 swabs were read in Italy and 15 000 cases of coronavirus infection were detected. A total of 352 people have died. [*Among those infected are cardinals Giuseppe Bertello, head of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State, and papal almsman Konrad Krajewski.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26630324,koronawirus-blisko-papieza-franciszka-polski-kardynal-zakazony.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (92%); Human Rights Violations (74%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Medicine + Health (67%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Law Courts + Tribunals (63%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***European Medicines Agency has issued a positive opinion on Moderna's vaccine. This is the second vaccine approved in the EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R547-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

January 6, 2021 Wednesday

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**Length:** 551 words

**Byline:** Piotr Cieslinski

**Highlight:** Moderna's vaccine is based on pioneering mRNA technology (like Pfizer's and BioNTech's first EU-approved and already distributed vaccine). ***The EU*** has ordered 160 million doses of this new US vaccine.

**Body**

Both vaccines contain mRNA molecules that contain 'instructions' for the human cell to produce the S protein (spike protein) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which in turn triggers antibody production and immunity against the virus. The mRNA molecules themselves, on the other hand, do not remain in the body; they break down shortly after administration.

Read also: [*COVID vaccine in questions and answers. Can allergic people or pregnant women take it? And what about the recovering patients?*](https://katowice.wyborcza.pl/katowice/7,35063,26637481,szczepionka-na-covid-w-pytaniach-i-odpowiedziach-czy-moga-ja.html)

The difference is that [*the Moderna vaccine is easier to transport and distribute*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26624146,usa-szczepionka-moderny-zatwierdzona.html) than the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccines. It can be stored for nearly 30 days at 2-8 degrees C (Pfizer's vaccine after thawing retains its properties for only five days) and up to six months at -20 degrees C (Pfizer's vaccine requires a temperature of about -70 degrees C). This means that the Moderna vaccine can be stored in most refrigerators found in the equipment of pharmacies or medical outpatient clinics.

Moderna's vaccine also requires two doses given by injection into the arm. The second injection occurs 28 days after the first (in the case of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, after 21 days).

Following the positive opinion of the ***European*** Medicines Agency (EMA), the approval of the conditional authorisation of the preparation for use must be granted by the ***European*** Commission, but this is already a formality. This should happen very soon, later this week. ***The EU*** has ordered 160 million doses from Moderna.

The EMA reports that the efficacy of the vaccine was tested on nearly 28,000 volunteers aged 18 to 94 who had no signs of previous infection. Half received the vaccine, half a placebo. Of the 14,134 vaccinated, COVID-19 symptoms appeared in 11 people (none became seriously ill). Of the 14,074 people in the placebo group, 185 people became ill. This means that the vaccine has an effectiveness of 94.1 per cent.

In [*its announcement, the EMA*](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/ema-recommends-covid-19-vaccine-moderna-authorisation-eu) also [*states*](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/ema-recommends-covid-19-vaccine-moderna-authorisation-eu) that the clinical trial showed that the vaccine protects people at risk of developing severe COVID-19, including patients with chronic lung disease, heart disease, obesity, liver disease, diabetes or HIV infection, with nearly 91% efficacy.

The most common side effects associated with the Moderna vaccine were usually mild to moderate and resolved within a few days after vaccination, reports the EMA. The most common of these side effects were pain and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, chills, fever, swollen lymph nodes under the armpit, headache, muscle and joint pain, nausea and vomiting.

Read also: [*Can you take off your mask after COVID vaccination? Can you visit your grandmother or meet up with friends? We answer our readers' questions*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75400,26644956,co-po-szczepieniu-na-covid-mozna-zdjac-maseczke-czy-mozna-odwiedzic.html)

The Agency assures that the safety and efficacy of the vaccine will continue to be monitored as it is used across the ***EU as*** part of the EU drug and therapeutic safety surveillance system. Moderna will continue to test its vaccine and update its results over the next two years. Their aims include looking at how long the immunity gained after vaccination lasts, how effectively the vaccine protects children and immunocompromised patients, and whether it also prevents asymptomatic infections.

How Moderna's vaccine works:

Read also: [*Polish experts debunk myths about COVID-19 vaccines*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75400,26643230,polscy-eksperci-obalaja-mity-o-szczepionkach-na-covid-19.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Weapons + Arms (64%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (86%)

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Prosecution protects Ziobra. There will be no investigation into money for municipalities with anti-LGBT resolutions***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R53M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

January 6, 2021 Wednesday

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**Length:** 785 words

**Byline:** Wojciech Czuchnowski

**Highlight:** There will be no investigation into the transfer of money from the Justice Fund to municipalities that discriminate against sexual minorities. The Warsaw prosecutor's office has refused to initiate proceedings, considering that no crime has been committed

**Body**

The letter in this case was received after the New Year by Left MP Krzysztof Śmiszek. The prosecutor's decision is short: "By the decision of the public prosecutor of the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw of 11 December 2020, it was refused to open an investigation into the case of exceeding of powers by the Minister of Justice performing his activities as a disposer of the Fund for Victims' Aid and Post-Penitentiary Aid of the Justice Fund by granting to the municipality of Tuchów subsidies coming from this Fund in a manner contrary to the conditions, procedure and purpose of granting subsidies set out in the regulation of the Minister of Justice which acted to the detriment of the public interest in view of the determination that the act does not contain the features of a prohibited act." The letter was signed by the Deputy District Prosecutor Magdalena Kołodziej.

Justification should be part of such a decision. However, there is no justification in this case. The statement of reasons is important because you can see from it whether and what the prosecutor did and on what basis he reached his decision.

- Especially in cases where the perpetrator is a person from the circle of power, in this case the Minister of Justice and the General Prosecutor, i.e. the superior of all prosecutors, it is important to complete such formalities," Śmiszek tells "Wyborcza". He adds that he was treated in a similar way when he filed a notice of a possible crime by Jarosław Kaczyński, the chairman of the Law and Justice party (PiS), for his call to 'defend churches' against women's demonstrations after the Constitutional Tribunal's verdict on abortion. - I reported the crime of inciting violence. They also refused to investigate and also without justification,' emphasises Śmiszek.

The MP has already challenged both prosecution decisions in court.

[*Śmiszek filed the denunciation against Ziobra in late August.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26261431,nagroda-od-ziobry-dla-gminy-wolnej-od-lgbt-lewica-zawiadomia.html) Earlier - on 18 August - [*the leader of Solidarna Polska had demonstratively handed over money to six municipalities which had been refused grants from the'Town Twinning'programme by the* ***European*** *Commission.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26220481,nagroda-dla-gminy-wolnej-od-lgbt-nie-dostala-pieniedzy-z.html) It argued its decision on the grounds that these cities had passed so-called "anti-LGBT charters", which are contrary to the values on which the ***European Union*** is based.

The money that Ziobro "returned" to the municipalities was not large (it is an order of several hundred thousand zlotys), but the case is about principles. "In light of the current Polish law, making the said compensation is groundless and contrary to the regulations - reminded the Left MP. - The regulations clearly define what the money from this fund can be used for. These are:

1. helping people who have been the victims of crime and those closest to them.

2. post-penitentiary assistance to persons deprived of liberty, released from penitentiary institutions and remand centres and their relatives.

3. activities undertaken or entrusted by the Fund Dispatcher with the aim of

to support and develop the system of assistance to victims of crime and witnesses and post-penitentiary assistance, and to address the root causes of crime'.

Śmiszek stresses that the Justice Fund cannot finance projects that are not related to these objectives. And that Ziobra's behaviour "is not in conformity with EU law" because "the Treaty on ***European*** Union obliges, in accordance with the principle of loyal cooperation, to respect each other and to assist each other in carrying out tasks which flow from the Treaties, to facilitate the achievement of the Union's tasks and to refrain from taking any measure which could jeopardise the attainment of the Union's objectives".

As Śmiszek writes, "***The European Union*** does not tolerate discrimination and its aim is to combat it. The failure to grant funds to cities that violate the principle of anti-discrimination is a clear signal from the Union that the adoption of anti-LGBT charters is against Union law and such behaviour should be sanctioned. The Minister for Justice, by compensating for the funds not received by the municipalities, opposes the action of the Union and hinders the realisation of its objectives under the Treaties."

Independent media regularly report on Ziobra's misuse of money from the Justice Fund. This amounts to around PLN 400 million a year from financial penalties imposed on criminals and the confiscation of property.

When the Fund was established in 2011, the money from it was to be used to help victims and rehabilitate prisoners. Ziobro has "privatised" the Fund. Under his rule, it has financed, for example, fire brigades in municipalities in the electoral districts of Solidarna Polska MPs, the activities of foundations linked to the minister's party and church organisations (mainly Father Tadeusz Rydzyk). In 2019. PLN 30 million from the Fund was received by the CBA, which bought for it the Pegasus system for smartphone surveillance.

Ziobro granted himself the right to dispose of money from the Fund by a special decree.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Suits + Claims (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Moderna vaccines in Poland next week***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R54H-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

January 6, 2021 Wednesday

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**Length:** 527 words

**Byline:** Maciej Orłowski, Piotr Cieśliński

**Highlight:** Poland is expecting the first delivery of Moderna vaccines next week, the president of the Material Reserves Agency Michał Kuczmierowski told PAP. Today, a positive recommendation for the vaccine was issued by the ***European*** Medicines Agency.

**Body**

According to the [*Polish Press Agency*](https://www.pap.pl/aktualnosci/news%2C788457%2Cprezes-arm-w-przyszlym-tygodniu-spodziewamy-sie-pierwszej-dostawy), Poland will receive 29 thousand doses of Moderna vaccines in the first batch, according to the President of the Material Reserves Agency. The earliest they could appear in the country is 11 January. This is the second vaccine that will come to Poland. Currently, only preparations prepared by Pfizer and BioNTech are available.

[*Today,* ***the European*** *Medicines Agency (EMA) issued a positive recommendation for the marketing authorisation of Moderna's vaccine*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75400,26663237,europejska-agencja-lekow-wydala-pozytywna-opinie-o-szczepionce.html#S.DT-K.C-B.2-L.1.duzy). This means that any moment now the product will be approved by the ***European*** Commission. This is expected to happen later this week. The Moderna vaccine has already received approval in the US, the UK and Canada. ***The European Union*** has already ordered 160 million doses of the product.

The EMA reports that the efficacy of the vaccine was tested on nearly 28,000 volunteers aged 18 to 94 who had no signs of previous infection. Half received the vaccine, half a placebo. Of the 14,134 vaccinated, COVID-19 symptoms appeared in 11 people (with none becoming seriously ill). Of the 14,074 people in the placebo group, 185 became ill.

This means that the vaccine has an effectiveness of 94.1 per cent.

In [*its announcement, the EMA*](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/ema-recommends-covid-19-vaccine-moderna-authorisation-eu) also [*states*](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/ema-recommends-covid-19-vaccine-moderna-authorisation-eu) that the clinical trial showed that the vaccine protects people at risk of developing severe COVID-19, including patients with chronic lung disease, heart disease, obesity, liver disease, diabetes or HIV infection, with nearly 91% efficacy.

The most common side effects associated with the Moderna vaccine were usually mild to moderate and resolved within a few days after vaccination, reports the EMA. The most common of these side effects were pain and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, chills, fever, swollen lymph nodes under the armpit, headache, muscle and joint pain, nausea and vomiting.

Moderna's vaccine is based on pioneering mRNA technology (just like the first Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine, approved in the ***EU on*** 21 December and already being distributed). The difference is that [*Moderna's vaccine is easier to transport and distribute*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26624146,usa-szczepionka-moderny-zatwierdzona.html). This is because it can be stored for nearly 30 days at 2-8 degrees C (Pfizer's vaccine retains its properties for only five days after thawing) and up to six months at -20 degrees C (Pfizer's vaccine requires a temperature of about -70 degrees C).

This means that Moderna's vaccine can be stored in most refrigerators found in the equipment of pharmacies or medical outpatient clinics.

Moderna's vaccine also requires two doses given by injection into the arm. The second injection occurs 28 days after the first (in the case of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, after 21 days).

The Agency assures that the safety and efficacy of the vaccine will continue to be monitored as it is used across the ***EU as*** part of the EU drug and therapeutic safety surveillance system. Moderna will continue to test its vaccine and update its results over the next two years. Their aims include looking at how long the immunity gained after vaccination lasts, how effectively the vaccine protects children and immunocompromised patients, and whether it also prevents asymptomatic infections.

How Moderna's vaccine works:

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Film (65%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (65%); Mining + Extraction (65%)

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2021

**End of Document**

[***European Medicines Agency has authorised Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R548-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

January 6, 2021 Wednesday

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**Length:** 232 words

**Byline:** jagor, IAR

**Highlight: *The European*** Medicines Agency has authorised Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines. However, this is not the end of the procedures, because the final decision on the approval and release of preparations on the EU market must be made by the ***European*** Commission. Its chairwoman, Urusula von der Leyen, has already announced that she will do it without unnecessary delay.

**Body**

The head of the ***European*** Commission has announced the rapid approval of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines. The green light for final authorisation has been given by the ***European*** Medicines Agency.

"Good news in terms of our efforts to bring more coronavirus vaccines ***to Europeans***. ***European*** Medicines Agency has found Moderna's vaccines safe and effective," - Ursula von der Leyen wrote on Twitter.

***The European*** Medicines Agency wrote in a release that extensive clinical studies have shown that Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines are safe and can be administered to people over the age of 18. The studies also confirmed 94 per cent efficacy.

According to the agreement negotiated and signed with the ***European*** Commission on behalf of the EU countries, an American company is to supply 160 million doses of vaccines to the Community. The first batches will be sent to EU countries at the same time, on the same terms, in proportion to their populations.

Moderna is the second pharmaceutical company whose COVID-19 vaccines have received a positive assessment from ***the European*** Medicines Agency. Less than 3 weeks ago, preparations from the German-American company Pfizer and BionTech were approved. However, Moderna's vaccines are easier to transport and store because they do not require such low temperatures and instead of special refrigeration equipment, ordinary freezers will suffice.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (71%)

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (94%); Mining + Extraction (84%); Organic Chemicals (64%)

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2021

**End of Document**

[***European Medicines Agency will assess Moderna's vaccine today. "The benefits outweigh the risks".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R538-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

January 6, 2021 Wednesday

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**Length:** 253 words

**Byline:** jagor, IAR

**Highlight: *the European*** Medicines Agency will today assess Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines. It is highly likely that the assessment will be positive. Ultimately, however, it is up to the ***European*** Commission to approve the vaccines for them to enter the EU market.

**Body**

Experts from ***the European*** Medicines Agency met on Monday but made no decision, saying they still needed more time to analyse additional information on the vaccines sent by Moderna. On Tuesday, it was reported that the experts were clarifying all outstanding issues with the company.

If the agency gives the green light, then Moderna's coronavirus vaccine will be the second to hit the EU market. Pfizer and BionTech were the first to receive marketing authorisation for their formulation. - The evidence clearly shows that the benefits outweigh the risks of the vaccine, ***European*** Medicines Agency head Emer Cooke said on 21 December. The agency's experts are also already analysing information about work carried out by scientists from Oxford University and the AstraZeneca company. An evaluation of this vaccine can be expected next month at the earliest.

In total, the ***European*** Commission, on behalf of the EU countries, negotiated with six pharmaceutical companies for the supply of vaccines and contracted two billion doses. Recently, however, there have been negative comments that the whole process has been too slow and that the number of doses supplied to date has been insufficient. Germany's Der Spiegel reported several days ago that the Commission did not contract the maximum number of vaccines from Pfizer and BionTech due to pressure from France, which wanted part of the orders to go to domestic manufacturer Sanofi, which is still working on the product.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (64%); Military Weapons (64%); Securities + Other Investments (62%); Terrorist Organizations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Is EU not enough vaccines? Moderna's formulation gets the green light***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R54J-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

January 6, 2021 Wednesday

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**Length:** 896 words

**Byline:** Tomasz Bielecki, Brussels, Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** The hunt for the 'culprits' of the vaccine shortage is unfolding after the ***European*** Medicines Agency agreed to allow Moderna's vaccine to be used in the ***EU***. Brussels has a deal for 160 million doses from Moderna.

**Body**

The ***European*** Medicines Agency's (EMA) decision on Moderna was swiftly confirmed by the ***European*** Commission. This vaccine, which requires two doses to be administered, is already in use in the USA, Canada and was approved by Israel this week. However, the EU - as with the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine - has opted for a slightly longer "conditional approval" procedure, which, among other things, provides for strict monitoring of vaccination in advance, allows the product to be marketed (rather than for emergency, unlicensed use). And it does not exempt the manufacturer from civil liability.

***The European*** Commission last year reserved 160 million doses of Moderna for the entire EU, of which Poland has already ordered nearly 7 million (this is a share of the first tranche for the ***EU of*** 80 million doses). In addition, Brussels is currently discussing the possibility of increasing - and, according to Bloomberg, even doubling - the EU's order for the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine, which currently stands at 300 million doses. Only the bottleneck now is not the size of the order, but the production capacity of the pharmaceutical companies.

If BioNTech/Pfizer does not start additional production lines (beyond the one in Marburg, already planned for February), any additional orders of this vaccine for the Union would not start until the autumn.

Poland, for example, currently has a contract for 16.7 million doses from BioNTech/Pfizer, but is counting on only 4.6 million doses by the end of the first quarter, plus 0.8 million doses of Moderna and 0.4 million of CureVac vaccine from Tübingen, if the latter is approved for use.

Questions as to why Brussels did not order much more BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine already a few months ago first arose in Germany and even led to mutual accusations within the ruling coalition. But in recent days, voices have also been raised in Poland that "Brussels" negotiated too few vaccines.

But what exactly is 'Brussels' in this case? - ***The European*** Commission is accompanied in the negotiations with the pharmaceutical companies by a "steering board" composed of representatives from the ***EU*** countries. It reads the reports of the negotiating group, gives direction, gives guidance. All countries were therefore consulted on the number of doses to be reserved, explained Stefan de Keersmaecker, the ***European*** Commission's health spokesman, yesterday.

The Commission, which has so far negotiated a total of around two billion doses of vaccines from six different companies, is defending a common EU strategy. - The EU negotiated with pharmaceutical companies under conditions of uncertainty as to which vaccines would be effective and safe. That is why from the beginning we focused on building a mixed portfolio," says a Commission spokesperson.

The Commission last year poured some ***€2***.1 billion (and asked member states for another ***€750*** million) in lump sum payments for future vaccines to six companies, essentially a form of investment to speed up research and testing of their products with no guarantee that any would pan out. The contracts were signed last autumn, when preliminary assessments of vaccines at the EMA had not even been carried out yet.

- And some experts doubted as recently as October the success of mRNA vaccines, which had not previously been approved for mass use anywhere, de Keersmaecker explained this week. Meanwhile, BioNTech/Pfizer, Moderna and CureVac vaccines are based on mRNA technology.

There have been accusations in the German media that the Commission did not order more of the "German" BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine in order to make room, under pressure from Paris, for the "French" Sanofi/GSK (300 million doses), whose project actually ran into trouble later on and whose application for approval cannot be expected until the autumn at the earliest. - These accusations are unacceptable and false, protests French ***EU*** Minister Clément Beaune.

Anyway, an order for a total of 405 million doses from Germany's CureVac does not fit the theory of Paris' insistence on a balance of "German" and "French" doses in the ***European*** Commission's negotiations. This company has announced that it can produce up to 300 million doses by the end of this year, and since it does not intend to apply for approval on the US market (it explains this by its "saturation"), almost everything should stay in ***Europe***.

Requiring two doses, CureVac vaccines are easier to distribute - they can be kept at up to 5 degrees for up to three months and at room temperature for up to 24 hours.

For a long time the favourite in the vaccine race seemed to be the AstraZeneca/Oxford formulation (Brussels has a contract for 400 million doses) - easy in temperature and several times cheaper than mRNA type vaccines, which probably also played a role in constructing the EU vaccine portfolio. But it looks like the EMA - due to lack of sufficient data - will decide not to recommend this vaccine before February (and the US before April), although it is already used in the UK.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who had to explain in parliament this week about the late start of vaccinations in the Netherlands (the first prick was only yesterday), admitted that one of the reasons may have been to insist for too long on a scenario where the first and fairly widely available vaccine would be AstraZeneca/Oxford. ***European*** Council chief Charles Michel has announced an ***EU*** tele-summit in January on vaccines, the huge supply of which to the Union should - as Brussels had already announced in the autumn - only get under way in earnest from April.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (70%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Dworczyk on Moderna vaccines: about 840,000 doses should arrive by the end of March***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R54N-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

January 6, 2021 Wednesday

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**Length:** 211 words

**Byline:** Edyta Roś/PAP

**Highlight:** Around 840,000 doses of Moderna vaccine should reach Poland by the end of March; still in January nearly 70,000 units of the company's vaccine should reach us, head of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, government plenipotentiary for vaccines Michał Dworczyk told PAP on Wednesday.

**Body**

***The European*** Medicines Agency (EMA) on Wednesday issued a positive opinion on the ***EU*** marketing authorisation of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine. The opinion is non-binding and the final marketing approval is taken by the ***European*** Commission.

EC chief Ursula von der Leyen tweeted on Wednesday that the EC was working "at full speed" to get the vaccine approved and available in the ***EU***.

Asked by PAP when the vaccine would reach Poland and in what quantities, Dworczyk said that "around 840,000 doses of Moderna vaccine should reach Poland by the end of March. - Still in January, nearly 70,000 units of the company's vaccine should reach us," the head of the KPRM added.

He also pointed out how this vaccine is stored. - It does not need deep-freezing to -70 degrees. At a temperature between 2 and 8 degrees it can be stored for 30 days. Therefore, it can actually be transported and stored in a slightly lower regime than the Pfizer vaccine,' Dworczyk said.

President of the Material Reserves Agency Michał Kuczmierowski told PAP that the first delivery of Moderna vaccines, which will amount to around 29,000 doses, is due to arrive in Poland next week.

Coronavirus: all updated information and recommendations on [*gov.pl*](https://www.gov.pl/)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Human Rights Violations (74%); Weapons + Arms (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Medicine + Health (65%); Arms Control + Disarmament (62%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (63%)

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Mass complaints to Strasbourg? Women complain to Poland for the abortion verdict***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PM-01M1-JCVT-R533-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

January 6, 2021 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1170 words

**Byline:** Łukasz Woźnicki

**Highlight:** - It is time to protest by legal means. We all send complaints to ***the European*** Court of Human Rights - calls the Federation for Women and Family Planning. Women are complaining to Poland for the CT ruling resulting in a ban on abortion due to foetal abnormalities.

**Body**

The complaint was prepared by lawyers from the Federation for Women and Family Planning (Federa), which fights for women's rights. The first three complaints were sent to Strasbourg by women who asked for Federa's help after the October ruling of the Constitutional Court.

The [*Constitutional*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,162657,26422483,nie-dla-zaostrzenia-zakazu-aborcji-polki-protestuja-w-czasie.html) Tribunal, at the request of the MPs of the Law and Justice party (PiS), ruled that the provisions permitting abortion on the grounds of fetal abnormality [*are contrary to the Constitution*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,162657,26422483,nie-dla-zaostrzenia-zakazu-aborcji-polki-protestuja-w-czasie.html). The judgment, once published, will in practice deprive Polish women of the right to abortion, since foetal abnormalities account for over 90% of legal abortions.

"The women who have approached us are of reproductive age and plan to have children, but are afraid of changes in the law. Lack of access to abortion for fetal defects is dangerous for their life and health, it takes away their agency. Therefore, for the time being they stopped thinking about having children, but they did not want to remain passive. Our lawyers helped them prepare their complaints". - Federa describes.

Complaints are addressed to the ***European*** Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, which investigates human rights violations in Council of ***Europe*** countries. Proceedings before the ECtHR are conducted by correspondence, and filing a complaint involves only a visit to the post office. Therefore, Federa has made a model complaint available online so that other women in a similar situation can also file a complaint.

"We all go to the post office and send a complaint to the ***European*** Court of Human Rights, each in her own name! It's time to protest by legal means," reads the [*website of the action called "Women's Complaint".*](https://skargakobiet.eu/)

The organisers are hoping for a mass movement in defence of the rights of Polish women - a mass sending of complaints to Strasbourg. "The substantive part is ready. All you have to do is fill in the form. You don't have to travel anywhere, you don't have to apply in person anywhere. You don't have to pay any fees". - they instruct.

The women are suing Poland for "potential" violations of two articles of ***the European*** Convention on Human Rights.

Potential, because the complainants were not denied the right to abortion after the judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal, but the judgment itself is to have an impact on their current situation. - The victim may be not only the person whose rights have been violated, but also the person whose rights are threatened - according to the ECHR rulings.

Women complain precisely as such 'potential victims' who, when they become pregnant and are diagnosed with fetal defects, may be forced to carry the pregnancy to term. "The complainant is currently under stress and fear of becoming pregnant. Forcing her to give birth to a stillborn child or one burdened with a disease is unbearable for her," - reads the complaint.

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment," - states Article 3 of the Convention, a potential violation of which Poland alleges.

"The need to carry the pregnancy to term and the knowledge that she will give birth to a seriously ill child, combined with the legal impossibility of seeking a termination of the pregnancy, exposes the applicant to suffering, stress, humiliation and a sense of powerlessness, as well as other consequences that are difficult to foresee at the present time," - it reads. "And in the case of a pregnancy with a lethal defect, the applicant will have to carry the pregnancy with the full knowledge that she will give birth to a child who will soon die."

The women also complain that Poland violated their right to respect for private and family life, which the authorities may interfere with only in exceptional situations. Here, according to the applicants, there is interference contrary to the standards arising from the Convention, because it is incompatible with the law.

"The actions of the TC in issuing the ruling were unlawful," - reads the complaint.

The authors of the petition note that the verdict of the Constitutional Tribunal was issued, among others, by persons not entitled to adjudicate - three so-called "doubles" elected by the Law and Justice party to the duly filled vacant seats of the Constitutional Tribunal judges. The adjudicating panel was chaired by Julia Przyłębska, who was appointed President of the Tribunal in violation of the Act on the Constitutional Tribunal. The case was also heard by Krystyna Pawłowicz, although - as a PiS MP - she had supported an analogous earlier application to the TC on abortion. "The ruling was therefore not issued by an impartial body," we read.

The uncertain legal situation after the suspension of the publication of the judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal by the Prime Minister's Office is also said to violate the Convention. The Government Legislation Centre is not announcing the verdict due to nationwide protests, although according to the constitution verdicts of the Constitutional Tribunal are announced immediately.

"An unregulated state of affairs has arisen characterised by uncertainty as to what the applicant's legal position is. On the one hand, there is a judgment which has been delivered and publicly announced. On the other hand, the unlawful lack of publication creates uncertainty as to its status," wrote the authors of the complaint. They note that after the CT verdict some hospitals started to stop performing abortions due to fetal defects in order not to expose doctors to imprisonment.

The action of sending complaints to Strasbourg is called "unprecedented" by its organisers. "If successful, it has a chance to influence the abortion law in our country and, as a result, save a lot of women from suffering". - they argue.

The ECtHR can theoretically order Poland to pay damages. The Polish authorities may be obliged to remove the causes of the found violation. But there is a long way to go. At present it is not known whether the complaints will pass the first review in the Court - whether the ECtHR will consider them admissible and accept them for examination.

- I understand the reasons why the NGO seeks international paths for the protection of women. Women have been put in a very difficult situation and today it is not known what the legal status of abortion will be - says Dr Marcin Szwed, who deals with precedent-setting cases at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. - I think, however, that proving the admissibility of this complaint may be difficult. I do not want to prejudge that this complaint has no chance, although from a legal point of view it may be a problem - he says.

According to the lawyer, the main problem concerns the status of the victim. - Demonstrating that we are dealing with a victim can be problematic," he says. Usually, a complaint to the ECHR is filed by a victim whose rights have been violated in a specific way. - Here the complaint is filed by a person who has not even become pregnant. Besides, the ECtHR judgment has not yet been published, so it is difficult to argue that it has had any effect. The situation would be different if we were dealing with a person whose hospital had actually refused to perform an abortion - says Dr Szwed.

What about "potential victims" whose complaints have already been examined by the Court? - Indeed, the ECtHR has already relied on the concept of "potential victim", although this has occurred in exceptional situations. I have my doubts that the Court would refer to it in this case. This would significantly expand the possibility of complaints. It seems to me that, for strategic reasons, the ECtHR may not want to go this way - says the lawyer.

- But I do not want to prejudge. Recently, the Court announced an action by Portuguese citizens against 33 countries. This was based on an allegation of violation of the Convention as a result of excessive greenhouse gas emissions by those countries. It would seem that in that case we are not dealing with classic direct victims either, and yet the case was not rejected at the preliminary stage,' he adds.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (80%); Human Rights Violations (71%); Terrorist Organizations (69%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%)

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Henryk Wujec: One cannot succumb to the temptation of contempt. You have to go to people and talk***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F01T-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 2345 words

**Byline:** Dorota Wysocka-Schnepf

**Highlight:** We recall Dorota Wysocka-Schnepf's conversation with Henryk Wujec, physicist, participant in the Round Table talks and opposition activist during the communist era.

**Body**

This interview was recorded on 5 June 2019.

Dorota Wysocka-Schnepf: Do you see a parallel between the situation before the elections in 1989 and 30 years later, today?

Henryk Wujec: When I was in Gdańsk now, I saw a certain analogy. There, in fact, such a climate was created, perhaps even further back, to the times of "Solidarity", because regardless of the size of the movement, in "Solidarity" there was such a climate of friendship beyond states, beyond differences of situation.

Friendship in counterbalance?

- Friendships between each other in opposition to this authoritarian power. But there wasn't some need for revenge there either. We wanted to remove that power, but rather we felt that we would do so because we were a community. And somehow, as John Paul II said: carry each other's burdens. This climate was again in Gdańsk, in various places, because it was a very extensive event. And one could say that Gdańsk has something like this, a sense of freedom, this free wind from the sea. I speak a little figuratively, but that is how it really was. There were various people there - leaders and presidents, but there were also many people who came from all over Poland, as if attracted by the magnetism of the need to meet, to be together, to repeat a little of their memories from the times of 1980, 1981, 1989. It was difficult to leave. Thousands of people completely unknown wanted to talk. And that was something cool, I think people need something like that.

In his speech yesterday, Donald Tusk, when talking about 1989 and the elections, referred, at the same time, to 1988 and to the hopelessness that reigned then and the lack of faith that victory could be won, and victory was, after all, just around the corner. Do you see similarities here?

- It is worth reminding people of this, because they would like tomorrow to be better. And he is annoyed that it has not happened yet. Many people who have had enough of the "good change" and the lies that are being spread on television - just like in the times of the People's Republic of Poland or even worse - would like this change. We should remember the period of martial law, which lasted a long time and the end was really terrible. In the sense of such a feeling of hopelessness. All methods we used to force the authorities to agree to free and legal activity of "Solidarity" turned out to be unsuccessful. The wave of strikes which Solidarity had prepared with great effort turned out to be a failure. All the strikes were lost. And that is why such hopelessness prevailed at that time.

It is a bit like how the opposition may feel today after those lost ***Europarliamentary*** elections.

- It is difficult to compare everything, but there was one thing - some people thought then, and there are such voices now, that in principle Solidarity is over. The later prime minister Jan Olszewski, then one of the main advisers, said: "'Solidarity' is no more. All we have left is Lech Wałęsa". That is what he said then. So there was a feeling that we had lost this great cause. But as it turned out, John Paul II came to us in 1987. And it was there, near Gdańsk, in Zaspa, that there was such a large meeting, a mass. And in his message to us, the word "solidarity" was never far from his lips, in the sense of values, in the sense of our obligatory attitude - solidarity, solidarity, solidarity. And then we really felt that we had no other thing than "Solidarity". So there was something similar here - that there was also a need to return to those values which had shaped us to a large extent. And that the case is still winnable.

And that television we mentioned...

- It is awful.

...This propaganda today, however, is effective.

- Yes, because in such rural areas there is only TV One and radio One. I'm from the countryside and it reminds me a bit of how it was in our county - at the beginning there was only the so-called kolkhoz, or Radio One. It broadcast in one place for the whole district and that's all we listened to. So we were really flooded with lies. Now it is even more so in Poland that what is important is not said at all. I listened to Radio Three and there was no news at all, not a word about Gdańsk. Some completely ridiculous information to cover up this great event. So as not to tell the truth about it. But it seems to me that, just like then, this propaganda finally lost out, lost out to the need for freedom. What Havel wrote: "The power of the powerless". We are powerless, but we have our strength. That strength is the truth and the need for freedom and the rule of law. And the need for honesty, for mutual trust. Everything that others say, that you can lie, that you can cheat, that you can refuse - in the short term, they will win. But in the long run they will lose. And I think that feeling was there too. Well, the Prime Minister himself, when he walks by and is greeted by the President, and he doesn't see it - it's so arrogant that I don't want to believe it.

Just how to break through this propaganda in this very village? How do we get through to the people?

- Mr Tusk said it well. There is no other way - you have to go to these people and talk. There were different people even there. It's not just supporters of, say, the ***European*** Coalition. There were different people, I spoke to one man who said this: "For me, the symbol of professed values is Andrzej Gwiazda, and the symbol of courage is Kornel Morawiecki. But I also want to talk to you, I also value you'. Because people are not one-dimensional. Propaganda is one-dimensional, people are not one-dimensional. So there is no other way, you have to go to them. We came up with that idea a long time ago, 40 years ago, when we went to help workers in Ursus and Radom. That turned out to be a breakthrough. And it always turns out that way. Because there is also such a temptation of contempt - "aaa, they are hopeless, they only want money, etc.". This is terrible. You can't talk like that either. People have a need to live better, that's normal. But that doesn't mean they are one-dimensional. You have to go to them, you have to convince them, you have to talk to them, sometimes you have to listen to unpleasant things. It's a long action, but it wins in the end.

It is good, then, that local government officials, those winning mayors, declared yesterday that they would join in this campaign and commit themselves with all their might?

- They and not only them. It should be said that self-government is an extremely important element. It is one of our great successes that this self-government was established in 1990, so less than a year after the elections on 4 June. And this self-government was created on the basis of civic committees, or in other words these Solidarity bodies. But there were also many people from non-governmental organisations in Gdańsk. For me, because I still feel the pressure of the "Solidarity" times, it is very important that many people went out to do various social activities. There are many needs. And neither the state nor the local government can exhaust it in any way, only the people themselves. These NGOs are such a social fabric and there was an attempt to combine these social organisations with local governments. I was at such a conference and there is an announcement of cooperation. This was missing in our period. There was hope only for large institutions - the state and local governments. Of course, this is very much needed, but also this network of people. We need to create conditions for them to act so that they can feel satisfaction that they are doing good things. Take the problem of the disabled. I went to the Sejm when they were there. They lost, in a way. Because Morawiecki has promised them something now, but so far there are no specifics.

Same with teachers.

- Yes. But socially I think they won. Many people have understood how difficult their situation is and that they are empowered. The sympathy with which they are sometimes met on the streets, or even with enthusiasm, shows that this social fabric is often decisive. And cooperation between local authorities and social organisations is also a hope and a way forward. It just needs to be implemented. And there are many such people.

But are you not concerned that there are, unfortunately, more people for whom this 500 plus, this 13th pension, is more important? This living cash flowing into their wallets?

- No, I do not think it is more important. It is the case that improvements have been made for a great many people, and that has to be understood. This is a certain basis. However, thinking is not so strictly determined by the financial allowance. It is influenced by many elements. It seems to me that we need to make this move, to go to the people. There is still a lot of time. This is a longer process. We started in 1976, and it was only in 1980 that "Solidarity" was established. Four years.

You mentioned that the government media were silent yesterday about the celebrations in Gdańsk. But remember, a year ago it was even worse, because we learned from the 'news' that 4 June is a symbol of betrayal and collusion of the elites.

- That is what it is. Things have changed here and this is also very interesting. At the conference, where Lech Wałęsa and both presidents spoke - Kwaśniewski and Komorowski - a letter from President Duda was also read out. It was read by Zofia Romaszewska, whom I know well from my time in the Workers' Defence Committee. In that letter there was recognition of 4 June. President Duda also seemed to have matured, to see that it was an important event.

But he personally did not go to Gdansk.

- In my opinion, he was simply afraid. He was afraid. There was Zofia Romaszewska and Minister Kolarski, and they had to withstand a certain amount of pressure there. Many people openly expressed their criticism. That is also good. They come into contact with a world that is critical of what is being implemented. So it seems to me that the awareness and conviction that this is such a great holiday has been consolidated, that in fact the Third Republic has no greater one. Because there are older ones - the 3rd of May Constitution, the 11th of November Independence Day - but they are from the past. And our holiday is the 4th of June. I'm from a generation that doesn't like celebrating too much. We like working, but we don't like celebrating too much (laughs). But we said that there should be a grassroots celebration, for example in my family backyard we have been organising this holiday for 10 years. On the 2nd or 3rd of June - it depends how it falls, whether it's Saturday or Sunday. And we celebrate. All the people come out, they set up tables, everyone brings something, it really is a celebration of the backyard (laughs).

But maybe it was a mistake that for these 30 years this holiday has been insufficiently cared for and now it is so easy for the Law and Justice party to push it away?

- I agree that this is a mistake, but we also have to take into account the human psyche. We have had enough of all these celebrations. We were fed up with all these festivities, these academies, these artificial manifestations. Now, this natural celebration is starting to reach people. After all, these people didn't come to Gdańsk and get a piece of sausage or 500 plus for it, they came because they wanted to celebrate. So, in my opinion, June 4th is a victory here. There is a need for this holiday.

You are wearing a T-shirt with that distinctive poster from 30 years ago. This Gary Cooper has become deeply embedded in our memory and consciousness. Another graphic symbol from those times is the photo with Lech Wałęsa, which the candidates took for themselves. Today, who would you take such a picture with before the election? Who, in your opinion, would be such an icon?

- You know, you can't, it has to be Lech Wałęsa (laughs). We have no other world icon. Yesterday, in fact, we did such a thing in Gdańsk, because together with several people, including Ludwika Wujec, we were preparing a meeting of OKP, that is, elected deputies and senators. Because what was 4 June - it was elections. As a result, a Solidarity club was elected, which was called OKP. We invited everybody who could come. And people wanted to take a picture with Wałęsa again! Walesa sat on the stage, and took pictures of himself. I also have a photo with him, I sent it to the Internet with the caption: "Physicist with an electrician", because I am a physicist and Walesa is an electrician (laughs). There is no such world icon as Lech Walesa at the moment. In my opinion, we haven't yet perfected such a new icon. But the old one is good enough (laughs).

But for this next election in October, a picture with Walesa or rather a picture with Tusk?

- No, I would not go down that road of pictures. This is a call for Tusk to be active - yes, that is right.

We just live in such a pictorial reality. And very often words do not reach people as strongly as images do.

- It seems to me that the icons that have now broken through are - firstly - the Constitution... Do I have it here or not? [looks for a pin in his jacket lapel]. No, it disappeared somewhere.

It does not.

- My constitution is not here today. I have lost my constitution (laughter).

There is Solidarity.

- And there is the ***European Union***, the ***European*** flag. People have understood this, too, and even the other side has understood. After all, it, too, celebrates the ***European Union***. Previously, the flags were thrown away, but now they are there. So it seems to me that both the constitution, in the sense of the rule of law, of a system in which we have confidence, in the truth, in the law, and ***the European Union*** as a system of primary, Christian and free values - these are the symbols. I would not personalise this for the time being, but personalities can be used. I do not know how Tusk will behave, but it seems to me that at the moment he will support, but he will rather not get directly involved in the elections. This is because he has some ***European*** issues on his mind.

And these values of which you speak - do you believe that they can win in October after all? Unlike in the last elections?

- They can, absolutely they can! Here Tusk is right. You must never give up. There is a song from my youth: "Sometimes we were at the bottom, but none of us complained, because our world does not like tears". It seems to me that the sense of community that existed in Gdansk radiates, and it's as if I came back from there a little bit charged. This battery has been recharged a bit. I do not know how it will go on, how the energy that appeared there will be used, but when I listened to the representatives of local governments and non-governmental, social organisations - and these are people who work every day not for profit, without money, for the public good - they will not rest.

You exude optimism and let that be the punch line of this conversation.

- Not optimism. Realism.

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Henryk Wujec died on 15 August. He was 79 years old.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices (84%); Film (81%); Securities + Other Investments (75%); Medical Devices + Equipment (68%); Company Activities + Management (64%)

**Industry:** Mining + Extraction (94%); Organic Chemicals (88%); Harbors + Ports (81%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (81%); Insurance (63%); Movie Industry (62%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The EC proposes to Poland more than 11 billion euro to preserve jobs. Only two EU will receive more***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F03M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 284 words

**Byline:** JaM/ISBnews

**Highlight: *the European*** Commission has proposed an ***€11***.2 billion low-interest loan under the SURE facility to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Only Spain and Italy can count on more support.

**Body**

- We must do everything in our power to protect jobs and livelihoods. Today we have taken an important step in that direction. Just four months after I proposed the creation of SURE, the Commission proposes to allocate ***€*** 81.4 billion under this instrument to protect jobs and workers affected by the Coronavirus pandemic across the ***EU***," said ***European*** Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Individual ***European*** Union Member States are to receive assistance in the form of low-interest loans. The funds may be used for expenses related to reducing working hours or other measures taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the SURE instrument, all Member States can receive financial support totalling up to ***EUR*** 100 billion. The proposals for financial support decisions presented by the Commission to the Council total ***EUR*** 81.4 billion and cover 15 Member States.

Poland will be one of the largest beneficiaries of this instrument. The EC offered us ***EUR*** 11.2 billion in loans. Only Italy and Spain may count on more - they are to receive ***EUR*** 27.4 billion and ***EUR*** 21.3 billion respectively.

In terms of other countries, the breakdown of funds is as follows: Belgium (***€7***.8 billion), Bulgaria (€511 million), Czech Republic (***€2 billion)***, Greece (***€2***.7 billion), Croatia (***€1*** billion), Cyprus (€479 million), as well as Latvia (***€192 million),*** Lithuania (***€602 million),*** Malta (€244 million), Romania (€4 billion), Slovakia (***€631*** million) and Slovenia (***€1***.1 billion). In addition, Portugal and Hungary have also applied for aid. Other member states may also do so.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Government Departments + Authorities (93%); National Debt (87%); Public Debt (87%); Goods + Services Trade Balance (80%); Securities + Other Investments (77%); Wages + Salaries (75%); State Owned Businesses (67%); Exchange Rates (65%); Crowdsourcing (63%); ***European Union*** (63%); Government + Public Administration (62%); Social Security (61%)

**Industry:** Checking + Savings Accounts (69%); Insurance (68%); Budgets (64%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A smiling Zbigniew Ziobro. Is that a good thing?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F02J-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1855 words

**Byline:** Ryszard Hylasz

**Highlight:** And why is there a smile on the usually gloomy face of Minister Ziobra? I can only speculate that it is complacency about his own cunning, although a more appropriate word in this context would be cunning, the affliction of people with questionable morals and exuberant egos.

**Body**

In the current press I see a picture of a self-satisfied Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Zbigniew Tadeusz Ziobra, MA, a graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Jagiellonian University. The same university, whose staff demanded in mid-June that disciplinary action be taken against Andrzej Sebastian Duda, PhD in law, who occupies (ad litteram) the seat of President of the Republic of Poland and was previously undersecretary of state in the Chancellery of President Lech Kaczyński. Quoting after "Gazeta Wyborcza" of 15 June:

[*"Andrzej Duda has insulted the good name of the university and violated the dignity of its members," according to UJ employees and demand that the university authorities take disciplinary action against the president, who is also an employee of the university."*](https://krakow.wyborcza.pl/krakow/7,44425,26034563,andrzej-duda-szerzy-nienawisc-pracownicy-uj-domagaja-sie.html)

Employees of the Jagiellonian University thus expressed their opposition to Andrzej Duda for inciting a spiral of hatred towards people from LGBT communities during the presidential campaign. It would seem that this loud voice of the academic community should be heard in the government, in the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, and in the Ministry of Justice, to stop at just these institutions. One might have hoped that this voice would have prompted the person called to the blackboard to reflect, to think, to have the [*common decency that Professor Władysław Bartoszewski once called for*](https://wyborcza.pl/magazyn/1,124059,19296878,wladyslaw-bartoszewski-warto-byc-przyzwoitym-nawet-w-najgorszych.html).

You will probably ask what the photograph of Zbigniew Ziobra has to do with the demand for disciplinary action against Andrzej Duda. So I will explain.

A smiling minister could be seen on the screens and in the press all over Poland, the minister announcing that municipalities which have been deprived of EU subsidies because of the promulgation and signing of homophobic resolutions and [*declarations on the establishment of so-called LGBT-free zones on their territories will receive compensation from the Justice Fund at the disposal of the Minister of Justice.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26220481,nagroda-dla-gminy-wolnej-od-lgbt-nie-dostala-pieniedzy-z.html)

And why the smile on the usually gloomy face of Minister Ziobra? I can only speculate that it is complacency about his own cunning, although a more appropriate word in this context would be cunning, the affliction of people with questionable morals and inflated egos.

And there you have it, the "real Poles" and the opponents of LGBT rejoice, having been subjected to propaganda treatment beforehand, culminating in the election campaign, continued today by the purple priests, the inferior clergy and the docile politicians. But do they really have anything to rejoice about?

The decision to deprive homophobic municipalities of subsidies was intended by EU decision-makers to have, above all, an educative aspect. This decision was supposed to cause the sobering up of communal homophobes who let themselves be carried away by the current of hatred towards the LGBT circles propagated by the media favourable to the government, and in fact by the current of hatred towards other Poles, fellow citizens, and not by ideology, as President Andrzej Duda and the episcopate would like to see it. This was a signal from Brussels as to where the limit of similar behaviour lies.

Contrary to the presidential declarations made on election night, and contrary to the presidential daughter's appeal for the acceptance of all Poles, regardless of their views and orientations, Zbigniew Ziobro's decision is a perfect example of the kind of policy towards LGBT circles that the Law and Justice government actually pursues.

The transfer of funds from the Justice Fund to homophobic municipalities, in addition to the fact that it significantly exceeds the expected EU subsidies, is a clear signal to those local government officials who, fearing the loss of EU funds, have refrained from adopting resolutions on 'LGBT-free zones'. The Minister of Justice's message to these local government officials is clear; it is even an encouragement to pass such resolutions. You can trivialise ***the EU***, Ziobro gives more.

I am convinced that Brussels will read Ziobra's decision in the same way. However, the conclusions will be somewhat different there than in Poland. For if the government, in the person of the Minister for Justice, has the means to reward the homophobic and hateful behaviour of local authorities, money placed in uncontrolled funds, this means that the Polish Government has too much money at its disposal in general, especially now, when [***Europe*** *is struggling with the Covid-19 pandemic,*](https://biqdata.wyborcza.pl/biqdata/7,159116,25755719,koronawirus-w-europie-i-na-swiecie-mapy.html?_ga=2.152576633.1900398072.1598248933-1490150789.1597695504#S.Poradniki-K.C-B.3-L.1.zw) and Polish hospitals lack money for protective measures, equipment and additional staff.

In this context, this is a very dangerous signal sent to Brussels by a Polish government minister at a time when decisions are being taken on the distribution of EU budget funds for the coming years. Zbigniew Ziobro's decision, which has not been fully thought through, may result in cuts in funding for Poland. Will Minister Ziobro then find the missing millions in the Justice Fund to compensate for lost money, or will he again point the finger at Brussels, which supposedly does not understand Poland's special position?

I am leaving aside the moral aspect of Ziobra's decision. For the right-wing governments in Poland, morale and honour are words that are deeply upsetting. I ceased to have any illusions about this after the first violation of the Polish Constitution by President Andrzej Duda, the Constitution he took an oath on. If I still had any doubts after that, they were dispelled by the sight of the President, the Prime Minister and senior officials of the ruling party marching hand in hand with nationalists and fascists along the main streets of the capital in so-called 'independence marches'.

There remains the legal aspect of Minister Ziobra's decision. For this purpose, I refer to the information on the fund on the website sponsored by the Ministry of Justice Department of the Justice Fund: [*https://www.funduszsprawiedliwosci.gov.pl/pl/o-funduszu-sprawiedliwosci/*](https://www.funduszsprawiedliwosci.gov.pl/pl/o-funduszu-sprawiedliwosci/)

Rubbing my eyes in surprise I read:

"The Fund for Victims' Assistance and Post-Penitentiary Assistance, hereinafter referred to as the Justice Fund, is a targeted fund aimed at assisting victims and witnesses, preventing crime and post-penitentiary assistance. The Minister of Justice is the dispenser of the Justice Fund."

It seems clear, the aim is noble. It goes on to say that "the detailed rules for providing aid and grants under the Fund have been laid down by order of the Minister of Justice".

Reading again, nothing changes - Minister of Justice. Minister Ziobro clarified the list of beneficiaries in a regulation he signed on 13 September 2017. The full range of assistance provided under the Justice Fund is listed in OJ. § 36–37 i § 39.

On the Justice Fund website we can read that "the Fund's resources are allocated to:

and post-penitentiary assistance, as well as tackling the causes of crime, consisting in particular of:

I am reading again, sentence by sentence. Not a word about the possibility of transferring money accumulated in the fund, and coming from the budget, i.e. largely from taxes, for "compensation" for municipalities and towns which have been refused subsidies by the ***European Union*** because of scandalous resolutions by local government officials. Not even a suggestion or allusion in this direction.

With a large measure of tolerance for Minister Ziobra's decision, I am trying to find the features of a crime in the decision of officials from Brussels. According to the logic of Minister Ziobra, the administrator of the fund, is it a crime not to award grants as a result of the hateful and disgraceful resolutions of local government officials, resolutions which, in my opinion, exclude the signatories from the circle of decent and civilised people?

Because only then would it be possible to support Ziobra's decision with some stretched argument. Or perhaps, and I am not aware of this, justice as understood by Ziobra is different from justice as commonly understood, including by me.

Perhaps his 'pain is greater than mine', to paraphrase a song popularised after J. Kaczyński's visit to Powązki. Maybe the minister noticed the crime, which was invisible to me, and decided to activate the measures. Maybe the victim of this heinous crime, the municipality of Tuchów, "simply deserves it," to quote the words of an ***MEP*** from Brzeszcze.

How else can one explain the decision of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Zbigniew Tadeusz Ziobro, Master of Legal Studies. If Ziobro has spent money contrary to the decree he signed, then this is a reprehensible breach of the law in force, an embezzlement of public funds and nepotism.

If, in my naivety and good faith, I believed once again in the independence of the prosecution service and the courts in Poland, and if the Prosecutor General were not here to judge his own case, I should report to the nearest public prosecutor's office on the possibility that the Minister of Justice, Zbigniew Tadeusz Ziobra, has committed a crime by abusing his position and embezzling public funds.

I am, however, surprised that the President of NIK has not initiated an ex officio inspection of the Ministry of Justice in this appalling case, as he has his political opponents in his sights. I am also surprised that the broadly understood opposition, which usually sleeps between elections and has far greater opportunities, is so calmly ignoring this fact.

A good lawyer could accuse Minister Ziobra of fostering and even inciting social hatred. Here, however, it would be necessary to go back to the genesis of the case, that is to say to the events preceding the election campaign.

The testing of public reactions to the LGBT trial balloon launched by Andrzej Duda, the passivity of those in power to the events in Białystok, the silence of responsible officials to the verbal attacks on LGBT circles oozing out in the sermons of some clergymen and in the speeches of prominent government officials are the bricks in the spiral of hatred. Zbigniew Ziobro has added his own.

The effect of this top-down propaganda is precisely the aforementioned disgraceful declarations and resolutions by local government officials. The morale of the present government is low, which is confirmed by numerous unsolved scandals involving politicians from the party in power. Ziobra's decision is part of this trend of declining moral values and declining ethos of serving the public. The illegal refunding of unallocated EU funds to municipalities is indirectly supporting homophobic or even racist attitudes, and is funding and promoting intolerance and discrimination based on origin, faith, skin colour, or sexual orientation, resulting in violence in the streets against people stigmatised by politicians and the clergy.

Zbigniew Ziobro's message is being received by pro-PiS and clerical circles just as Minister Ziobro, the administrator of the Justice Fund, expected. The signal has been understood. The eye winked at homophobic local government officials by the minister was noticed and reciprocated. Tuchowo was followed by Wielun in the queue for ministerial 'compensation'. Other signatories of the shameful resolutions are probably still considering the profit and loss account. Is it worth reaching out for taxpayers' money, illegally distributed by Minister Ziobra, or is it better to withdraw from the compromising resolutions, counting on future EU subsidies.

I am convinced that this very clear signal sent by the Polish Minister of Justice, Mr Zbigniew Tadeusz Ziobra, has also been noticed in Brussels, and that it will be properly "appreciated" and reciprocated there as well.

We are waiting for your letters, opinions and comments. Wyborcza is you. [*Listy@wyborcza.pl*](mailto:listy@wyborcza.pl)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (78%); Human Rights Violations (71%); Torture (70%); Film (65%); Terrorist Organizations (63%); Company Activities + Management (62%); Espionage (61%); Law Courts + Tribunals (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (65%); Mining + Extraction (65%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***We demand respect for human and civil rights in Belarus - statement of the Polish PEN Club***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F01M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 314 words

**Byline:** PEN Club

**Highlight:** In the face of the uprising, in the face of ominous predictions of a brutal crackdown, in the face of the suffering and death of those who were tortured, but also in the face of the great, commonly demonstrated will for a peaceful return to the rule of law and democracy in a civilised ***European*** country - we must not remain silent - writes the Polish PEN Club in its statement on the situation in Belarus

**Body**

For many days, [*protests have been taking place in Belarus against fraud in the presidential elections*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26232652,nowa-bialorus-pod-takim-haslem-w-minsku-trwa-kolejny-antyrezimowy.html). The officially announced, blatantly false results are not recognised by a huge section of the population and the international community, including the ***European Union***.

For a quarter of a century or more, a dictator in a neighbouring country has enfeoffed himself with power. He is a character tainted by political stealth, police terror and the torture to which he subjects hundreds of his own countrymen. Fraudulent elections, turned into a caricatured plebiscite, go hand in hand with violations of civil liberties, freedom of expression, the foundations of the rule of law and democracy. The media, the Internet and school curricula are being censored, freedom of thought mutilated and suppressed. Harassment of the Belarusian language and culture, of its historical symbols, is aimed at denationalising the country.

Today Belarus is showing a different face to the world. It is the face of a civil society which is conscious, free and which represents freedom in its own country.

Hundreds of thousands of men, women, young people, striking workers, not only from the capital, but also from many other towns and villages, are demonstrating in defence of their obvious and inalienable human and civil rights, in defence of a state of people whose freedom and dignity are not taken away by anyone, who are not divided into those who beat and those who are beaten, into those who kill and those who are killed.

We must not remain silent in the face of this uprising, in the face of the ominous predictions of a brutal crackdown, in the face of the suffering and death of those who were tortured, but also in the face of the great, universally demonstrated will for a peaceful return to the rule of law and democracy in a civilised ***European*** state.

We support the cause of the protesters, we demand that human and civil rights be respected in Belarus, we call on those who hold these rights dear, and we call on social organisations and governments to do everything possible to prevent a mass murder in our closest country and to help it on the road to freedom.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Indictments (76%); Investigations (76%); Celebrities (69%); Law Enforcement (62%)

**Industry:** Traveler Safety + Security (76%); Mining + Extraction (65%); Organic Chemicals (65%); Banking + Finance Regulation + Policy (63%); Harbors + Ports (62%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Ryszard Terlecki: I agree with the view that "LGBT ideology dehumanises society"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F025-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 379 words

**Byline:** UZ

**Highlight:** Law and Justice (PiS) club chairman Ryszard Terlecki said he agreed with the words of former education superintendent Grzegorz Wierzchowski, who said that "the LGBT virus leads to the dehumanisation of society". - This is a defence of the normally, peacefully living majority," Terlecki said of Wierzchowski's statement.

**Body**

[*On 23 August we reported that the Łódź school superintendent Grzegorz Wierzchowski had been dismissed from his post*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114883,26232490,lodzki-kurator-oswiaty-odwolany-ze-stanowiska-w-tv-trwam-mowil.html). This happened after his statement on Trwam television, where he said that the 'LGBT virus' is more dangerous than the coronavirus, because it leads to the 'dehumanisation of society'. The dismissal of Wierzchowski was requested by Łódź governor Tobiasz Bocheński. The local government leader wrote on Twitter that his decision was not related to the media statements of the superintendent, but to a "deep analysis of the situation in education in Łódź".

The head of the Law and Justice parliamentary club [*Ryszard Terlecki*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=ryszard+terlecki) was asked about Grzegorz Wierzchowski's words. The politician said that he agrees with the words of the dismissed school superintendent.

- I share the superintendent's view that [*LGBT*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=LGBT#e=TagLink) ideology dehumanises society and that children need to be defended from it, that's obvious. [...] It is an ideology that is nihilistic and aims to destroy a normally functioning society," Terlecki said.

Asked whether Grzegorz Wierzchowski's words were offensive, he said they were not.

- This is the defence of the normal, peaceful majority against groups of anarchists, nihilists and moral revolutionaries," commented Ryszard Terlecki.

Let us recall that the acronym LGBT stands for people with sexual orientations and gender identities other than heterosexual and cisgender. The letter L stands for lesbian, G for gay, B for bisexual and T for transgender. ***The European Union*** has penalised municipalities that have declared themselves "LGBT-free zones" by not granting them the funding they could have received under the Town Twinning initiative. The decision was announced by Equality Commissioner Helena Dalli.

Grzegorz Wierzchowski spoke about the loss of his position as superintendent in an interview with the [*wPolityce.pl*](https://wpolityce.pl/polityka/514545-tylko-u-nas-wierzchowski-o-swoim-odwolaniu-czy-to-zemsta) portal. At the time, he stated that Łódź Voivode Tobiasz Bocheński had not held any talks with him about education, and that Minister of Education Dariusz Piontkowski, who accepted the motion for his dismissal, had not made any comments on his work.

- I don't know what to think about my dismissal. Is this some kind of revenge for the fact that I am dealing with matters that the provincial governor does not want to deal with? I have a lot of interventions from schools, I take action, but when I ask for support from the voivode, I don't get it," complained the former superintendent.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Nord Stream increases security Europe? The German explanation of the monopoly***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F00F-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1164 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** The German regulator has exempted the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline from Russia for as long as 20 years - against the opinion of Poland and five other ***EU*** countries - from EU antitrust rules. This is because Berlin considered that it contributes to the security of gas supply to Germany and ***the EU***.

**Body**

Until now, it was not clear why, at the end of May, the German Federal Network Agency (Bundesnetzagentur, BNetzA) decided, and for a maximum term of 20 years, to exempt the first Baltic gas pipeline Nord Stream 1 from Russia to Germany from EU antitrust rules of the Third Energy Package. These rules do not allow gas companies to have a monopoly on the use of pipelines in advance, do not allow them to be managed by gas trading companies like Gazprom, and mandate that gas transmission tariffs be approved by independent regulators.

In practice, these regulations do not block the exploitation of gas pipelines. They merely introduce administrative fuses against their monopolistic use.

The operation of Nord Stream 1 has been exempted from all these requirements by the German regulator. No other pipeline for importing gas into ***the EU enjoys*** such privileges: neither the pipeline network in Norway, nor the Yamal gas transit pipeline from Russia through Poland, nor the gas pipelines in the Czech Republic and Slovakia that carry Russian gas to ***Europe via*** Ukraine.

Last year, ***the EU*** amended its Gas Directive, extending the antitrust provisions of the Third Energy Package to offshore gas import pipelines. ***The European*** Commission already recognised in late 2017 that such an amendment was necessary, otherwise offshore gas import pipelines - such as the next Baltic gas pipeline Nord Stream 2 from Russia to Germany - would operate in a legal vacuum, outside EU regulations.

The German Government blocked work on these new regulations for 1.5 years. It accepted them only after the EC and EU states accepted an amendment transferring the competence to determine how the directive should be applied to the state in which the offshore gas import pipeline first connects to the onshore network of EU gas pipelines. Originally, the EC was to decide on the application of the directive. And according to this amendment, it was to be the German authorities who were to decide whether Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines should be exempted from EU antitrust rules. Formally, pipelines completed before 23 May 2019, when the amended directive came into force, can apply for such an exemption. Therefore, the BNetzA did not agree to exempt from antitrust requirements the operation of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, the construction of which is not yet completed. This decision is not final, however, as Gazprom's company has exercised its option to appeal to a court in Germany.

However, the German authority has fully exempted from EU antitrust requirements, and for a maximum permissible duration of 20 years, the first Baltic gas pipeline Nord Stream 1, which was finalised in late 2012.

Only recently did the BNetzA publish [*the reasoning behind this decision.*](https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de/DE/Service-Funktionen/Beschlusskammern/1_GZ/BK7-GZ/2019/BK7-19-0108/BK7-19-0108_Beschluss_EN_download.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4)

According to materials published by the German office, the application of the Nord Stream 1 manager for exemption from EU antitrust requirements was criticised by Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, and particularly thoroughly by Poland. Some criticism was also expressed by Sweden, which, however, limited its opinion on the grounds that the application of the Nord Stream 1 manager was presented in a truncated version.

The German office dismissed the criticism in its entirety.

"Nord Stream [1] makes a positive contribution to [gas] supply security to the ***European*** Union and the Federal Republic of Germany" - is the main thesis of the justification for the relief of the first Nord Stream.

The German authorities have formally explained that Nord Stream 1 is another route for transporting Russian gas to Germany and ***the EU***, alternative to the transit routes via Ukraine and Belarus and Poland. And the very creation of this new route for the supply of gas from Russia is supposed to increase the security of gas supplies, while at the same time providing additional gas transport capacity in case of disruptions in its transport through Ukraine or Belarus (i.e. also Poland).

Denmark has argued that transporting gas via different routes, but controlled by the same supplier, is not fully compatible with the directive from a competition perspective, meaning there are objections to exempting the operation of Nord Stream 1 from EU antitrust requirements.

However, the German authority did not take these objections into account for a purely formal reason. "Any negative impact related to the specific situation of the players [in the gas market] does not disqualify the positive contribution of additional supply routes or supply sources to the security of supply of the market connected to that route," - BNetzA stated.

The German office [*has been*](https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de/DE/Service-Funktionen/Beschlusskammern/1_GZ/BK7-GZ/2019/BK7-19-0108/Stellungnahmen/BK7-19-0108_Stellungnahme%20PL%20(deutsch)_download.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4) consistently [*silent*](https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de/DE/Service-Funktionen/Beschlusskammern/1_GZ/BK7-GZ/2019/BK7-19-0108/Stellungnahmen/BK7-19-0108_Stellungnahme%20PL%20(deutsch)_download.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4) on [*Poland's objections*](https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de/DE/Service-Funktionen/Beschlusskammern/1_GZ/BK7-GZ/2019/BK7-19-0108/Stellungnahmen/BK7-19-0108_Stellungnahme%20PL%20(deutsch)_download.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4) to the Nord Stream 1 manager's arguments that this is a safer supply route than routes through "politically unstable" states. Poland reminded that it was Russia, demanding from Ukraine an increase in gas payments in 2006 and 2009, which stopped the transit of gas through this country to Western ***Europe***, i.e. the reason for these crises was not Ukraine's "political instability" but Gazprom's pricing policy.

The German authority also considered as a further reason for exempting Nord Stream 1 from EU antitrust requirements that this gas pipeline "opens a more direct connection between the Federal Republic of Germany and ***the EU*** and the gas fields on the Yamal peninsula in the north of the Russian Federation, which are likely to gradually replace in the future the declining gas production volumes from regions in western Siberia". In other words, according to BNetzA, the Nord Stream pipeline provides Germany with access to prospective sources of gas in Russia, while such a future is not provided by the fields in Siberia from which, for example, gas transited through Ukraine comes.

Denmark pointed out that Nord Stream cannot be considered the shortest connection between Russia and the ***EU***, as the ***EU*** border is the border of any of its member states. The BNetzA admitted that geographically there are countries in the ***EU*** closer to Russia than Germany. But immediately the German office stated that "from the perspective of the gas sector, there is no dispute that Nord Stream is the shortest and most direct connection between the large gas producing regions in Russia and the main gas consuming areas in the ***EU***".

Poland has also sought to have any exemptions from EU requirements granted by the BNetzA for the shortest possible period. Without success. Berlin did not take Warsaw's critical opinion into account.

However, after the announcement of such a strangely justified favourable BNetzA decision for Nord Stream 1, the Polish side did not comment on it. Last Thursday, we asked for a comment from Jerzy Kwiecinski, who has been CEO of PGNiG since January and was previously Minister of Finance and Development in Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki's government.

- All entities operating on the gas market should be subject to the same rules and respect them, so that the principles of competition are maintained. This decision was taken in accordance with the law, but there is no denying that it gives a privileged position to Nord Stream 1," responded president Jerzy Kwieciński in general terms. He did not refer at all to the reasoning of the BNetzA's decision, which rejected the objections raised by Poland and other EU states.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Take home Tokarczuk or Thunberg. An installation of famous quotes will be erected in Polish cities***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F000-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 700 words

**Byline:** Dawid Dróżdż

**Highlight:** In Poznan, Gdansk and Warsaw there will be a "Vanishing Wall" - an art installation symbolising the diversity of ***Europe*** and the divisions within it.

**Body**

Nearly 6,000 wooden blocks will be inserted into a wall two metres high and five metres wide. Each block will be engraved with a quotation, for example from a novel, film or song. Each passer-by will be able to take one block with them.

This is how an art installation will look like, which will be put up at the turn of August and September in three Polish cities. The project is part of the Goethe-Institut's programme and is created on the occasion of Germany taking over the presidency of the Council of the ***European*** Union. [*Germany has held the presidency since 1 July.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26117319,niemcy-kieruja-unia-czyli-ostatnia-szansa-merkel.html)

- On the occasion of the German Presidency of the Council of the ***European*** Union, the Goethe-Institut, which has its headquarters in most ***European*** countries, has prepared a rich cultural programme. One of its projects is an interactive installation entitled "The Vanishing Wall," which will be presented in 17 ***European*** cities, including three in Poland," says Konrad Szpindler, project coordinator in Poland.

The creators of the installation use the wall because it is a symbol of borders. - For us, the wall means the division of a given society or the division between countries," says Szpindler.

- The disappearing blocks are meant to symbolise the disappearing wall, the artificially constructed borders that divide communities, nations, communities and ordinary people, the press release reads.

That is why community action is so important for the creators of the installation. The installation was created by citizens from all over ***Europe***.

- People from all over ***Europe*** sent their favourite quotes to the Goethe Institute headquarters in their countries," says Szpindler.

The wall was created and will also disappear thanks to collective work. - Passers-by will be able to pull out wooden blocks; when the last one is pulled out, the wall will disappear. We believe that we can only abolish divisions by working together," says Szpindler.

The blocks are inscribed with quotations important to ***European*** culture and history. We will be able to take home, for example, bricks with quotations from canonical literary works: Dante ("At last, leaving, we greeted the stars"), William Shakespeare ("There are more things on earth and in heaven than your philosophers dreamed of"), Leo Tolstoy ("If there are as many heads - as many minds, then as many hearts - as many kinds of love") or Albert Camus ("The absurd does not liberate, but binds").

Also written on the blocks are the thoughts of contemporary authors such as [*Milan Kundera*](https://wyborcza.pl/ksiazki/7,154165,24915150,mial-piekne-rece-stwarzal-atmosfere-erotyzmu-wszystkie.html) ("Metaphors are a dangerous thing. One should not play with metaphors. Love can be born out of a single metaphor"), [*Olga Tokarczuk*](https://wyborcza.pl/0,128956.html?tag=olga+tokarczuk) and her Nobel Prize [*acceptance*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75517,25489508,olga-tokarczuk-i-peter-handke-wyglosili-mowy-noblowskie-na.html?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=SM&utm_campaign=FB_Gazeta_Wyborcza&fbclid=IwAR2RsmOaR4jvStcr32IvNbbbw8XVA1doUyPAb8GYZSex-CX4D5ngtoOEwVk) speech ("[*Tenderness is a deep concern for another being, its fragility, uniqueness, its resistance to suffering and the effects of time"*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75517,25489508,olga-tokarczuk-i-peter-handke-wyglosili-mowy-noblowskie-na.html?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=SM&utm_campaign=FB_Gazeta_Wyborcza&fbclid=IwAR2RsmOaR4jvStcr32IvNbbbw8XVA1doUyPAb8GYZSex-CX4D5ngtoOEwVk)) or [*Dorota Masłowska*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,101707,25703992,dorota-maslowska-o-filmie-inni-ludzie-staram-sie-nie-podchodzic.html) ("I am 19 years old and I don't need a personality, because I have a character").

In addition, we have quotes from iconic songs: The Rolling Stones ("I know it's only Rock'n'Roll, but I like it"), Beatles ("All you need is love!"), or fragments of film dialogues - "Amelia" ("Times are hard for dreamers"), as well as quotes from prominent painters - Vincent van Gogh ("I dream about painting, and then I paint my dream"), and philosophers - Friedrich Nietzsche ("What doesn't kill me makes me stronger").

There will even be a quote block for Monty Python fans ("This is an expletive!"), as well as people impressed by activist Greta Thunberg's appeal at the [*2018 Katowice climate summit.*](https://katowice.wyborcza.pl/katowice/7,166970,24257012,marsz-dla-klimatu-nie-dotarl-do-celu-kilkadziesiat-osob-poszlo.html) ("We can no longer play by the same rules. The rules must be changed").

On each block the quotation is written in Polish and German. If a fragment in the original comes from another language, it will also be written in the original language. - We want to show that ***Europe*** is culturally and linguistically diverse," says Szpindler.

And Christoph Bartmann, director of the Goethe Institute in Warsaw, adds: - The quotations on the blocks reflect the individual longings and dreams and hopes of today's ***Europe***. I would very much like the reflections and emotions that accompany their reading to remain with us for a long time even after the wall has disappeared.

The installation will be set up on Wolności Square in Poznań on 24-27 August, on Długi Targ in Gdańsk on 30 August - 1 September and on Boulevards on the Vistula River in Warsaw on 18-20 September. The installation in each city will be available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission will be free.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (63%); Terrorist Organizations (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (65%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Protests in Belarus. OMON detains some of those gathered in Minsk's Independence Square***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F04R-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 159 words

**Byline:** mk, IAR

**Highlight:** at 19:00 local time people started to gather in Minsk's Independence Square. According to the Belarusian media, OMON did not allow protesters to install sound equipment, and there were also detentions.

**Body**

"This is the 16th day of protests in a row. Residents of Minsk gathered again in Independence Square. Police have started detaining some demonstrators" - Outriders reporters present in Belarus report.

These reports are confirmed, among others, by Nexta. According to unofficial information, the detainees include activists of the organisation "***European*** Belarus".

The independent Belarusian media estimate that the Sunday demonstration in the capital was more numerous than a week ago, when 200,000 people protested in the streets of Minsk. They point out that the demonstrators behaved peacefully.

Unofficial reports indicated that [*President Alyaksandr Lukashenko left the Palace of Independence in Minsk the same day*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26233593,sluzby-prasowe-lukaszenki-dementuja-plotki-o-ucieczce-z-palacu.html). However, the press service denied this, publishing a video showing the President getting out of a helicopter wearing a bulletproof vest and holding a rifle. He was accompanied by his 15-year-old son Kola, dressed as a soldier and also holding a rifle.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices + Equipment (82%); Military Weapons (77%); Medical Devices (73%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (67%); Weapons + Arms (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (83%); Electrical Component + Device Mfg (65%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A second nuclear arms race is already underway [WORLD PRESS REVIEW].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F012-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1343 words

**Byline:** Stanisław Skarżyński, London

**Highlight: *Europe*** wakes up, Russian-Chinese alliance cracks. Coronavirus pandemic has triggered profound changes in global politics - Stanislav Skarzynski reads the world's press.

**Body**

If I had to recommend just one text this week, it would be the article "The New Nuclear Threat" from The New York Review of Books, in which Jessica T. Mathews - a former employee of the White House National Security Council and long-time president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace - describes the ongoing second nuclear arms race.

Several major works have recently appeared in English on the history of the Cold War and the role of the nuclear arsenal in the 21st century.Taking these as a reference point, the author writes that although since Hiroshima 'as a result of effective deterrence, fear of their destructive power, growing taboo, and partly through dumb luck, almost a century has passed without the re-use of nuclear weapons in conflicts', the phase of nuclear arms reduction is behind us. A second arms race is now underway, but we are not aware of it.

This paragraph sheds some light on what experts are worried about: "After decades of building just enough bombs to deter attack, China is aggressively modernising and expanding its hitherto small nuclear arsenal. Russia and the United States are modernising theirs, alongside a whole suite of new weapons. Activity in space is expanding the global battlefield. Advances in missile technology and scenarios for 'linking' nuclear and conventional war make the outcomes highly unpredictable. The risk of cyber attacks on command centres and weapons control systems adds another layer of uncertainty, as does research into artificial intelligence, which increases the chance of nuclear weapons being used by accident or against intent. Arms control agreements, which greatly reduced the US-Soviet arms race, are being rejected one by one."

"But the public is not afraid. In fact, people are unaware that a second nuclear race is already underway, and it may be more dangerous than the first" - writes Jessica T. Mathews.

[*Więcej: "The New York Review of Books"*](https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2020/08/20/new-nuclear-threat/)

A picture of profound changes in the world's geopolitical landscape can also be read from the pages of Hong Kong's The South China Morning Post. The newspaper sheds light on Beijing's relations with Moscow.

Russian-Chinese contacts have been intensifying for 20 years - the entire period of Vladimir Putin's government, which saw partnership with the communist regime as a counterbalance to the West (in this context, it is worth recalling the [*Russian president's article from 2000, in*](http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/21132) which Putin wrote that it was "time to start taking advantage" of the advantages of the ***Eurasian*** location) - but during the pandemic it became glaringly obvious that China was eating Russia alive, and Putin did not know how to react.

Maria Siow of the SCMP writes that the "cracks in Russian-Chinese relations" are becoming more pronounced, and cites the row caused by a film celebrating the 160th anniversary of Vladivostok (a slap in the face for China, as the city existed earlier, only belonging to the Middle Kingdom until 1860), the sale of arms to India just after the Sino-Indian clash in the Himalayas, and the delayed delivery of Russian arms to China.

But the most serious decision would be - as described by the Indian media, because New Delhi is behind the mediation on this issue - for Russia to join the Indo-Pacific Initiative, a US-led regional strategic cooperation organisation.

"Chinese commentators judge that this idea - some called it 'betrayal of China' - was as destructive as asking Russia to join NATO" - writes Siow, who stresses that the matter is not a foregone conclusion because it is not clear whether the US would agree to Russian accession or how Russia would calculate the gains of moving away from China in favour of cooperation with the US and India.

[*Read more: "South China Morning Post".*](https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3098398/could-russia-side-us-and-india-against-china)

The tectonic movements of the largest plates of the world's geopolitical mosaic - in the words of Max Bergmann in Foreign Affairs magazine - have awoken ***Europe,*** according to Bergman, stuck in a "geopolitical non-existence" since the 1990s.

"With the world's largest economy, 450 million people and defence spending comparable to Russia, this continent could be a giant. And yet ***Europe*** has never managed to achieve a strike force even close to the combined strength of its constituent states," Bergmann writes.

***Europe***, however, has suddenly taken off. "The COVID-19 pandemic seems to have awakened the continent from its decades-long economic and political slumber and given life to a project of ***European*** integration that would have been unimaginable only six months ago" - Bergmann argues, then asks whether the 21st century will not be "the century of ***Europe***".

Poland is not mentioned in the article, although it is clear which capitals the author of Foreign Affairs has in mind when he writes about "the challenge posed by populist politicians". "However, there is little doubt that ***Europe*** will emerge from this crisis as a stronger, more united player on the world stage," the author believes.

Unfortunately, Jaroslaw Kaczynski is too small a populist to be included as an illustration in The Atlantic's analysis of the impact of the pandemic on populist fortunes - there was only enough room for Donald J. Trump of the United States, Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil and Marenda Modi of India.

It is well known that countries that are governed wisely and, moreover, by women, manage the epidemic best - examples are Germany and New Zealand - while populists cannot manage a pandemic at all.

It is also known that the consequence of the pandemic will be a crisis that, according to the World Bank, will be twice as severe as that of 2008. "The Atlantic" writes, however, that despite this, "populism will not be finished off by this crisis. On the contrary, populism thrives in crises".

- What is often forgotten in debates about populism is how deeply rooted it is in modern democracies. While the term has become popular as a term for anything disruptive and unpredictable (most notably the two shocks of 2016, namely Brexit and the election of Donald Trump), it can be better understood as a style of politics that pits the will of 'ordinary people' against 'corrupt elites'. It is an intellectually thin ideology, writes Yasmeen Serhan, who argues that the pandemic creates a breeding ground for it.

"Many things will be lost to the coronavirus, but populism is unlikely to be one of them" - concludes Serhan.

[*Read more: "The Atlantic"*](https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/08/populism-will-survive-the-pandemic/615358/)

Stocks are rising. So is despair - [*Paul Krugman of &bdquo;The New York Times&rdquo; mocks &bdquo;*](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/20/opinion/stock-market-unemployment.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage)Wall Street, which loves its letter games and talks about a K-shaped economic rebound&rdquo;. What is hidden under this term is that as stocks hit new records and the richest make incredible profits, the incomes of the least advantaged fall and their suffering deepens.

Health better than GDP - [*In Project Syndicate, Andrew Scott, Professor of Economics at London Business School, argues*](https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/healthy-life-expectancy-over-gdp-by-andrew-scott-2020-08) that the average increase in healthy life expectancy is a better measure of economic growth than gross domestic product.

The neoconservative provocateur is back - [*Le Monde Diplomatique publishes a profile of Elliott Abrams*](https://mondediplo.com/2019/03/03venezuela-abrams), whom Donald Trump has appointed as special envoy to Venezuela, which is in political and economic decline.

Kilometre-long traffic jams for testing - [*"Die Welt" describes the consequences of the new testing policy against coronavirus*](https://www.welt.de/vermischtes/live206935325/Corona-live-Kontrollen-in-Oesterreich-Fahrer-steht-14-Stunden-im-Stau.html) introduced by the Austrian authorities. At the weekend, drivers spent up to 12 hours waiting in Slovenia for the opportunity to register and fill in a form at the border with Austria.

Sweden buys vaccine - [*"Dagens Nyheter" describes the decision announced by the national vaccination coordinator Richard Bergstöm to buy 6 million doses of a vaccine*](https://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/sveriges-vaccinsamordnare-vaccin-kan-vara-sakrat-for-hela-befolkningen-2021/) that Oxford University and the company Astra Zeneca are working on.

Britain has lost its way - the pro-Tory [*'The Spectator'*](https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/a-new-world-is-taking-shape-and-britain-is-nowhere-to-be-seen) has [*unexpectedly published an editorial highly critical of Boris Johnson's government*](https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/a-new-world-is-taking-shape-and-britain-is-nowhere-to-be-seen), criticising Brexit campaigners for their inability to find their feet on the global stage, as evidenced by London's lack of participation in the [*landmark agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26232532,ktore-kolejne-panstwo-arabskie-uzna-izrael.html)

[*THE WORLD IN 5 MINUTES: a newsletter where the sun never sets [REGISTER].*](https://wyborcza.pl/0,166389,25016698.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (89%); Film (74%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Medical Devices + Equipment (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (64%); Chemistry (64%); Military Weapons (64%); Espionage (62%); Human Rights Violations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (75%); Harbors + Ports (74%); Mining + Extraction (74%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***U.S. troops in Poland will have privileges but no legal immunity. Details of the newly signed defense cooperation agreement***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F048-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1489 words

**Byline:** Paweł Wroński, Jakub Kibitlewski

**Highlight:** Under the new U.S. - Poland enhanced defense cooperation agreement, Poland commits itself to providing military infrastructure capable of hosting some 12.000 soldiers. Additionally, American troops will be granted privileges like tax exemptions, but won't be given the kind of legal immunity enjoyed by diplomats that Washington was hoping for.

**Body**

Under the new U.S. - Poland enhanced defense cooperation agreement, Poland commits itself to providing military infrastructure capable of hosting some 12.000 soldiers. Additionally, American troops will be granted privileges like tax exemptions, but won't be given the kind of legal immunity enjoyed by diplomats that Washington was hoping for.

Last Saturday (August 15), on the centennial of the Battle of Warsaw, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mariusz Błaszczak signed an enhanced defense cooperation agreement. The 64 pages long document was made available on the Ministry's website on Monday (August 17). Its content directly refers to and supplements the Status of Forces (SOFA) agreement signed by all NATO allies.

In view of the many questions surrounding the deployment of American forces to Poland and the scope of their activity, perhaps the most interesting and revealing information can be found in the amendments to the document. Accordingly, in order to enable the deployment of some 12.000 troops, Poland commits itself to building and providing infrastructure in accordance with the specific requirements of U.S. forces. This doesn't mean that 12.000 American soldiers will indeed be stationed in Poland; the agreement only requires the country to provide the necessary capacity to do so. Currently, Poland is hosting around 4,500 U.S. troops on a rotating basis, but the new agreement foresees a deployment of an additional 1000 soldiers on top of that. The US army will also be given access to additional bases and airports in sites around the country, further expanding the range of Polish military installations and facilities it can use already. What's important, in the document there's no mention of Poland hosting forward elements of the U.S. Army's V Corps headquarters- a topic receiving much media attention, and something the Polish negotiators liked to boast about. It could be that the US still hasn't decided on the appropriate location for the headquarter. The forward division command initially planned to be housed in Poznan would likely include about 700 officers (such were the capacities specified by the US forces).

Part of the military installations and infrastructure mentioned in the agreement is yet to be built. Most of it is supposed to be available to both Polish and American forces. Those built exclusively to serve the needs of the US army, however, will be entirely funded by the American side. While using the facilities, American forces will be given the same rights as the Polish ones. The Polish Ministry of National Defence estimates the annual cost of hosting American troops at PLN 500 million (around $135 million), but the expenses only include routine activities, leaving out future investments. As for property ownership, the agreement mentions that all agreed facilities and areas including buildings, non-relocatable structures and assemblies connected to the soil remain the property of the Republic of Poland, and that Polish authorities have the right to inspect the facilities (thus, concerns about the US being able to claim extraterritorial jurisdiction over its bases in Poland remain unsubstantiated).

Prior to signing the deal, there have been critical voices warning of granting American soldiers the kind of legal immunity enjoyed by diplomats. While the topic of legal liability and criminal jurisdiction is certainly a complex one, article 14 of the agreement states that Poland, recognizing the importance of US forces authorities' disciplinary control over members of the US forces and the effect that such control has on operational readiness, waives its primary right to exercise criminal jurisdiction over members of the US forces while on duty. In cases of particular importance, an exemption from that principle in the form of Poland being able to withdraw its waiver necessitates a written statement to the competent US forces authorities not later than 30 days after the case has been reported. In practice, it is a fulfilment of the so-called "law of the flag" principle. The US generally considers its soldiers as not being subject to the jurisdiction of the host country while in service, carrying out orders and, most importantly: while wearing a military uniform. In such cases, the commanding officer or, less frequently, soldiers are answering to US military courts.

Members of the US army personnel will even be exempt from paying fines and penalties concerning matters arising from the performance of official duty (a topic of great debate in most countries where US troops are stationed). US forces are also obliged to respect the Polish law concerning environmental protection (if needed, Polish authorities retain the right to inspections).

With regards to off-duty soldiers and civilian personnel, the situation looks somewhat different. In this case, Poland retains its primary right to exercise criminal jurisdiction and has full disciplining authority. Article 15 of the defense agreement directly refers to article VII, Paragraph 3(a)(ii), of the NATO SOFA agreement - "in those cases where the authorities of the Republic of Poland believe the circumstances of the case require review of the determination, the authorities of the United States and the Republic of Poland will consult immediately". Moreover, paragraph 3 of article 16 states that "the authorities of the Republic of Poland shall notify U.S. forces authorities immediately when a member of the force or the civilian component, or a dependent, is arrested or detained by such authorities. U.S. authorities shall have prompt access to any such individual, upon the request of U.S. forces," while paragraph 4 says that a U.S. forces' representative shall be permitted to be present during all proceedings, including interrogations, of such member or dependent by authorities of the Republic of Poland". Upon mutually agreement, the parties can determine whether the case is reviewed by an American or Polish court and whether the person serves his/her penalty in an American or Polish institution. In case of the latter, "U.S. forces representatives and family members shall be permitted to provide persons confined in a penal institution of the Republic of Poland with assistance, including for their legal support, health, welfare, and morale, such as clothing, food, bedding, medical and dental care, and religious counselling".

The agreement gives US troops and military personnel multiple privileges. It obliges Poland to provide 75% of the cost of fuels, including aviation and ground transportation fuels. Members of US personnel don't have to obtain any vehicle documents and an additional driver's license. They are exempt from paying income tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), excise tax, or any similar or successor tax, and don't even have to pay fees on the possession of television or radio broadcast receiving devices. American troops are free to import US currency and financial instruments denominated in dollars. Goods imported by or for US forces are except from taxation, too. Recognizing that this may lead to some abuses, both signatories add that: "U.S. forces authorities, in cooperation with the authorities of the Republic of Poland, shall adopt appropriate measures to prevent the sale of goods and property imported into or acquired in the territory of the Republic of Poland to persons who are not authorized to patronize such military service support activities. Limitations on the purchase by individual patrons of goods imported or acquired with exemption from taxes and customs duties may be established. Goods subject to these limitations may include alcohol products, tobacco products, gasoline, and items of significant value".

The deployment of additional forces to Poland comes amid a controversial decision of the Trump administration to substantially reduce the number of American troops in Germany. Last month, specifying the details of the plan, the US Defense Secretary Mark Esper announced that almost 12.000 American soldiers will be pulled from Germany, some 5.500 of which will be re-deployed elsewhere around ***Europe*** and stationed in other NATO member countries. The decision includes moving the US ***European*** Command and Special Operations Command ***Europe*** headquarters from the German area of Stuttgart to Belgium. Yet, even after such drastic reductions, with an active US military personnel of 24.000, Germany still remains the number one host country for American troops in ***Europe***.

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**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Insider Trading (81%); Cardiology (68%); Criminal Law (65%); Torture (65%); Biochemistry (63%); Journalism (63%)

**Industry:** Newspaper Publishing (93%); Destinations + Attractions (65%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (61%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Crowds at the New Belarus March. Again, attempts to intimidate society failed [REPORT].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F05B-00000-00&context=)

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August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 1001 words

**Byline:** Piotr Andrusieczko

**Highlight:** Two weeks after the elections, protesting Belarusians have once again shown that they are determined in their peaceful struggle against incumbent president Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Protests have been ongoing across Belarus since 9 August, but so far the 250,000 demonstrators on the streets of Minsk are unlikely to weaken the current government. Just as the protesters are determined to remove the current president, so too is Lukashenko determined to remain at the head of state. Even by force.

**Body**

The second Sunday after the elections belonged to the protesters. Up to 250,000 people took part in the New Belarus march organised in the capital. There were also protests in other cities - in Hrodna about 10 thousand people came out to Lenin Square. Thus, attempts to intimidate the society failed. For example, in the aforementioned Grodno, where at first a compromise with the local authorities was announced and the demonstration was legalised, the actions were quickly sharpened again. On Thursday and Friday, during the rallies, one could hear from police cars that participation in illegal assemblies is punishable by administrative and criminal liability. And Lukashenko promised to crack down on protesters.

Even on Sunday morning it was difficult to predict whether the Belarusians would repeat the numerical success of the action a week ago, when, according to estimates, around 200 000 people came out. Especially since a lot of heavy equipment for suppressing demonstrations and trucks with soldiers appeared on the streets of Minsk.

Despite the rainy weather, at 2 p.m. Independence Square in front of the government building started to fill up - from different parts and districts of the capital. After an hour, not only the square itself, but also part of Independence Avenue leading to it was filled. There were no speeches there, people came with white-red-white flags, handwritten slogans. From time to time, chanted shouts of "Go away!", "Long live Belarus!" and others were heard over the square and the prospect. Above all, the protesters once again felt their power - it was not even reflected in the chanted slogans, but in the buzzing coming from thousands of throats from time to time, turning into a bang that resonated between the walls of the buildings.

From there the protesters went to the Stela monument. This is a symbolic place for both sides. There the first rally was planned right after the end of the vote on 9 August, but then the authorities used brute force against the gathering protesters. On 23 August, entanglements, behind which OMON and armed soldiers stood, awaited the people in the same place.

The demonstrators approached the security forces at close range. Immediately a chain of hand-holding activists was formed on their side and they pushed the other demonstrators away.

Why should we leave? Maybe we should go home?

- asked an upset protest participant.

This shows a clash of different attitudes. On the one hand the official opposition message emphasises the peaceful nature of the protests, but on the other hand there are voices of disobedience among the participants themselves calling for more radical action.

An example was also the failed attempt to hold a rally next to the Hotel Planeta (not far from Stela). The programme of the Coordinating Council was to be announced there. However, the sound equipment did not arrive because it was blocked by "siloviki".

Among the demands that were not voiced during the protest are recognition of Tikhanouskaya's victory in the presidential election, the resignation of Lukashenko, a call for militiamen and employees of other force structures to go to the side of the people, and a call for workers to join the strike.

There was no rally, so some demonstrators moved on to the Independence Palace, but access to it was cordoned off by OMON and soldiers with heavy equipment. Belarusian channels on Telegram, through which the protesters are coordinated, began calling on people to withdraw so as not to provoke the use of force.

It was soon reported that Lukashenko was evacuated from the palace by helicopter. Later, the authorities released a video in which the incumbent president can indeed be seen in a helicopter, but it was supposed to fly over the city and land on the palace grounds. In the video, he can be seen wearing a bulletproof vest with an automatic in his hand, surrounded by security guards armed with long guns. He can also be seen approaching OMON and thanking them while the officers clap for him. This was to show that the President has no intention of giving up and is in control of the situation and, above all, of the force structures.

Lukashenko has no intention of giving way to the protesters. Even before the elections, he said that he could not imagine waking up in the morning and not being president. This means that the authorities may step up repression and use force again.

On Monday, August 24, Tikhanouskaya's co-worker Volha Kavalkova, the chairman of the strike committee of Minsk Tractor Plant Sergei Dyleuski, and Anatoly Bokun, co-chairman of the strike committee of the Belaruskaliy enterprise from Soligorsk, were detained.

It is not clear what effect pressure from the West has on the incumbent president. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, in an interview with 'El Pais', stated that the conflict in Belarus is not geopolitical in nature, as it was in the case of Ukraine, where pro-European aspirations were clearly emphasised.

Today's problem for Belarusians is not a choice between Russia and ***Europe, but the*** achievement of freedom and democracy, which are fundamental values of ***the European*** Union and which we will support... We have opportunities for political influence, but Belarus should not become another Ukraine

- Borrell added. In this situation, it is clear that Russia has the greatest influence from outside. On Sunday, Russian Federation Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the situation in Belarus was clearly normalising, but there were still those who wanted to pursue the "Ukrainian scenario" there.

We will support any decision that the Belarusian leadership takes regarding dialogue with its people

- Lavrov added.

Piotr Andrusieczko - Outriders correspondent from Ukraine and Eastern ***Europe***. He is able to uniquely provide context, helping to more easily assimilate the topic and understand the issues he writes about. He has been covering events in Ukraine professionally since December 2013. He was in Maidan, Crimea and, since the beginning of the conflict, in eastern Ukraine. In the Grand Press competition he was chosen Journalist of the Year 2014.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (68%); Terrorist Organizations (65%); Human Rights Violations (64%); Film (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (63%); Mining + Extraction (63%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Duda in favour of the bill on loved ones. "No sexualisation" - he stipulates***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F02X-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 548 words

**Byline:** Paweł Wroński

**Highlight:** - I do not allow civil partnerships, but I maintain that if there was a proposal for a law on the closest person without sexualisation, I would support it - says President Andrzej Duda in an interview for the weekly "Sieci".

**Body**

The President thus referred to his statement for "Wprost" from before the election campaign, in which he said that he would consider signing the law on civil partnerships if it concerned the status of the next of kin. During the election campaign he was attacked for this from the right by the Confederation. In June, the president signed [*the Family Charter against "LGBT ideology",*](https://warszawa.wyborcza.pl/warszawa/7,54420,26036015,andrzej-duda-oglosil-karte-rodziny-w-restauracji-na-terenie.html) and then at a rally in Brzeg he proclaimed that in the past they had tried to "push communist ideology, today they are trying such neo-Bolshevism, the ideology of looking at the world through the sexualisation of children". He went on to say that attempts are being made to explain that [*LGBT people are people, and this is an ideology.*](https://opole.wyborcza.pl/opole/7,35086,26027897,wybory-prezydenckie-2020-andrzej-duda-na-opolszczyznie-trzy.html)

The statement was quoted by major agencies and world newspapers, although President Duda claimed it was manipulated and taken out of context.

The president in the interview tried to convince that it is untrue to accuse him of being hostile towards LGBT people. He claims that he did not attack anyone during the campaign and that every citizen should be respected. However, he stressed that the Family Charter was one of his most important election commitments.

In an interview for "Sieci", Duda claimed that he does not allow civil partnerships in the sense of replacing marriage. However, as he stated, "there are situations in life when someone wants the person closest to them to have a wider opportunity to penetrate, to see into their personal affairs. It could be two sisters, it could be a twenty year old carer of a sick person. There are many such threads of relationships in life and I understand that."

The version that the president would now be inclined to support (i.e. the law on the next of kin) is a step backwards from what Duda said at the beginning of the campaign. At that time, he was clearly referring to Jarosław Gowin's proposal from years ago. He proposed facilitating inheritance and medical access for designated persons in a joint household.

Today, Duda avoids calling the relationship between close people a "relationship". He points out: "without sexualisation". Without specifying what institution would check the closeness of the relationship between supporting people.

It is also clear from the President's statements that he will not use the legislative initiative to move a similar bill through the Sejm, but will wait for such a piece of legislation from the Polish Parliament. At present, however, no party other than the Law and Justice party, which has an absolute majority in the Sejm, is able to carry through its bill.

The president also referred to the Law and Justice party's proposed law [*on "media deconcentration"*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26127439,repolonizacja-dekoncentracja-likwidacja-strach-padl-na-media.html). At first, the President stipulated that he could talk about it until a concrete bill arrived on his desk, because the devil is in the details. However, he then stated: "if it was a deconcentration applied according to the models of ***European*** Union countries, there would be no problem". The Law and Justice party has recently wanted to push through the French model of deconcentration from the late 1980s (at that time there was no ***European*** free market yet), assuming that foreign capital cannot exceed 20 percent of the total shareholding of the Polish economy. (In France, this regulation was not retroactive).

He accused the "German media" of trying to label him as a defender of paedophiles during the campaign (the decision to pardon a person convicted of paedophilia and [*the front page of the newspaper Fakt*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26101873,rzad-i-duda-na-wojnie-z-faktem-i-faktami.html)). When asked about this issue, he stated: "I may resent the editors for going for it".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Torture (63%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (69%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Michał Dworczyk: Prime Minister will invite leaders of all parties to a meeting on Belarus***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NT-RM61-F09W-F010-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 24, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 286 words

**Byline:** UZ

**Highlight:** Head of the Prime Minister's Chancellery Michał Dworczyk said that Mateusz Morawiecki will extend an official invitation to leaders of all political parties for a meeting on Belarus. The politicians are scheduled to meet on Wednesday.

**Body**

- Today the prime minister will extend an official invitation to the leaders of all political parties for this Wednesday - we want to present the measures that have already been taken and talk about further actions," Michał Dworczyk told [*TVN24*](https://tvn24.pl/polska/sytuacja-i-protesty-na-bialorusi-michal-dworczyk-premier-morawiecki-zaprosi-liderow-partii-politycznych-4672710).

The head of the Prime Minister's Chancellery said that on the issue of Belarus, Poland was taking action both within the ***European*** Union and on its own. He said that a special summit of the ***European*** Council had been convened on [*Mateusz Morawiecki's*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=mateusz+morawiecki) initiative and that the Prime Minister had presented a solidarity plan with Belarus to the Sejm.

- We want to talk to representatives of political parties and clubs about further action, because, without a doubt, this situation will not end quickly in Belarus. These are not events that will be closed this week, we have to prepare ourselves for a longer period of functioning in this particular situation. [...] We are open to dialogue, to talk, because this situation should be considered beyond the current political dispute," said [*Michał Dworczyk*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=micha%B3+dworczyk).

The presidential elections in [*Belarus*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=bia%B3oru%B6) ended on Sunday, 9 August. Since then, numerous protests have been organised across our eastern border, which have, on more than one occasion, been brutally suppressed. The demonstrators are demanding the resignation of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and the release of political prisoners and all those detained during the protests. On Sunday 23 August, a mass march took place in Minsk, in which, according to independent media, over 200 000 people took part. The crowd gathered in Independence Square chanted, among other things, "Go away!". Protests against the regime of Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who has ruled the country since 1996, were also held in other Belarusian cities.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (76%); Chemistry (76%); Medicine + Health (74%); Awards + Prizes (69%); Medical Science (69%); Physics (69%); Writers (69%); Human Rights Violations (64%); Terrorist Organizations (63%)

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EU on detentions in Belarus: "The guilty must be held to account".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F00Y-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 281 words

**Byline:** Jakub Łukaszewski

**Highlight: *The European Union*** has issued a statement on the recent detentions in Belarus. It condemns them and expects the release of political prisoners.

**Body**

On Monday, in the centre of Minsk, the leader of anti-government protests, Maryja Kalesnikawa, [*was kidnapped by a group of uniformed men*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26279011,stalinowskie-metody-w-xxi-w-na-bialorusi-znikaja-dzialacze.html#S.raport%20ze%20swiata-K.C-B.1-L.1.maly). She was pushed into the back seat of an unmarked bus marked "Network" and driven in an unknown direction. Her phone stopped answering.

Members of the opposition Coordinating Council stressed that they also had no contact with the Council's press secretary Anton Rodnienkov and its executive secretary Ivan Kravtsov, in whose house the search was conducted.

Despite the disappearance of three opposition activists, the Belarusian Interior Ministry has taken no action.

The [*statement was issued by Josep Borrell*](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/84820/belarus-statement-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-arbitrary-and-unexplained_en), High Representative of the ***European*** Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Borrell recalls the detentions of Kalesnikava, other oppositionists and [*633 people during Sunday's peaceful Unity March.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26277336,na-bialorusi-zniknela-maria-kolesnikowa-sluzby-zatrzymaly-ponad.html) "We strongly condemn the unabated arbitrary and unexplained arrests and detentions on political grounds in Belarus that have taken place since the beginning of the election campaign. It is clear that the state authorities in Belarus continue to intimidate or allow intimidation of their citizens in an increasingly unlawful manner and in brutal violation of both domestic law and international obligations," Borrell stated.

***The European Union*** expects the Belarusian authorities to immediately release 'all political prisoners', to 'end political persecution and engage in national dialogue in full respect of the democratic and fundamental rights of the Belarusian people' and to conduct a 'thorough and transparent investigation'.

***The EU*** has warned that it will impose sanctions on those responsible for violence, repression and electoral fraud.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Indictments (75%); Investigations (75%); Celebrities (63%)

**Industry:** Traveler Safety + Security (71%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Outrage grows in Berlin against Russia after Navalny's poisoning***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F056-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 769 words

**Byline:** Bartosz T. Wieliński

**Highlight:** Chancellor Angela Merkel does not rule out sanctions and even stopping the construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline in connection with the poisoning of opposition activist Alexei Navalny with novichok. There was no talk of such steps even after Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

**Body**

Navalny's poisoning, Russia's responsibility and the possible reaction of the West are currently being dealt with by the Bundestag's secret service committee. Its members have been conferring with intelligence chiefs on the matter behind closed doors. - We received a very convincing explanation as to why the government's position on Navalny and Russia's role is so clear," committee head Armin Schuster told reporters.

Alexei Navalny, who was poisoned in Tomsk on 20 August, was taken to the Charité clinic in Berlin in a serious condition. At the beginning of September, a specialist laboratory of the Bundeswehr determined that today's most famous Russian oppositionist was a victim of novichok - a substance that paralyses the nervous system and is treated as a chemical weapon banned by conventions.

Novichok was already used by GRU agents two years ago in the failed attempt on Sergei Skripal's life in Salisbury, UK.

[*On Monday, the oppositionist was released from a pharmacological coma*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26278742,aleksiej-nawalny-wybudzony-w-berlinie-ze-spiaczki.html) and started to be disconnected from the ventilator. However, doctors do not exclude the possibility that novichok may leave permanent traces in his body.

In Germany, the fact that it was revealed that chemical weapons had been used against Navalny - the most ardent critic of the Putin regime - caused great indignation.

According to leaks published by German newspapers, Merkel was shocked when she read the report of the military chemists who examined the samples brought from Charité. Earlier, it seemed that the West's reaction to the poisoning of Skripal with Novichok - 150 Russian diplomats were expelled from dozens of countries as retaliation - had taught Russia something. As it turns out, that is not the case. Therefore, the pressure of public opinion on Russia to impose further sanctions is increasing.

Officially, Berlin asserts that it wants the whole of the ***European Union to*** decide on the matter, probably hoping that traditionally Russia-friendly countries such as Italy or Greece will force the others to treat Russia more leniently and impose symbolic penalties.

However, this manoeuvre has been made more difficult by politicians from the German opposition, who are increasingly vocal in their demands that the construction of the German-Russian Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline be stopped as part of the sanctions.

Even the Christian Democrat Norbert Röttgen, head of the Bundestag's foreign affairs committee, made such demands. In response, Merkel sent out a signal to the world that she was not ruling out such a step.

Merkel's threat against Nord Stream 2 was formulated for the time being by government spokesman Steffen Seibert.

Seibert was asked at the press conference about the words of Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who stated in Bild am Sonntag that the suspension of the Nord Stream 2 project is a "possible consequence" of Navalny's Novichok poisoning. Maas used a soothing formula in doing so: "I hope Russia will make us change our minds", while spokesman Seibert merely assured that the Chancellor supports his head of diplomacy.

However, the signal from Berlin to the Kremlin was clear anyway. For the first time since the signing of the contracts for the construction of the first offshore gas connection between Russia and Germany in 2005, clouds are gathering over the gas pipelines laid on the bottom of the Baltic Sea. After all, there was no talk of imposing sanctions on Nord Stream even in 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea and triggered the war in eastern Ukraine.

At the time, Merkel dismissed the protests of Poland and other countries in the region by blandly saying that 'Nord Stream is an economic project, not a political one'. At the same time, Merkel's CDU coalition partner, the German Social Democrats, defended the Russian-German gas pipelines as if they were a matter of state, because Nord Stream is the culmination of a policy of bringing Russia closer to ***Europe, a*** policy which was pursued by the Social Democrat Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who was a friend of Putin's and served in office from 1998 to 2005.

The contract for the first gas pipeline was signed in September 2005, a few days before the parliamentary elections which resulted in Schröder losing power. Later, the former Chancellor became head of the supervisory board of the company that was leading the investment. He made millions from his business dealings with the Russians, and after the outbreak of war in Ukraine he appealed for "understanding" with Russia and condemned the West for "provoking the Kremlin". Demands are now being heard in Germany for Schröder to leave the Russian business. The former chancellor has so far failed to respond.

The Eastern Commission of the German Economy, a lobbying organisation that supports German corporations investing in the former USSR, has constantly warned that stopping construction of the gas pipeline would entail billions in compensation.

The imposition of new sanctions on Russia is also opposed by Economy Minister Peter Altmeier, an influential CDU politician. He claims that "they would not produce any results, but would only aggravate existing problems".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (76%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Espionage (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Physics (62%); Torture (62%); Writers (62%); Law Courts + Tribunals (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (81%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***This is how you lose credibility. Why did Poland give the 'leader's shirt' to Lithuania on the Belarus issue?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-B661-F09W-F02B-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 1273 words

**Byline:** Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala

**Highlight:** Was it possible to count on an agreement with a dictator who regularly used violence against demonstrators after unfair elections? He repressed the Polish minority? Lied about Polish politics?

**Body**

In a situation of mass protests in Belarus, one wonders about the indecisive and late reaction of the Polish authorities. Why did Poland, the country of the 'Solidarity' movement, a leader of the democratic changes in the region and one of the most important ***European*** leaders during a comparable situation, the Orange Revolution in Ukraine in 2004, hand over the 'leader's jersey' to Lithuania? - gave the 'leader's shirt' to Lithuania?

After 1989. Poland supported the emergence of independent states on the ruins of the Soviet Union and stressed the need for them to undertake democratic transformation and respect human rights. Democratisation is conducive to security and stability, and this is what the eastern border was all about. The first Foreign Minister of the Third Republic, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, said in his Sejm speech "What is the Polish raison d'état..." in early 1993: "our raison d'état requires supporting our neighbours as independent states and their democratic transformation. There is no better guarantee for the stability of our eastern wall than to link independence with democracy'. Active involvement in the democratisation of Belarus was also supported by the presence of the Polish national minority, whose situation and quality of life were largely dependent on the degree to which human rights were respected.

Alexander Lukashenko's electoral victory in 1994 and the referendum in 1996 turned Belarus back from the road to democracy. Since then, Poland's main objective has been to illegitimise Lukashenko's anti-democratic regime. Poland restricted contacts at the highest level, criticised the Belarusian authorities for human rights violations and initiated the interest of international organisations in the situation in Belarus, including the OSCE and the UN. In response to the repression against the Union of Poles in Belarus, Poland summoned the Polish ambassador in Minsk for consultations. It cultivated the so-called critical dialogue - it constantly assured of readiness to cooperate, but with a democratic Belarus which respected human rights. A priority was the development of relations with representatives of the Belarusian opposition, although in practice this was not always the case.

An exception was the policy of the SLD government after 2001, when foreign minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz and the head of the National Security Agency Marek Siwiec met with their Belarusian counterparts. These meetings provoked criticism from NATO countries and ***the European*** Union, while the Belarusian government administration presented them to the public as a success of its foreign policy. There was no chance of real rapprochement between Belarus and Poland, nor of democratisation. This episode was a lesson that offers of cooperation should be addressed to Belarusian society, and not to the Belarusian regime.

The aim was to create opportunities for Belarusians to absorb the ideas of freedom, democracy and ***European*** integration. This was done through student scholarship programmes and projects aimed at providing independent information to the East through Internet services, Radio Racja, ***European*** Radio for Belarus and, of course, Belsat TV.

It is worth adding that Poland opposed the EU's policy of isolating Belarus. It looked for opportunities to build economic ties, believing that they could open the country to Western standards. It tried to direct funds earmarked for development policy towards democratisation and modernisation projects. In fact, Belarus became one of the priority countries on the list of recipients of Polish development aid.

Such a policy was in fact the only possible and pragmatic approach. There are no simple and quick solutions to undemocratic regimes. What counts is consistency, regularity and listening to the people, whose convictions and determination are crucial when it comes to overthrowing a regime.

Poland made a limited but nevertheless turnaround in its policy towards Belarus after the change of government in 2015. There was an unprecedented level meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Morawiecki and President Lukashenko in Minsk in 2016. The Polish course towards warming relations with Belarus, symbolised by Marshal Karczewski's words "Lukashenko is such a warm man", was difficult to understand in ***Europe*** and even less understandable for the persecuted Belarusian opposition, even if the authorities made conciliatory gestures towards them from time to time. That is how you lose credibility.

Was it possible to count on an agreement with a dictator who regularly used violence against demonstrators after unfair elections? He repressed the Polish minority? He spoke lies about Polish politics? The following year, Belsat TV was threatened by the government, which threatened to cut off its funding for no good reason, in what was seen as a tacit agreement with President Lukashenko.

Worse, after decades of efforts to promote democratic standards in Belarus, it is Poland that has begun to adopt standards from the East. After 2015, media freedom and judicial independence deteriorated, as did working conditions for NGOs. The standards of the electoral process were lowered. Disparaging statements by politicians and actions concerned asylum seekers and LGBT people. Belarusians themselves could observe Poland's new scandalous policy towards refugees from the East at the Brest border. Poland, which was able to cope with the influx of Chechen refugees in the 1990s, suddenly started to hinder the entry of asylum seekers, exposing them to humiliation and additional costs. In breach of international law, it has now received a guilty verdict from the ***European*** Court of Human Rights in this case.

Poland has been subjected to a wave of criticism both from the ***EU***, the Council of ***Europe***, UN institutions and the ***European*** press. Poland's ostentatious lack of solidarity with its ***European*** partners in the matter of refugees trying to enter ***Europe*** via the Mediterranean and its disregard for the rule of law have left a mark on the country's image that is difficult to erase. Just as Poland went down in the human rights textbooks as the country that abstained from voting on the historic Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, so in the textbooks of ***European*** integration it will be remembered as the first Member State to be subjected to the procedure of Article 7 of the Treaty on ***European*** Union, which is triggered when there is a threat of a breach of the ***EU's*** core values. The difference was that in 1948 Poland was dependent on the Soviet Union and did not make sovereign decisions, after 2015 it went on a collision course with the ***EU*** at its own request.

The deterioration of relations with the largest ***EU*** states has weakened Poland's position in ***Europe***. This has diminished its credibility as a state that has successfully undergone democratic transformation and its ability to be an advocate for its eastern neighbours in ***European*** and transatlantic institutions. Poland's weaker potential was noticed in Belarus and Ukraine. Poland has in fact limited its ability to influence the situation across its eastern border. Only as a consistently democratic state can it pursue an effective policy in the region.

Poland obviously has no power of influence in Belarus, which is not only a well-established dictatorship but also one that is largely controlled economically and militarily by the Russian Federation. However, it has a duty to care for the morale of Belarusian society, setting an example by its own democracy. Turning its back on democratic values and the rule of law in domestic politics is contrary to the international interests of Poland, which is thus losing credibility and limiting its ability to conduct an effective foreign policy. It is also against the interests of a free Belarus.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (86%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Investigations (64%); Company Activities + Management (63%); Engine + Turbine Mfg (63%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Climate Ministry's plan is a "small step forward". But in a week it could be outdated***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F048-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 850 words

**Byline:** Patryk Strzałkowski

**Highlight:** The Climate Ministry has unveiled an energy strategy that involves moving away from coal - but too slowly to be in line with climate goals or cost-effective. - It is hard to imagine any economic viability of coal after 2030, says WWF expert Oskar Kulik. He also points out that after the ***European*** Commission presents higher CO2 emission reduction targets next week, this document may be "useless".

**Body**

The Climate Ministry showed [*the assumptions of the new, updated draft of the Polish Energy Policy until 2040.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,172392,26280114,jest-projekt-nowej-polityki-energetycznej-polski-gornicy-nie.html) (PEP 2040). The document contains the strategy of our energy policy for the next 20 years, including a gradual shift from coal to renewable sources and nuclear energy.

The new draft has been submitted for work in the Council of Ministers, and will also be presented to the miners' trade unions. The unions will probably not be satisfied with the faster pace of the transition away from coal than in the earlier plan. Meanwhile, the assumptions of climate policy are far from sufficient anyway.

- Compared to the previous plan, this is a small step forward. But the projected share of coal in energy production in 2030 and its further use after 2030 clearly contradicts climate goals resulting from IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reports - says in an interview with Gazeta.pl Oskar Kulik, a climate and energy policy specialist from WWF Poland.

- If we want to limit climate change to 1.5 degrees, all OECD countries (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, comprising 37 highly developed countries - ed.) - including Poland - must phase out coal from the energy sector by 2030, he stressed.

At present, the share of coal in energy production in Poland is ca. 73%. According to PEP 2040, this share is to fall to 56% in 10 years' time and to 28% in 2040. And if the price of CO2 emission allowances rises high - to 37% in 2030 and 11% in the next decade.

Such a share of coal in the power industry is also worrying given the forecasts of rising carbon prices. One of them speaks of prices of ***EUR*** 76 per tonne of CO2 in the event of an increase in the EU's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030. At that cost, coal-fired power generation will be completely uncompetitive. It is hard to imagine any economic viability for coal, and in the 2030s and gas will start to become less and less viable

- Kulik's assessment.

The government document assumes that by 2030 we will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30%. - The ***European*** Commission will soon be calling for it to be increased.

- There is no indication in the document what we will do if we have an increased EU goal of reducing emissions in 2030 - from 40% to 50% or 55%. Next week the ***European*** Commission will present this goal and it is very likely that it will be part of the EU law - says the WWF expert. - Then this Energy Policy will be completely incompatible with what we will be bound by. We have created a document that will be useless in a week, because it will not show how to get closer to this more ambitious goal - he adds.

This proposal perhaps partially addresses some of the most immediate challenges and reconciles policy with the interests of, for example, the mining industry. However, it does not address the issues of achieving the more ambitious 2030 targets, let alone the pathway to climate neutrality

- says Kulik.

In terms of energy reconstruction, the Climate Ministry's draft assumes two scenarios. However, not only is there no specific date for moving away from coal, but it is not even clear what its share will be in 10 years' time.

- From the perspective of carrying out a fair transition, it is necessary to set a date for leaving coal and start this process strategically. It is about restructuring of coal regions, helping workers to reorganise themselves," WWF expert assesses. - Giving such a date would help, as finally everyone will know where we stand. Now all parties are complaining that we do not know what the decision is - he adds.

Bold decisions are needed. If we are floundering between the narrative that ***the EU is*** forcing us to change and scientists are arguing about the climate, and saying that we will close mines and invest billions in green technology, then there is a big gap

- he comments.

According to the expert, one of the positive aspects is the plan for electric buses in cities presented in the draft. - The issue of electrification of bus fleets in cities, and hopefully also in non-urban areas, is a very good direction and something we ourselves postulated in the report "[*Zero emission Poland 2050*](https://www.wwf.pl/ZeroemisyjnaPolska)". It is a positive thing, but one of very few," says Kulik.

There are also question marks over the construction of a nuclear power plant and investment in gas-fired power plants, which are supposed to be a 'bridge' from coal to zero-emission energy.

- Is it possible to build a nuclear power station by 2033? I am not convinced about that. The second issue is that its construction will in no way help us meet the 2030 target, says Kulik.

As regards gas, the most important question is how many such installations Poland can build in a way which is consistent with its climate objectives. There is talk of many such new investments, and the question is whether they will be profitable at all, leaving aside the climate issue. I can see the role of this fuel in balancing the system, but I would be very cautious about such investments.

- assesses plans for a gas-fired power station.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (76%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Espionage (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (87%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (61%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Brexit. If Boris Johnson 'betrays', EU will react. And it is the British who will lose the most from everything***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F01N-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 755 words

**Byline:** Daniel Maikowski

**Highlight:** Boris Johnson is playing a very risky game. If, as reported in the media, the British Prime Minister is indeed planning to break the provisions of the Brexit deal, he must expect serious consequences from Brussels.

**Body**

The next round of 'divorce' negotiations between the ***EU*** and the UK are due to begin in Brussels on Tuesday. So far it appeared that these would be standard talks, with both sides focusing on detailed arrangements for trade relations.

However, there are indications that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's visit will start with a strong blow. Already on Monday, the Financial Times reported that BoJo is ready to break last year's Brexit agreement. On Tuesday, the most important British media wrote about Johnson's alleged "betrayal". And experts warn that he is playing a risky game.

[*According to The Telegraph newspaper*](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/), Johnson will begin his Tuesday speech in Brussels by saying that the current Brexit deal is "contrary" to the UK's interests and must be changed to better protect his country's interests.

Northern Ireland is again a bone of contention

What specifically does the British Prime Minister have a problem with? The point of contention once again is the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. Once again, because it was the so-called Irish backstop that for months stood in the way of an agreement between the ***EU*** and the UK.

In a nutshell, the issue is that Brussels did not want to agree to a 'hard' border between Ireland after Brexit. Firstly, this would be detrimental to the economies on both sides, and secondly it would jeopardise the peace process. After all, we are talking about a region where bombs were still exploding in the 1990s.

London has long disagreed with a 'soft' border. The British argued their position on the grounds that Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom and the absence of a "hard" border would violate the territorial integrity of the whole country.

In the end, a compromise was reached. The agreement adopted last year stipulates that when the transition period ends, Northern Ireland will be more closely associated with the ***EU*** than the rest of the Kingdom. In addition, border controls will be moved to the Irish Sea.

For the time being, Downing Street has denied that Prime Minister Boris Johnson intended to break the Brexit deal. According to Politico, an internal investigation has already been ordered in the British government to find out who leaked the deal to the media.

Brussels has also reacted in time to these reports. [*The Guardian reports*](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/07/leaked-eu-cables-reveal-mistrust-of-uk-motives-in-brexit-talks) that Boris Johnson's 'betrayal' came as a big surprise in EU circles.

I believe that the British Government will implement the withdrawal agreement (from the ***EU*** - ed.), which is an obligation under international law and a precondition for future partnership. The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland is essential to safeguard peace and stability on the island and the integrity of the single market

- Ursula von der Leyen, head of the ***European*** Commission, wrote on Twitter.

According to Cartherine Barnard, Professor of ***European*** Law at Cambridge Univeristy, ***the EU*** has the legal means to punish the UK for breaching the Brexit deal. "Because the agreement is an international treaty, ***the EU*** can initiate proceedings against the UK under the dispute settlement mechanism," - [*He explains to the Guardian.*](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/07/eu-has-powers-to-punish-uk-if-it-breaches-brexit-treaty-experts-warn)

At the same time, Barnard suggests that Boris Johnson's plan may be part of a political game to put pressure on Brussels. However, this is a very risky gamble.

I think he wants to force ***the EU to*** make a move in the negotiations and he is using something as sensitive as the Irish protocol to do so

- emphasises.

David Gauke, former justice minister in Prime Minister Theresa May's government, also does not hide his surprise. Gauke stresses that the government would be taking a "huge risk" if it wanted to unilaterally change Irish protocol through legislation.

Any attempt to derogate from the commitments made in the Northern Ireland Protocol would be seen as an act of bad faith in the eyes of the ***European*** Union and the world

[*- underlines Gauke.*](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/07/leaked-eu-cables-reveal-mistrust-of-uk-motives-in-brexit-talks)

Breaking the deal with the ***EU*** could also have serious consequences for the British economy. The black scenario is a breakdown of negotiations and a brexit without a deal. A deal without which British business will not be able to compete in the EU market.

Food prices in shops could also rise. The British Retail Consortium calculates that, in the absence of a trade deal, the average tariff on food imported from the ***EU*** would be over 20%. For some products, however, tariffs would be much higher. The retail industry makes no secret of the fact that these tariffs would be passed on mainly to customers.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Awards + Prizes (82%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Medical Science (69%); Medicine + Health (69%); Physics (69%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Writers (69%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (65%); Organic Chemicals (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Belarus' economy - between Putin and Silicon Valley***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F00R-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 1498 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** the Belarusian economy is shaking, tangled up in dependence on Russia and upstaging expansive IT companies. Where will democratic protests against Lukashenko push it?

**Body**

Russia's restructuring of Belarus' debt will certainly be one of the topics of the meeting between Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin that is being planned in Moscow.

No wonder, given that in August Belarus' foreign currency reserves shrank by a record $1.4 billion, or as much as 16 percent, the National Bank of Belarus announced on Monday. Of this amount, less than $0.4 billion was used to repay foreign debts, but the bulk - more than $1 billion - was consumed by intervention currency sales. - of this amount, less than 0.4 billion dollars was used to repay foreign debts, but most of it - more than 1 billion dollars - was spent on intervention currency sales conducted by the central bank to protect the exchange rate of the Belarusian rouble.

The mass demonstrations which have been taking place in Belarus for a month now following the fraudulent presidential elections, in which Alexander Lukashenko was officially declared the winner, have further weakened the Belarusian rouble, which had already been losing ground due to the global crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic and Minsk's clashes with Moscow in the first months of the year. In August, the Belarusian rouble depreciated by more than 16 percent, and since the beginning of the year, by a total of 30 percent.

When the riots broke out after the presidential elections, many Belarusians began hastily swapping roubles for dollars. And this hit the foundations of the Belarusian banking system.

At the beginning of September, Belarus' largest bank, Belarussbank, announced that it was suspending some of its credit programmes for the population, and extending from 5 to 15 days the deadline for processing applications for other loans.

And many other Belarusian banks have already stopped granting new loans to the population at the end of August.

The explanation lies precisely in the political turmoil that led many Belarusians to withdraw their deposits in the local currency and buy foreign currency instead.

At the end of August, Moody's indicated that customer deposits were the main source of funding for Belarusian banks in mid-year. Customer deposits accounted for 75% of bank liabilities. The liquidation of deposits in Belarusian roubles by clients therefore made it difficult for banks to grant new loans. For some banks, it may have also caused problems with raising money to ensure solvency of foreign currency deposits, which, according to Moody's, accounted for 58 percent of money deposited in Belarusian banks.

International financial institutions have predicted that, as a result of the pandemic, Belarus' GDP will fall by around 5 per cent this year. However, officially, Belarus is, for the time being, passing through the crisis with almost dry feet. By the end of July - i.e. until the presidential election - Belarus' official GDP had shrunk by just 1.6 per cent.

But at the same time, the main source of hard currency for Belarus, which is revenue from fuel exports, was severely curtailed in the first months of the year.

Belarus has two refineries, one of the most modern in the East, which process up to 24 million tonnes of crude oil a year - almost as much as the Polish refineries of Orlen and Lotos. At the same time, four times fewer people live in Belarus than in Poland and the population is much less motorised. Consequently, the refineries there produce mainly for export.

Earlier this year, however, major Russian oil companies stopped supplying Belarusian refineries because of a price dispute. Since the beginning of this decade, Russia has not added export duties to the price of oil for Belarus. However, Russian companies add a special fee to the price of the raw material, which is supposed to reduce the competitiveness of Belarusian fuels in relation to fuels from Russia. The problem is that in recent years Russia has changed its tax system for the oil industry. This began to push up the price of oil for Belarusian refineries, reducing their profits from fuel exports.

Lukashenko has long demanded from Putin a reduction in the price of Russian oil for Belarus, or at least the abolition of the extra subsidy for Russian oilmen. Moscow made the concessions conditional on tightening Belarus' integration with Russia, i.e. practically on the former's annexation. And when Minsk did not accept such conditions at the end of last year, Russia cut supplies to Belarusian refineries to a minimum.

Lukashenko then played Putin on his nose and Belarus began buying oil from Norway, Saudi Arabia and the USA for the first time in its history, importing it by tanker via the port of Klaipeda in Lithuania. And when a coronavirus pandemic caused a crisis in the oil market in the spring, Russian companies decided to resume deliveries to Belarus, but smaller than a year ago.

As a result, Minsk expects budget revenues from fuel exports to be more than $800m less than planned this year.

Belarus receives hard currency not only from its refineries but also from the Belarusskaliy complex, which supplies around 20% of the world's potassium fertilisers. Belarus has also inherited from the Soviet Union the BelAZ company, which produces the world's largest dump trucks used in open-pit mining, the MAZ truck factory and Minsk Wheeled Tractor Plant, a manufacturer of specialised vehicles used in the oil industry and construction, and for transporting Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The new child of post-Soviet Belarus is a surprisingly large high-tech industry. Already after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Belarusian programmers registered companies abroad that successfully began competing on international markets. Such as EPAM Systems, which was founded in 1993 and has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange for eight years - the first company from Belarus to do so.

Wargaming, which created 'World of Tanks', one of the most famous computer games in the world, has its roots in Belarus. Viber, a company founded by entrepreneurs from Israel and Belarus, has also opened its main development centre in Belarus, known for its instant messaging service that has 100 million users worldwide.

The IT industry accounts for over six per cent of Belarus' GDP and the High Technologies Park, created in Minsk, has contributed to this boom. Almost 700 investors are now registered in this special economic zone, taking advantage of tax and visa benefits. The low wages in Belarus by Western standards are an additional incentive.

Founded in 2005. The High Technology Park was headed for 12 years by Valery Capkała, a former Belarusian diplomat. In 1994, he supported Lukashenko in his first presidential election campaign. That year, he wanted to compete for the presidential seat, but the electoral commission decided that his candidacy did not get the right number of votes. And Capkała left Belarus, first for Russia and recently for Poland.

From across the border, he could watch as Belarusian law enforcement officers raided the Minsk offices of Russian internet company Yandex and US-based Uber. More recently, four executives of the IT company PandaDoc, which moved its headquarters to Los Angeles a few years ago but still had most of its employees in Minsk's High Technology Park, were arrested on trumped-up tax fraud charges. This could be in retaliation for Lukashenko's criticism of PandaDoc chief Mikita Mikado's public statements during violently repressed demonstrations.

Already two years ago, a Belarusian IT entrepreneur complained to the Los Angeles Times about the Lukashenko team tightening the screw. "There was a thaw, liberalisation, some healthy regulations were introduced and people started thinking: maybe we will be like Singapore, a dictatorship that allows business to live. But now you can't be sure of the future if some cop or kagiebista doesn't like you ".

And after the current demonstrations, the blocking of the internet by the authorities, searches and arrests in many technology companies, there has been a lot of talk about leaving Belarus.

During the quarter of a century of his rule, Alexander Lukashenko has been able to complain loudly that Russia treats Belarus poorly and that Gazprom sells gas to Belarus twice as expensive as to Germany. Despite pressure from Moscow, he also refused to recognise the annexation of Ukrainian Crimea by its powerful neighbour. But in fact Lukashenko has made his country deeply dependent on Russia.

Last year, Russia accounted for 41% of Belarus' exports and as much as 56% of imports. The ***European*** Union as a whole, Belarus' second largest trading partner, accounted for a total of just 18 per cent of Minsk's foreign trade turnover.

By the middle of the year, Belarus' state external debts stood at around $18 billion, of which more than 60 per cent were owed to Russia.

No one in the West will lend Lukashenko money now and he can only count on Russia to keep the state currency reserves at an appropriate level. And Putin will certainly take advantage of this.

"It is an open secret that Lukashenko is constantly getting on the Kremlin's nerves, they don't consider him a loyal partner and understand that he is now acting on the Russian direction only out of fear. And they are certainly considering different scenarios. (...) But now that Russia has all the trump cards in hand and Lukashenka's only real counterpart is the Russian leadership, its leaders can clearly and explicitly express what kind of Belarus they want to see" - Jüri Luik, Estonia's national defence minister, recently assessed.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (90%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (65%); Chemistry (65%); Medicine + Health (65%); Espionage (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Pole resigns from important post in institution EU. He is accused of psychological harassment***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F01X-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 392 words

**Byline:** Jakub Łukaszewski

**Highlight:** Jacek Krawczyk has withdrawn his candidacy in the elections for President of the ***European*** Economic and Social Committee. He is accused of harassing subordinates.

**Body**

The ***European*** Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is an ***EU*** advisory body with members representing business, trade unions and NGOs.

The Entrepreneurs Group is chaired by Jacek Krawczyk, Vice-President of the Lewiatan Confederation.

Mr Krawczyk has been accused of psychological harassment of EESC staff. These allegations have been investigated and confirmed by the EU anti-fraud office OLAF. The Belgian prosecutor's office has announced that it will launch an investigation into the case.

In June, the EESC Bureau, the institution's supreme authority, called on Mr. Goglielmo to step down from his post and withdraw his candidacy in the elections for a new EESC president.

But on 28 August, he resumed his role as President of the Employers' Group (he returned after several months of sick leave). - "I can no longer recognise Mr Krawczyk as President of the Group," wrote Luki Jahier, EESC President, in an internal email. [*We wrote about this last week*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26263314,polak-zostal-usuniety-z-waznego-stanowiska-w-organie-ue-ale.html).

On Friday, Jacek Krawczyk sent us a statement rejecting the allegations against him. - "In all the years, there has been no signal from the EESC that my management of staff or behaviour towards members of the Group and the EESC may have been inappropriate, and successive elections have only confirmed the confidence of members of the Employers' Group. It was only at the end of 2018, when I declared my readiness to stand as candidate for EESC President, that the first allegations appeared in the media, and in 2019 the EESC administration and OLAF implemented proceedings. I myself received threats that directly informed that this would not end well for me" - Kravchuk wrote.

Polak also argues that it is not the competence of the EESC president or the EESC bureau to remove him from his post. - Only the Group can do that. I therefore consider Luc Jahier's statement that he does not recognise me as President of the Group as unjustified. I consider such an action to be political and downright hostile, in breach of the presumption of innocence and contrary to the rules of law", says the Vice-President of the Lewiatan Confederation.

Krawczyk announced that he would become the Group's president, but that his term "ends in a fortnight".

The Polish manager will withdraw his candidacy in the elections for the head of the entire EESC. This was reported by [*Politico on Monday evening*](https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-body-gets-new-presidential-candidate-following-harassment-allegations/). Krawczyk communicated the decision at Monday's EESC Employers' Group meeting.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (69%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Jacek Krawczyk has withdrawn his candidacy for head of the authority EU BODY. He is accused of harassment***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F046-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 381 words

**Byline:** UZ

**Highlight:** Vice President of the Lewiatan Confederation Jacek Krawczyk has withdrawn his candidacy in the elections for President of the ***European*** Economic and Social Committee. The Pole is accused of harassing his subordinates.

**Body**

The ***European*** Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is an advisory body of the ***European*** Union, representing workers' and employers' organisations and non-governmental organisations. Its members belong to one of three groups: employers, employees or other. The former is chaired by Jacek Krawczyk, Vice-President of the Lewiatan Confederation. He was due to stand for election as EESC President, but was forced to withdraw his candidacy.

Jacek Krawczyk was accused of psychological harassment of EESC employees. The case was investigated by the EU anti-fraud office OLAF, which confirmed the allegations, according to [*Gazeta Wyborcza.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26279642,polak-rezygnuje-z-kandydowania-na-wazne-stanowisko-w-instytucji.html?fbclid=IwAR1RoN7KPUn1bX8u_WUeZFWpddQpOknaSoaVAY6iK4It9SDsZDq1d6bNqSg) The Belgian prosecutor's office has announced that it will launch an investigation into the case, while the EESC's Bureau has called on Mr Krawczyk to withdraw from his candidacy for the new EESC president.

After Jacek Krawczyk returned to work on 28 August (after several months of sick leave), EESC President Luca Jahier wrote in an internal e-mail that he could not recognise the Pole as president of the business group. Krawczyk issued a statement on the matter, which was published by [*"Wyborcza"*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26279642,polak-rezygnuje-z-kandydowania-na-wazne-stanowisko-w-instytucji.html?fbclid=IwAR1RoN7KPUn1bX8u_WUeZFWpddQpOknaSoaVAY6iK4It9SDsZDq1d6bNqSg).

"In all the years, there was no signal from the EESC that my management of staff or behaviour towards members of the Group and the EESC might have been inappropriate, and successive elections only confirmed the confidence of the members of the Employers' Group. It was only at the end of 2018, when I declared my readiness to stand as candidate for EESC President, that the first allegations appeared in the media, and in 2019 the EESC administration and OLAF implemented proceedings. I myself received threats that explicitly stated that this would not end well for me" - Krawczyk wrote, pointing out that neither the EESC's Bureau nor its President can remove him from his post, a statement which Luca Jahier considers "a political and downright hostile action, in violation of the presumption of innocence and contrary to the rules of law".

On Monday 7 September, Jacek Krawczyk acceded to a request from the EESC Bureau and withdrew his candidacy in the election for President of the ***European*** Economic and Social Committee. [*POLITICO*](https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-body-gets-new-presidential-candidate-following-harassment-allegations/) reports that the employers' group has chosen another candidate. She is a member of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Christa Schweng.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Film (82%); Human Rights Violations (67%); Terrorist Organizations (65%); Military Weapons (64%); Securities + Other Investments (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (82%); Mining + Extraction (82%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Will London break the brexit deal? The EU does not want to succumb to Johnson's bluffs***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F03T-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 995 words

**Byline:** Tomasz Bielecki, Brussels, Deutsche Welle

**Highlight: *the EU is*** not giving in to pressure from London, which is even signalling a willingness to break the Brexit deal. - We may lose the UK, but we won't lose British phlegm, warns Charles Michel, head of the ***European*** Council.

**Body**

Tuesday marks the start of the eighth round of negotiations between the EU and the UK on a trade deal that should come into force from early 2021.

For the time being, the British, despite brexit, function in the ***EU*** as if they were still a member state (albeit without voting rights or presence in EU institutions). But - without a new agreement being negotiated quickly - the current transition period will end in January with a hard landing, i.e. a switch to the general rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Prime Minister Boris Johnson calls this the "Australian option", i.e. modelled on ***EU-Australia*** relations, but under such an "Australian" label is simply the absence of trade liberalisation beyond WTO rules, which means tariffs and export quotas across the Channel.

The Johnson government warned Brussels this week that without a trade deal being worked out by 15 October at the latest, it would walk away from the negotiating table to prepare for a hard end to the transition period (with Johnson threatening to walk away from the table as early as July in the spring).

This kind of ratcheting up of tensions is a common negotiating ploy, and Brussels has long warned that the deal must be ready by the end of October for at least the ***European*** Parliament to approve it before January (without its approval, trade agreements cannot enter into force even on a provisional basis, i.e. before full ratification).

Meanwhile, London's new negotiating "bomb" is information about draft laws that - contrary to international law - would repeal some of the provisions of the Brexit divorce agreement that guarantee the absence of a "hard border" (e.g. with checks on goods) between EU Ireland and British Northern Ireland.

According to correspondence from Brussels to the capitals of the 27 EU countries, as reported in The Guardian today, Michel Barnier's EU negotiating team suspects London of trying to divide EU countries and push through last-minute negotiations in order to extract concessions quickly from an EU keen to avoid a 'no deal' scenario.

Such tricks are nothing original, and Charles Michel's twitter post about the Union's 'British phlegmatism' in the face of the revelations from London alluded to this.

And yet, according to Brussels, it remains an open question whether Johnson will sincerely pursue a trade deal or whether he is now staging political theatre to prepare the British people for an intended no deal.

- I still think that Johnson wants a deal, although it cannot be entirely ruled out that in London ideology, or an anachronistic understanding of sovereignty, wins out over pragmatism. And therefore an unwillingness to deal, one EU diplomat tells us.

Brussels is waiting to see what specifically the Johnson government will propose to the House of Commons on Ireland, but there are no differences between the 27 countries of the Union over the requirement for a tough defence of special arrangements for the border on the Irish island.

- I trust that the British Government will implement the exit agreement as its commitment under international law and as a precondition for our future partnership. The Protocol on Northern Ireland is essential to safeguard peace on the island and the integrity of the EU single market, as Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the ***European*** Commission, has already announced.

Breaking the ratified Brexit agreement would powerfully hit London's credibility and rather make a trade deal with the ***EU*** impossible.

Moreover, the US Congress had already warned months ago that it would not agree to the Johnson government's - coveted - US-UK trade deal unless London guaranteed the absence of a 'hard border' in Ireland. So just a bluff? - Perhaps - explains our Brussels interlocutor.

The arrangements for the post-Brexit status of Northern Ireland, which I think quite a few Tory MPs are only now beginning to understand, strike at the sovereignty sentiments of hard Brexiters. This is because after the transition period, this part of the UK is to remain subject to many of the rules of the EU single market in order to save the integrated economy of the entire Irish island.

These include EU rules - the dilution of which London is now threatening - on the provision of state aid (state subsidies) to companies in Northern Ireland, and the obligation for Northern Irish businesses to complete export declarations when sending goods to the rest of the UK. If we end up with an "Australian option", these declarations could involve tariffs between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK (presumably refunded to business by London).

In addition to the issue of access to fisheries, negotiations on the ***EU-London*** trade agreement are mainly stuck on the sovereignty issue of the 'level playing field'. ("level playing field").

The EU makes trade without tariffs and without export quotas conditional on London's commitment not to lower key standards in areas such as the environment, labour law, climate policy, fair taxation and - the most difficult point - state aid to companies.

If the British were to depart from the 'level playing field', this would theoretically allow them to cut production costs (e.g. without stringent environmental standards), which, with trade without tariffs and without export quotas, would create - as Brussels argues - unfair competition for ***EU*** companies.

- We must not become a client state to ***the EU***. Brussels should take a more realistic view of our status as a sovereign state, warns Britain's chief negotiator David Frost, who is seeking to weaken the EU's demands for a "level playing field" as much as possible.

The EU, as a much larger market than the UK, has - and intends to use to the end - an objective negotiating advantage over London, because the British economic losses as a result of a 'no deal' would be much greater than the EU's. The average tariff under the WTO is 2 per cent, but as much as 10 per cent on cars and parts shipped both ways. The average tariff under the WTO is 2.8 per cent, but as much as 10 per cent on cars and on parts shipped back and forth across La Manche. Non-tariff barriers, such as quota restrictions on exports, would be a great handicap for both sides, though much more so for London.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (63%); Human Rights Violations (62%); Terrorist Organizations (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (68%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Coronavirus in Germany. Parents will get a bonus. 300 euro per child***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F01B-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 358 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** From Monday, parents in Germany can get a special child bonus. The ***€300*** allowance is for each of the country's approximately 18 million children and is one element of the grand coalition government's approved conjunctural programme to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

**Body**

Family insurance funds will start paying out the coronavirus allowance without the need to apply. Parents who are entitled to child benefit (so-called kindergeld) will automatically receive ***€200*** per child, with a further ***€100*** paid out in October. The only condition: the child must already be receiving child benefit for at least one month this year. So even children who are born in December will receive the allowance.

The Institute of the German Economy (IW) has checked what plans parents have for the coronavirus allowance for their children. 61 percent want to spend the entire amount or at least part of it, the survey found. In contrast, 39 percent want to put the sum aside in full. Among the highest earners, almost half (45%) have no concrete plans to spend the allowance yet, in the middle income group only 34% do, while among the lowest earners 39% want to save the amount first.

In the highest earning group, however, there may not be much left of the coronavirus allowance at the end. This is because in the tax return the allowance will (like ordinary family benefits) be accounted for with the tax-free amount due for each child. This lump sum in the tax return is currently ***€7812*** per child, and next year it will already be ***€8388***.

However, the supplement will not be calculated on the Hartz IV allowance for long-term unemployed persons.

Unions representing single parents criticise that the benefit for this group is the same as for other parents, even though single parents are much more painfully affected in times of pandemonium by the combination of remote working and remote teaching.

IW experts further criticise that the allowance is vague - it is also given to those parents for whom it has little meaning financially, while for others it is too low.

The government in Berlin has set aside 4.3 billion ***euros*** for a special coronavirus child allowance. More than half of this sum (***€2***.3 billion) could flow to companies, the IW calculated, and thus contribute to the economic recovery.

[*The article comes from the Deutsche Welle website.*](https://www.dw.com/pl/koronawirus-w-niemczech-300-euro-na-dziecko/a-54841190)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (63%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (62%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Angry miners demand of the government; Buy the coal you ordered from us!***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-JMR1-JBK9-24HC-00000-00&context=)

Fact Poland

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Section:** POLITYKA; Str. 4; No. 210

**Length:** 221 words

**Byline:** Tjak

**Body**

The coal ordered by government companies and extracted by the miners has again not been received. Millions of tonnes are lying fallow on gigantic heaps. And the mines will come to a standstill, because they will have nothing to mine and nowhere to store it! The miners are further infuriated by the fact that while Polish coal is lying on spoil heaps, our country is importing it from abroad.

Mateusz Morawiecki's (52 l.) government imported 16.7 million tonnes in 2019, of which as much as 10.8 million tonnes from Russia. The miners are afraid that mine closures will start and they will find themselves on the pavement!

- When they needed our votes in the elections, they got them. Now let them give something from themselves," says Patryk Kosela, spokesman for the miners' trade union 'August 80'. - If necessary, thousands of people will take to the streets," he warns.

At the Ministry of State Assets, they tell us that everyone is to blame but the government. First of all, the coronavirus is to blame, because the demand for raw material has decreased. Previous governments are also to blame, because they signed long-term contracts with suppliers, ***the EU is also to blame,*** because it has climate requirements, the blame is also... too warm a summer. Because we do not need to heat as much.

Meanwhile, the heaps of Polish coal are getting higher and higher, miners are already starting to say that if they get too high, they can... overthrow the government. A government that came to power thanks also to their votes.

**Graphic**

Heaps of thousands of tons of coal at the "Halemba" coalmine in Ruda Śląska

Fot: Wiktor Kubiak/Editor, Grzegorz Krzyżewski/Fotonews, Darek Nowak/Fotonews, Damian Burzykowski/newspix.pl

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Journal

**Journal Code:** FAK

**Subject:** Lawyers (94%); Criminal Law (89%); Developing Countries (82%); Sentencing (75%); Golf (71%); Law + Legal System (71%); Sports + Recreation (71%); Sports + Recreation Events (71%); Tournaments (71%); Capital Punishment (64%); Death + Dying (64%); Families + Children (64%); Legislation (64%); Legislative Bodies (64%); Medical Treatments + Procedures (64%); Poisonings (64%); Company Activities + Management (62%); Medical Devices (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (84%); Entertainment + Arts (80%); Chemicals Mfg (75%); Private Banking (71%); Destinations + Attractions (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Poland - a country condemned to smallness***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-B661-F09W-F00F-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 1329 words

**Byline:** Paweł Wroński

**Highlight:** For the past 30 years, politicians of various options have successfully conveyed the story of the Polish historical experience to the world. The series of celebrations launched in 2018 shows that this has come to an end. PiS has reintroduced the formula of didactic national nativity plays to convince Poles that they are a misunderstood nation doomed to suffer.

**Body**

This feeling came over me suddenly in the early morning of 1 September. During the celebrations at Westerplatte. When judge Bogusław Nizieński was laboriously reading a speech about the superiority of the Polish soldier, the heroic battles, the blood shed, some anti-patriotic devil whispered: "Only on 17 September there will be a martyrological mystery about how the evil Russians treacherously attacked us, and that's that".

Perhaps such a thought stems from simple fatigue with the patriotic ceremonies that, like a dreary marathon, have dragged on since 2018, abounding in wreath-laying, roll calls of the fallen, speeches by the president and entitlement holders, menacing and solemn faces, parades, displays of military equipment and changing of the guard. Or perhaps it is simply the result of my soul not being Polish - as Dr Jaroslaw Kaczynski would surely diagnose.

Only that these two years - stretching from the 100th anniversary of regaining independence to the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw - were to be important in conveying the story of Poland to the world. In addition, they were linked to the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War and the 40th anniversary of the birth of Solidarity, which overturned the Yalta division of ***Europe***. According to the announcements of the Law and Justice party, which claims to be the great historical teacher of the nation, the party that raised the fallen nation from its knees, this was a way of creating a new vision of Poland and a vision of a new Pole. A Pole who is a guardian of ***European*** civilisation, freedom and tolerance. So what have we given the world?

In September 2009, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Westerplatte. Supporters of the Law and Justice party probably associate this with Putin and Donald Tusk's stroll along the Sopot pier where, according to the psycho-right, the Smolensk coup was planned. In reality, the government team of the time was creating a great historical project - with the aim of etching into the memory of the whole world that it was in Poland that the Second World War began. This is not an obvious fact for the Americans, who identify this beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Germans and the French, who see it as the 1940 campaign, or Russia, where the Great Patriotic War begins on 22 June 1941, and by then Stalin's USSR was in a sinless alliance with Hitler. The idea of making Westerplatte and Gdańsk universal on 1 September was connected with the construction of the Museum of the Second World War.

The Museum of the Second World War was acquired by the Law and Justice party two years after it took power. According to its critics, it equated the suffering of victims and executioners. As if the bombed inhabitants of Hamburg were somehow afraid and died differently from the bombed inhabitants of Rotterdam, Coventry or Warsaw. The exhibition did not sufficiently celebrate the glory of the Polish soldier and did not show positive patriotic and national elements.

This year, like a historical buckle, Westerplatte, heroically defended in 1939, was taken over by the head of the Ministry of Defence, Mariusz Blaszczak, from Gdańsk. This is a city whose authorities, according to PiS propaganda, dangerously cultivate German and multicultural elements. President Andrzej Duda justified this in his speech by carrying out archaeological research thanks to which the graves of Polish September soldiers were discovered (as if this research could not have been carried out without the takeover of Westerplatte). Thanks to the 'takeover', the ceremony could be held in a 'dignified', that is inbred, martyrological manner without any reference to the world. This year's anniversary of the outbreak of war was celebrated among our own people. A year ago there was the German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, whose splendid speech in Wieluń gave the celebrations some sense.

The day before, on 31 August 2020, was the 40th anniversary of the birth of Solidarity - the movement that began the erosion of communism that ended with the Round Table agreements. Years ago, this day in Gdańsk was commemorated by a magnificent concert given by David Gilmour against the background of the Gdańsk Shipyard cranes. In the same place a great concert was given by Jean Michelle Jarre and played by Ennio Morricone's orchestra. This year, a ballerina in workers' denims referring to the shipyard workers pranced on the screen, while Polish artists, better or worse, presented "hits from before" according to the artistic taste of TVP chairman Jacek Kurski.

What could we tell the world today? The sad tale of how functionaries of the current Solidarity movement, supported by the Law and Justice Party, are tearing out the tablets with 21 demands placed in the ***European*** Solidarity Centre from the former strikers? Everyone has argued that we should be proud of Solidarity's legacy. But should we be proud of the story leaked in the government media that the Polish August of '80 was controlled by the SB, and that the whole collapse of communism was an operation to transfer people from the old system and the PZPR to the new capitalist reality? Germany remembers the universal significance of Solidarity and its role in bringing down the Berlin Wall. Although whether they still remember or have decided that there is no point, we will find out in the autumn of 2021, on the 30th anniversary.

This year we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw, which saved the Polish independence won in 1918 and blocked the Bolsheviks' path to Central ***Europe.*** There was no arch across the Vistula. The monument on Warsaw's Plac Na Rozdrożu did not come into being, and Minister Błaszczak had to transport excavators to the site of the Museum of the Battle of Warsaw in order to tell TV viewers that any work was going on there. Minister Piotr Gliński boasted in front of the formally opened but unopened Museum of Józef Piłsudski in Sulejówek, although funds and money to start the investment together with Józef Piłsudski's heirs were provided by Prime Minister Donald Tusk. It is good that at least a statue of Our Lady of Grace was erected, but this victory again places it in the categories of a 'miracle' rather than a soldier's effort and wise leadership.

On the anniversary of the battle in Piłsudski Square, President Andrzej Duda spun a routine tale about the historic significance of the Battle of Warsaw for world civilisation and its values. Who accompanied him? US Defence Secretary Mike Pompeo, who came to sign the agreement with the Ministry of Defense, and ministers from Sweden and Romania. However, in order for the Polish-Bolshevik war to make any sense in the eyes of other nations and not be treated in categories: "Poles overwhelmed by the mania for greatness took Kiev, then the Russians moved on Warsaw", there should be representatives of Ukraine on the honorary tribune - because it was the independence of Ukraine and the nations of Eastern ***Europe that*** was at stake.

Flowers were laid on the grave of Marko Bezruczko, the heroic commander of Zamość defence, by local people. It would have been a good gesture to invite any representative of opposition Belarus, after all, General Stanisław Bułak-Bałachowicz fought on the Polish side.

Instead of boring, paid articles - essays in the Western media - it would be better to thank the allies and tell the French about the then Colonel Charles de Gaulle in Warsaw (a member of the military mission), the American Merian C. Cooper, the pilot who fought the Bolsheviks and later produced King Kong, or to the Italians about Achille Ratti - the nuncio in Warsaw, later Pope Pius XI. Perhaps anyone other than Poles would read them?

The historical policy of the present team has turned into a well-known trough. Our country has become the suffering Winkelried of nations, the whole world has stood against us, and now no one wants to remember that we defended Western civilisation. In this way, we condemn ourselves to smallness, inferiority, incomprehension and the constant bemoaning of our own sufferings and wounds.

Once, in an American silly comedy series parodying "Sunshine Patrol", an Indian on horseback suddenly appeared on the beach among sunbathing people and said in a pained voice:

- Pale faces betrayed, took our lands, slaughtered my people.

- You must be from Poland," replied the rescuer with a stony face.

No, it was not a work sponsored by the Polish National Foundation announcing a great film about the heroic history of our country, but how close to the recently promoted perception of history.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (69%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Film (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (63%); Mining + Extraction (63%); Professional Services (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Will Spain's former prime minister stand trial? New threads in the investigation into corruption in the Popular Party***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F058-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 776 words

**Byline:** Maciej Stasiński

**Highlight:** Anti-corruption prosecutors are demanding that top dignitaries of the right-wing People's Party accused of creating a vast bribery network and trying to cover it up be brought to trial. The former party chief, former interior minister and possibly even former prime minister Mariano Rajoy could be on the dock.

**Body**

The encirclement of the bribery octopus on the Spanish right has been going on for more than a decade, dozens of people have already been convicted, but the successive findings of prosecutors and investigators go higher and further. A new chapter in the prosecution of corruption in the People's Party brings it probably closer to finally exposing it.

Judge Manuel Garcia-Castellon, who lifted the secrecy of the investigation, revealed on Monday that between 2013-15, when Spain was ruled by Mariano Rajoy's right-wing government, "the highest authorities of the state" carried out a secret operation to steal and hide from justice documents proving long-standing and systematic corruption in the Popular Party.

After being accused by the anti-corruption prosecutor's office of involvement in "Operation Kitchen", former party general secretary Maria Dolores de Cospedal and Interior Ministry chief Jorge Fernandez Diaz are likely to stand trial. However, it is possible that it will not end with them.

The bribery and thievery within the People's Party (in power between 1996-2004 and 2011-18) has been followed like a soap opera by prosecutors, the press and the public for several years.

Already in 2009, 29 corrupt party dignitaries and businessmen guilty of organising a network of bribery deals in the right-wing-ruled region of Valencia were detected - and in 2018 sentenced to long-term sentences.

By a thread, investigators have reached a knot in the heart of the Popular Party in Madrid. It emerged that the party's long-time treasurer, Luis Barcenas, was managing bribes paid into the party's left-wing coffers by trusted businessmen in exchange for public contracts awarded to them running into tens of millions.

The People's Party took money from this left-wing 'cash B' for its election campaigns, and its several top dignitaries, including its leader Mariano Rajoy and its secretary Maria Dolores de Cospedal, had their second salaries paid under the table by the treasurer. The treasurer himself also took illegal money by the handful for himself and exported ***EUR*** 48 million to Switzerland.

When investigators got to the treasurer's skin, the People's Party and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy first tried to force the treasurer to retract his testimony about the party's 'Fund B', and when he finally confirmed to the court that it existed, they disowned everything and threw Barcenas himself into the fire. In 2018 he was sentenced to 33 years in prison for corruption.

First, however, the leadership of the People's Party did everything to cover up the traces of organised bribery and thievery. Already during the ongoing investigation, party records of dignitaries' contacts with business were destroyed, as well as the entire contents of the hard drives on the treasurer's official computer. And when it emerged in 2013 that the foresighted Barcenas had hidden the documentation in a safe place, party bosses organised a secret operation to steal it from the treasurer.

And this very "Operation Kitchen" has now been uncovered by investigators thanks to yet another boss-freaking testimony from subordinates. It was most likely ordered by secretary Dolores de Cospedal and Jorge Fernandez Diaz, interior minister in Mariano Rajoy's government. Their subordinates bribed the treasurer's private chauffeur with a monthly salary of ***€2***,000 and the promise of a good job with the police. After two years of persistent mischief-making, he obtained the hidden documents.

This is confirmed today by the testimony of the deputy chief of the Interior Ministry at the time and the police commissioner, who gave evidence to investigators in the form of text messages and emails exchanged on the subject with party bosses and dignitaries.

In one, the Commissioner writes: "Well, then we have all the conversations between Barcenas and that prick Rajoy about all the shit. That's what they told me to get them out of the hole where he hid them."

And his former superior, the deputy interior minister, wrote in a text message that he precariously filed with a notary: "The operation was successful. We pulled everything off".

The investigators also have the salary receipts of Sergio Rios' chauffeur paid from a secret Ministry of the Interior fund, phone calls from the deputy minister and commissioners that lead directly to the People's Party's top dignitaries. Not surprisingly, the prosecution ends its demand for their indictment with the sentence: "It cannot be ruled out that criminal charges will be brought against further persons".

For it is inconceivable that Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy knew nothing about the operation to steal documents compromising the party from the Interior Ministry. Despite the fact that for more than 10 years he has denied institutional corruption in his party, he has denied the existence of 'Fund B' and rejected allegations of his own involvement in scandals.

So although many right-wing dignitaries and businessmen have already been convicted of thievery and bribery, the affair is not fully explained because the investigation into its other threads, including that of the People's Party's "Fund B", is still ongoing.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (84%); Terrorist Organizations (78%); Securities + Other Investments (73%); Awards + Prizes (67%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (67%); Chemistry (67%); Medical Science (67%); Medicine + Health (67%); Physics (67%); Writers (67%); Espionage (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (83%); Destinations + Attractions (62%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Italy. Wanted to export sand from Sardinia, got a heavy fine***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F03W-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 246 words

**Byline:** Kacper Kolibabski

**Highlight:** a Frenchman decided to take some sand with him from Italy. However, he did not know that since 2017 there are penalties for its illegal export. Instead of with the sand, the man went home with a hefty fine.

**Body**

Foreign media, including CNN, reported on the story of a Frenchman who was holidaying in Sardinia. The man wanted to return with an unusual souvenir, but it turned out that what he was doing was illegal.

A Frenchman collected more than 2 kg of [*sand,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=piasek) which he hid in his luggage. Since 2017, taking sand away from Italian beaches is prohibited. This is punishable by severe fines of up to ***€3***,000 and even imprisonment. The man can therefore speak of considerable luck, because in the end he ended up with only a fine of 1 thousand ***euros***. He transported the sand in plastic bottles.

The bottles were confiscated and are now lying in the operations room with other confiscated items. At the end of the year we have a lot of sand bottles there

- A representative of the [*Italian*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=włochy) forest guard told CNN. The regulations were introduced because such cases were becoming more frequent and problematic. White and pink sand is particularly popular. Last year, Sardinian authorities even came across a website where their sand was being sold as a souvenir.

Sand is becoming an increasingly desirable material and is starting to become scarce. [*The best evidence of this is the involvement of the mafia in its smuggling.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,23626387,boom-budowlany-mafie-ostro-zabraly-sie-za-handel-piaskiem.html) Demand is high due to the ever-increasing number of construction projects. The builders need sand from the beaches and not from the deserts, because the latter is too rounded and smoothed by the wind, which does not bind the [*concrete well*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=beton). Infrastructure development is therefore causing more beaches to disappear around the world.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices (69%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (69%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Belarus. Alyaksandr Lukashenka: Yes, perhaps I have sat down a little***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F04R-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 341 words

**Byline:** UZ

**Highlight:** Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenko has said that he may have "sat out a bit", but he is currently the only guarantor of Belarus' independence. He also said that if he left, his supporters would be "slaughtered".

**Body**

On Tuesday, 8 September, Belarusian President [*Alyaksandr Lukashenko*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=aleksander+%B3ukaszenka) gave an extensive interview to Russian journalists, who then reported on the conversation through the media.

- Yes, perhaps I have sat down a bit. Perhaps they show me not only on TV, but even in an iron and a kettle. But only I can defend Belarus," said the "last dictator of ***Europe***", whose words are quoted by [*Sputnik.by*](https://sputnik.by/politics/20200908/1045639909/Lukashenko-rasskazal-kto-mozhet-spasti-stranu-i-kto-vinovat-v-aktsiyakh-protesta.html).

The Belarusian president also said that he had "decorated Belarus for a quarter of a century" and would not leave "just like that". He also stated that if he did, his supporters would be "slaughtered".

One of the journalists, Yevgeny Rozhkov, asked Alyaksandr Lukashenka who he thought might have an interest in the protests in Belarus. The politician replied that the Americans, who operate through centres in Poland and the Czech Republic, are mainly behind the current situation in his country. Asked whether the protests in Belarus are not influenced by the internal situation of this country, Alyaksandr Lukashenka said that it is also important. The politician assessed that two new generations have grown up in Belarus and a small class of "bourgeois" has been created, who want power.

Russian journalists asked the [*Belarusian*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=bia%B3oru%B6) president about his photo with a machine gun, which was sent by the president's press service, according to the Russian agency RIA Novosti. Alyaksandr Lukashenko replied: "My appearance with a machine gun meant only one thing - I did not run away anywhere and I was ready to defend my country to the end."

The protests in Belarus have been going on for almost a month. The presidential election, which ended on Sunday 9 August, was officially won by Alyaksandr Lukashenka (the opposition claims it was rigged) - he has ruled the country since 1994. The international community and many Belarusians consider the August elections to have been fraudulent, and are calling for a repeat vote. Demonstrations are taking place across the country, some of which [*are being violently dispersed*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26274244,brutalne-zatrzymania-i-pobicia-w-minsku-ludzi-napadaja-zamaskowani.html). Many demonstrators have been taken into custody, and there have also been fatalities.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (78%); Film (65%); Human Rights Violations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (78%); Mining + Extraction (78%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Coronacrisis. Is Germany no longer an automotive powerhouse? Supply chains have broken down***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F01C-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 290 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** For years, the automotive industry was the main driver of the German economy. This has changed as a result of the coronacrisis.

**Body**

According to analysts from the Institute of the German Economy (IW), the automotive sector is no longer the main driver of economic growth in the country. The results of the study were published by the business daily "Handelsblatt".

The German car industry's current troubles have been influenced primarily by the coronacrisis, which, according to IW's analysis, "affected it more strongly than other industries" and led, even before the temporary closure of factories in April, to the breaking of existing supply chains. In addition, "it is currently confronted with a demand shock from which it is very slowly recovering".

The situation is made even more difficult by the fact that "overcapacity and technical change are weighing on the industry's performance". "As a result, the automobile industry is once again faced with an acute adjustment of employment to the conditions for the first time in a decade and has for the time being fallen out of its role as a locomotive of growth for the German economy," the IW experts explain its plight.

A teleconference between representatives of the automotive industry at the Chancellery with Chancellor Angela Merkel, members of her cabinet and the prime ministers of the German states is scheduled for Tuesday evening. In this connection, the Bavarian CSU had already demanded that increased financial aid be granted to this "heart of industry", as CSU President and Bavarian Prime Minister Markus Soeder described the car industry. In his view, the car industry should be granted a further ***€10*** billion for research into electric car batteries and their production in Germany. Chancellor Angela Merkel takes a different view, seeing no need at present to extend the economic stimulus package already in place.

[*The article comes from the Deutsche Welle website.*](https://www.dw.com/pl/niemcy-przemys%C5%82-samochodowy-utraci%C5%82-pozycj%C4%99-lidera-w-gospodarce/a-54840249)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (70%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Deputy Finance Minister: We have spent 260bn to fight COVID-19, but it is a price worth paying***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60T1-9GN1-F09W-F014-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 8, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 378 words

**Byline:** UZ

**Highlight:** In an interview, Deputy Minister Piotr Patkowski summarised the government's actions to date and the expenses related to fighting the coronavirus pandemic in Poland. At the same time, he stated that if they were not borne by the state, it would affect the citizens.

**Body**

The Deputy Minister of Finance and the Chief Ombudsman of Public Finance Piotr Patkowski gave an interview to [*"Rzeczpospolita"*](https://www.rp.pl/artykul/1435455-Musielismy-poniesc-wysokie-koszty-pandemii--by-nie-ponosili-ich-Polacy.html?fbclid=IwAR1qob2r2UZbTmIbcFC4Va99IbFG6gAWUhY8HvznKsdoltevNR3W-WSY3dg). During the conversation with the daily he spoke, among others, about the costs incurred by the Polish state in connection with the [*coronavirus*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,173953.html) pandemic. The politician calculated that there are "260 billion PLN of expenses due to direct and indirect fight against Covid-19".

- All in all, it is a large deficit, but it is not a threat to public finances. It is the price we paid to keep jobs and our economy in this pandemic. [...] We have had to bear all kinds of costs, so that they are not borne by the Polish people in the form of unemployment, mass bankruptcies of enterprises, broken foundations of the economy. If this is the price we have to pay for maintaining jobs and the possibility of further development, maintaining the status of a developed country, then we believe it is worth paying. - said [*Piotr Patkowski*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=piotr+patkowski).

The Deputy Finance Minister also spoke about the strategy to reduce pandemic debt. He said that [*the finance ministry*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=ministerstwo+finans%F3w) was focusing on "growing out" of debt and was counting on GDP recovery in the second half of this decade. However, he could not say when Poland would manage to achieve a balanced budget.

- In terms of revenue, we have gone back 1.5-2 years, in 2021 it will be at a level not much higher than in 2019. Expenditure, on the other hand, is growing at a rate as if nothing had happened. Our task now is to rebuild income growth to pre-pandemic levels. But it will take us a little longer than a year - Patkowski stated.

Talking about public debt, the Deputy Finance Minister said the 1997 Constitution was out of step with reality. The constitution states that "it is forbidden to take out loans or give guarantees and financial warranties, as a result of which the state public debt will exceed 3/5 of the annual value of the gross domestic product". Piotr Patkowski said that it was worth considering changing this provision "if there was such a political decision".

[*We recently reported*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26248483,dlug-publiczny-polski-wystrzelil-w-2021-r-moze-dojsc-do-1-5.html) on [*Next.gazeta.pl*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26248483,dlug-publiczny-polski-wystrzelil-w-2021-r-moze-dojsc-do-1-5.html) that Poland's public debt in 2021 is expected to be exceptionally high, at 64.7% of GDP. This means that it will exceed the barrier of PLN 1.5 trillion, and Poland's situation will come close to that of countries with the highest debt in the ***European*** Union.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (73%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Torture (71%); Film (69%); Securities + Other Investments (64%); Medical Devices (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Like Union European Union wants to solve the problem of migrants? Not every country will be forced to participate in relocation***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1WP-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 916 words

**Byline:** Tomasz Bielecki, Brussels, Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** Relocation or taking responsibility for deporting migrants who don't qualify for asylum - that's the choice Poland will get under the new asylum reform draft. Except for absolute exceptions.

**Body**

The migration and asylum amendment package adopted by the ***European*** Commission today is a reset of the 2016 reforms that collapsed due to the conflict over the distribution of refugees. The new draft gives the ***European*** Commission the right to activate a mandatory "solidarity mechanism", for example in the event of a large influx of migrants to Malta, but EU countries will be able to choose the form of assistance - relocating refugees (arrivals with an obvious need for international protection), for which they would receive financial support from Brussels, or carrying out "returns", i.e. deporting migrants without the right to asylum.

- One for one. Accepting a hundred refugees equals taking responsibility for a hundred returns, explains Ylva Johansson, the ***EU*** Commissioner for Home Affairs. Keeping Malta as an example, where would migrants wait for deportations organised by Poland? - In Malta, because it would be pointless to transport them to other countries, says Johansson. But Malta and Poland could also agree on other forms of assistance, including building migration centres on this Mediterranean island. Only if Poland failed to carry out the deportation within eight months (these deadlines can be extended) would it have to switch to a relocation form of assistance.

Only in the event of exceptionally large and sudden migration crises could the ***European*** Commission - the draft speaks of acting in conditions of emergency - recommend mandatory relocation to EU countries on an ad hoc basis, but this would be subject to evaluation by the ***European*** Parliament and EU governments in the ***EU*** Council. In addition, Brussels would also like to obtain a pre-declared readiness from EU countries to provide assistance (mainly relocation assistance) in the event of sudden emergencies if, for example, a large group of migrants were caught in the Mediterranean Sea.

The new reform may lead to a kind of 'specialisation' whereby some countries will accept refugees while others will mainly deal with deportations. But sending migrants back to African countries, for example, may not be easy for EU countries without traditional ties to the region and poor diplomatic contacts.

- But this can be changed. Investing in such contacts e.g. with Africa is also a form of common migration policy - convinces Johansson. Once the 'solidarity mechanism' is activated, EU countries will be able to choose the direction of deportation that suits them best.

The version of "flexible solidarity" in relocation and deportation proposed today is an attempt at compromise between countries that are categorically opposed to the compulsory distribution of refugees at the EU level (in June, the Visegrad Group, Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia reiterated this in a letter to Brussels) and countries pointing to the benefits of an EU distribution system, which in turn was emphasised in the spring by Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Cyprus and Malta in a joint letter.

The ***European*** Commission's proposal must be approved by the ***European*** Parliament and by EU ministers in the ***EU*** Council. It is likely that Italians, among others, who would like permanent relocation, will turn their noses up at the lack of ambition in the reform. Poland, on the other hand, has long signalled that it does not like any form of "compulsory solidarity" on migration in the EU.

Germany, which holds the presidency in this half-year, will start the ***EU*** Council discussions on the migration package (it was originally supposed to be announced last spring), but the decisions will probably be postponed until next year. Formally, a qualified majority (15 countries comprising 65% of the EU population) would suffice to approve the migration package, but according to our interlocutors in Brussels, the intention of the ***EU*** institutions remains to seek "the broadest possible majority". This is because it increases the chances that some countries in the future will not sabotage migration rules in the Union, as Visegrad did in 2015-17.

- We must face up to the real problems. My interlocutors sometimes have the impression that two million people a year are still arriving irregularly in the EU. And now it is about 140 thousand a year, of which two thirds do not qualify for asylum - says Johansson. Brussels puts emphasis on more effective "returns", because now only 30 percent of migrants without the right to asylum or another form of legal residence are deported.

The ***European*** Commission today proposed that migrants arriving via irregular routes into the EU (e.g. via the sea to Greece) should be registered within five days and qualified for either the normal or the accelerated "border procedure". The latter was envisaged for arrivals from relatively safe countries (less than 20% positive decisions on international protection), e.g. Morocco or Tunisia. Their asylum applications would be examined within 12 weeks (now, for example, on Lesvos, the average time from arrival to decision is 20 months) and possible deportations would be carried out during the following 12 weeks. If, for example, Greece or Italy failed to meet these deadlines, migrants would be put into the normal non-accelerated border procedure.

NGOs warn that 'fast-track border procedures' are a temptation to disregard the international right to asylum. - The application of each migrant will continue to be examined separately, Johannson explains, however. ***The European*** Commission, together with the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency, wants to monitor whether ***EU*** countries are complying with their obligations under international conventions not to push people away from borders in order to prevent them from applying for asylum. - Right now we can't react to such reports because I can't check it," explains Johansson.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Terrorist Organizations (70%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Torture (67%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (92%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (78%); Chemicals Mfg (71%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***German minister: Article 7 procedure against Poland will not be halted***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1SW-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 249 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Urszula Ziemska

**Highlight: the** Article 7 procedure launched against Poland and Hungary for rule of law violations will not be halted. ***The European Union*** has shown that there has not been sufficient improvement in either country, the German ***EU*** presidency said.

**Body**

On Tuesday, 22 September, a meeting of EU ministers for ***European*** affairs was held in Brussels. ***European*** Commission Vice-President Viera Jourova and Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders spoke about the Polish and Hungarian case. After the General Affairs Council, German Minister for ***European Affairs*** Michael Roth met with journalists.

- Today, on the basis of extensive reports from the [***European*** *Commission on the*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=ke) situation in Hungary and Poland, we have determined that there are no conditions for ending the [*Article 7 procedure*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=Artyku%B3+7#e=TagLink) and that it will continue," said Roth, whose words are quoted by [*Reuters news agency*](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-democracy-hungary-poland/eu-rule-of-law-action-against-hungary-poland-to-continue-germany-idUSKCN26D29B).

The Polish Press Agency, cited by the [*newsosci.dziennik.pl*](https://wiadomosci.dziennik.pl/swiat/artykuly/7829774,michael-roth-niemcy-artykul-7-polska-wegry-praworzadnosc.html?fbclid=IwAR3i0OEyYdRBWp4vWCOvAb7kd1RyN25OZocNsbE4wyXBh1XTUixrNqSpJTU) portal, informs unofficially that the ***European*** Commission's report on the rule of law in Poland indicates that the problem is primarily the situation in the Polish judiciary. The EC is concerned, among others, about the law on disciplining judges and the fact that the justice minister Zbigniew Ziobro has announced further reform of the judiciary.

[*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/pl/polska-i-w%C4%99gry-gro%C5%BC%C4%85-unii-wetem-z-powodu-praworz%C4%85dno%C5%9Bci/a-55019611) writes that the most important task of the German presidency of the Council of the ***European*** Union is the legislative agreement with the [***European*** *Parliament on the*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=Parlament+Europejski#e=TagLink) budget package that was politically approved at the ***EU*** summit in July. One element of this package is the "money for rule of law" rule. It is supposed to allow the suspension of payments to countries that violate the rule of law from January 2021. This solution is opposed by both Poland and Hungary.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (77%); Terrorist Organizations (76%); Arms Control + Disarmament (64%); Espionage (64%); Weapons + Arms (64%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (61%); Chemistry (61%); Medical Science (61%); Medicine + Health (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (75%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Lukashenko and Putin got away with it. The spectacle of impotence continues EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1WF-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 972 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** A summit of ***EU*** leaders that was supposed to approve sanctions on Lukashenko's subordinates for violently dispersing demonstrations in Belarus and discuss the EU's response to Russia for the attempted killing of opposition leader Alexei Navalny with the battle gas Novichok will not take place this week.

**Body**

In Moscow and Minsk, they could breathe a sigh of relief. ***The European Union*** has once again postponed its decisions on reacting to the brutal crackdown by Alexander Lukashenko's regime on the Belarusian people, who have been demonstrating for six weeks against the fraudulent presidential elections, the winner of which was once again declared to be Lukashenko.

***The EU*** has also still not decided on a response to the assassination of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, in whose body - as the German government announced three weeks ago - traces of a neurotoxin from a type of Novichok war gas banned by international law and secretly developed in the Soviet Union have been detected. Navalny was treated for a month after the attack in Berlin, where he was taken at the request of his family from a hospital in Omsk, Siberia, to which he had been taken in a coma after being poisoned.

After the Novichok attack on Navalny was revealed, some German politicians demanded that Chancellor Angela Merkel's government stop the construction of another Baltic gas pipeline, Nord Stream 2, from Russia to Germany. But the German government felt that the leaders of all EU countries should speak out on the issue.

Decisions on how to respond to events in Belarus and the assassination of Navalny were supposed to be taken by ***EU*** leaders at a summit to be held in Brussels this Thursday and Friday. However, on Tuesday evening, ***European*** Council President Charles Michel announced that he had to undergo quarantine because a coronavirus infection had been detected in one of his bodyguards. In these circumstances, the ***EU*** summit has been postponed by a week.

Meanwhile, already on Wednesday, Aleksandr Lukashenko inaugurated his next presidential term at a hastily and secretly organised ceremony, playing on the nose of the ***EU,*** which does not formally recognise the results of the August elections in Belarus.

During the six-week-long mass demonstrations in Minsk and other Belarusian cities, police have so far arrested at least 8 000 people, the ***EU*** estimated. There have been reports of numerous cases of torture of detainees, and hundreds, if not thousands, of protesters have been beaten.

Indeed, ***the EU*** has so far responded to this only with verbal protests, the effect of which is akin to throwing cotton wool balls at the Lukashenko regime, supported by Putin's Russia.

Let us recall that only after a week of demonstrations in Belarus, Charles Michel decided to convene a summit of ***EU*** leaders by teleconference, as the governments of Poland and the Baltic States had already called for. The summit approved a plan to impose symbolic sanctions on selected officials of the Lukashenko regime, banning them from entering the ***EU*** and freezing their assets in the Union.

Since then, only the Baltic States have imposed such sanctions on Belarusian officials, including Alexander Lukashenko. Lukashenko was added to the EU blacklist at the request of Germany, France and Italy. But most importantly, ***the EU*** has so far not imposed such merely symbolic sanctions against representatives of the Lukashenko regime. This plan was blocked by Cyprus, known for its close relations with Russia, demanding in exchange for sanctions against Lukashenko's subordinates that Turkey be punished for exploring oil and gas deposits under the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea. At a postponed summit, ***EU*** leaders were expected to persuade Cyprus to change its mind.

For now, Lukashenko has more time to entrench himself in a sense of impunity and deepen Belarus' dependence on Russia.

The sudden quarantine of the President of the ***European*** Council is also not good for Ukraine, which is still struggling with Russian aggression, which in recent weeks has intensified in the propaganda field. Lukashenko and Putin have accused Ukraine of interfering with the US in Belarus, even training activists to lead street demonstrations.

This Saturday, Charles Michel was due to arrive in Ukraine and pay a visit to Donbass, which Kiev is fighting Russian mercenaries to keep. It is likely that the President of the ***European*** Council will postpone this visit due to quarantine

It was supposed to be part of the preparations for the annual ***EU-Ukraine*** summit, which this year was scheduled for 1 October. But now a postponed ***EU summit is due to take*** place on that date and it is not clear whether a summit with Ukraine will also take place.

The ***EU's*** image losses due to the slippage in sanctions against the Lukashenko regime, and the distraction of the EU from the fighting in the Donbass, are advantages for Russia. Moscow also benefits from the EU's lack of reaction to Navalny's assassination. No one believes in a thorough investigation by Russia in this case. On Wednesday, Alexei Navalny was discharged from a clinic in Berlin after 32 days of treatment. And since he did not die from neurotoxin poisoning, the political tension over the attack on the Russian oppositionist will begin to subside.

Perhaps there will not even be a gesture like the expulsion of a group of Russian diplomats, as there was two years ago when they tried to poison former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in the UK with novichok, and a British woman was the accidental victim. The UK Government has accused officers of the Russian military intelligence service GRU of the Skripal assassination attempt.

Germany, which has held the ***EU*** Presidency since July - that is, it has had the initiative in convening summits and setting their agenda - has contributed to these advantages for Russia. Admittedly, it was the German Government that announced that Novichok poison was used in the assassination attempt on Navalny, and demanded an explanation from the Russian authorities.

But the Kremlin says it sees no grounds to investigate the case, high-ranking Russian officials suggest Navalny may have been poisoned outside Russia, and according to the daily Le Monde, French President Emmanuel Macron allegedly heard from Putin that Navalny may have taken novichok himself. And to all this Germany, now leading the ***EU, is*** not reacting.

It is also hard to understand that Germany, ***Europe'***s biggest economic power, has failed to persuade tiny Cyprus to accept symbolic sanctions against Lukashenko's officials. Unless it suits Berlin.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Medicine + Health (68%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (89%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (76%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The budget of the European Union European Union budget. Poland and Hungary threaten with veto***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1T7-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 899 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** Germany sees no reason to end Article 7 proceedings against Poland and Hungary. Conflicting interpretations of the "funds for the rule of law" rule by EU ministers on Tuesday threaten to clinch the ***EU*** budget.

**Body**

After more than six months, on the initiative of Berlin, which now holds the EU presidency, the ***EU*** Council returned on Tuesday (22 September 2020) to the topic of the rule of law in Poland and Hungary. - The report presented to us on Tuesday by the ***European*** Commission shows that there are no conditions for ending the proceedings under Article 7. Therefore, we will continue them," assured Minister Michael Roth. After the Commission's information, there was no discussion about the events in Poland (including the muzzling law and the Disciplinary Chamber). But Didier Reynders, the ***EU*** justice commissioner, said that Germany had proposed to hold formal - usually lasting a few hours - "hearings" of Poland and Hungary before the end of this year.

- And ***the European*** Commission will next week for the first time present a package of reports on the rule of law in all 27 EU countries, Reynders said. Such an annual review of the state of the rule of law and media freedom is intended by Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the Commission, as a way of avoiding political tensions from taking just a few EU countries for a fork in the road. - It was very interesting to read the drafts of these reports. I found a few surprising things about EU countries that are not usually suspected of,' one EU official tells us. One of Brussels' initial ideas is for the ***EU*** Council to discuss the four-country reports at a single meeting, spread over many months, but this "won't absorb" the separate Article 7 procedure for Warsaw and Budapest.

[*Read more: Germany. A permanent fence will be erected on the border between Brandenburg and Poland. It is about ASF*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,168930,26329022,niemcy-na-granicy-brandenburgii-z-polska-stanie-stale-ogrodzenie.html)

The most urgent task of the German presidency of the Council of the ***EU*** is now the legislative agreement with the ***European*** Parliament on the budget package, which the ***EU*** summit approved "only" at a political level in July. One element of this package is the "money for rule of law" rule, which is supposed to allow, from January 2021, the suspension of payments to countries that violate the rule of law. Only that already immediately after the end of the July ***EU*** summit, great differences of interpretation emerged.

Prime Ministers [*Mateusz Morawiecki and Viktor Orban announced in July a triumph*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26146351,orban-na-konferencji-z-morawieckim-byly-proby-edukowania-nas.html) that would see the principle of "money for rule of law" nullified and any decision on the final shape of this mechanism left to the approval of the ***European*** Council. And since the latter decides by consensus, Poland or Hungary would have a veto. However, Ursula von der Leyen, head of the ***European*** Commission, and Charles Michel, head of the ***European*** Council, explained that decisions would be taken by a majority of EU countries. The summit agreed that it would take a "qualified majority" in the ***EU*** Council, or 15 of the 27 ***EU*** countries representing at least 65 per cent of the Union's population, to approve the ***European*** Commission's proposals to withhold funds.

Although the specific regulation "funds for the rule of law" requires only a "qualified majority" in the ***EU*** Council, Polish and Hungarian ministers yesterday repeated - albeit in veiled form - the veto threat formulated earlier by their ambassadors in Brussels. Indeed, parts of the budget package, including the national guarantees for the Reconstruction Fund, require the unanimity of the 27 EU countries, which could become a "hostage" in disputes over the rule of law. - We are in favour of a package approach. We want the entire budget package to be negotiated and adopted at the same time - said minister Konrad Szymański during the session. Several days ago, the Hungarians had already publicly threatened that they would not unblock the Reconstruction Fund until they had seen the 'money for rule of law' regulation, which was probably as diluted as possible, finalised to their satisfaction.

Szymanski reiterated on Tuesday the Polish interpretation of the findings of the July ***EU*** summit that the details of the rule of law conditionality would require unanimous approval by the leaders of the 27 ***EU*** countries.

However, this Polish-Hungarian offensive to defuse the 'money for rule of law' rule was fiercely opposed by several EU countries. - We cannot accept any watering down. We need an effective rule of law mechanism with majority voting. This was the condition for Finland's agreement on the budget package in July. And we will not give it up," Tytti Tuppurainen said during the meeting. Swedish minister Hans Dahlgren also warned about the rule of law as a "precondition", the violation of which would jeopardise other elements of the budget package. Weakening the rule of law provisions of the July summit was also strongly opposed by a Frenchman, a Dane, a Dutchman and a Belgian.

[*Read more: Facebook will have to withdraw from* ***Europe****? It's about sending data overseas*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151243,26327692,facebook-bedzie-musial-wycofac-sie-z-europy-poszlo-o-wysylanie.html)

- I urge you not to forget that we are not the only player in this matter. We also need the agreement of the ***European*** Parliament, which will not be satisfied with lip service," Mr Roth warned. Indeed, already at the end of August the heads of the four main factions reiterated in a joint letter to Angela Merkel and Ursula von der Leyen their demands for strong conditionality on the rule of law (including a much lower voting threshold than that agreed at the ***EU*** summit). And they warned that without a finalised regulation on the issue, there would be no EP approval for the ***EU*** budget. Minister Roth confirmed that the German presidency will propose its compromise version of "money for rule of law" legislation next week.

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/pl/polska-i-w%C4%99gry-gro%C5%BC%C4%85-unii-wetem-z-powodu-praworz%C4%85dno%C5%9Bci/a-55019611) website.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European Union*** Regulation + Policy (94%); ***European Union*** (86%); Awards + Prizes (70%); Recession (65%); Human Rights Violations (64%); Terrorist Organizations (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (78%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (78%); Harbors + Ports (70%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Duda visiting Italy, among the topics the next term of Lukashenko. Szczerski: There is a problem with it***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R20R-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 275 words

**Byline:** kn/IAR

**Highlight:** Presidential Minister Krzysztof Szczerski has admitted that there is "a problem" with Alyaksandr Lukashenko's next term. Among other things, Polish President Andrzej Duda discussed the situation in Belarus with President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte during a visit to Italy. Before noon, Belarusian state media reported that Alyaksandr Lukashenko had taken office as president of the country. The inauguration took place without prior announcements.

**Body**

Minister Krzysztof Szczerski was asked by the Polish Radio during his visit to Rome whether President Andrzej Duda considers Alyaksandr Lukashenka to be the President of Belarus in light of today's events. - The very swearing-in of President Lukashenko showed that there is a problem with his next term. And I think that President Lukashenko himself is aware of this problem, in which he finds himself today," Szczerski assessed.

[*Read also: States react to Lukashenko's clandestine inauguration. FOREIGN MINISTRY: Elected in undemocratic elections*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26332191,panstwa-reaguja-na-potajemna-inauguracje-lukaszenki-niemcy.html)

The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated earlier that a president elected in undemocratic elections cannot be considered to be in legitimate power, regardless of whether the swearing-in is secret or official.

Krzysztof Szczerski stressed that the issue of Belarus was the subject of Andrzej Duda's talks with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte. Warsaw and Rome have a convergent view on this issue.

It is the clear conviction of Poland and Italy that the right of Belarusians to decide about the future of their own country must be restored. This right is currently being taken away from them, and they are demanding it. It should be ***Europe'***s aim to lead the people of Belarus to freedom of their own political choice. We are not imposing anything, we are not defining anything for them, we just want Belarusians to have the right to choose their own future. They do not have this right today.

- The Presidential Minister emphasised. Krzysztof Szczerski added that the ***European Union*** should not hesitate but support Belarus on its way to free elections.

Lithuania and Germany, among others, also do not recognise the Belarusian leader as President of the country.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Indictments (88%); Film (80%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Awards + Prizes (68%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (68%); Chemistry (68%); Medical Science (68%); Medicine + Health (68%); Military Weapons (68%); Physics (68%); Writers (68%); Company Activities + Management (63%); Investigations (63%); Nondurable Goods (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (90%); Harbors + Ports (80%); Mining + Extraction (80%); Destinations + Attractions (70%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Second wave of coronavirus in Europe. Records in more countries, infections more than in spring [CHART OF THE DAY].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1X8-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 733 words

**Byline:** Mikołaj Fidziński/IAR

**Highlight:** The number of new coronavirus cases in ***Europe*** is already almost half of what it was during the spring peak. The list of countries where the infection graph is climbing very sharply is lengthening.

**Body**

The seven-day average number of new coronavirus infections in ***Europe*** has already exceeded 50 000 per day. This is actually half as many as during the worst part of the spring pandemic - at the beginning of April the average was 35 000 cases per day.

To be clear - firstly, although there is no doubt that there are now many more infections, in at least some countries several times more tests are carried out than in spring (so necessarily more infected people are caught).

Secondly, the rapid rise in the number of infections is not matched by an equally rapid rise in the number of deaths or the number of people needing hospital treatment. The numbers are rising, but they are nothing like they were in April, when up to 3-4 000 people infected with the coronavirus were dying every day. However, the figures are starting to become alarming. Not only young people, but also the elderly are becoming infected. As recently as mid-September, an average of 360-380 infected people died every day in ***Europe***. Now the average is over 500 people.

Seven-day average number of COVID-19 deaths in ***Europe*** in the last two months:

The epidemic situation is basically deteriorating throughout ***Europe***. However, there are countries where the increase in infections is particularly significant.

Among the EU countries, we are talking, above all, about Spain, France, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands, where there are already several thousand infections a day. In all of these countries, the daily number of new infections has reached record levels in recent days. While in the Iberian Peninsula, the number of infections has been rising steadily for two months, the situation in the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Austria and Hungary, for example, only began to deteriorate in recent weeks.

Apart from ***the EU*** countries, other countries are also contributing to the ***European*** statistics. Nominally, Russia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom have the most - several thousand cases a day. In the case of the latter two countries in particular, the increases in recent days have been significant. In terms of population per million, the highest number of infections is in Montenegro, Moldova and Iceland, although it should be remembered that due to the population of these countries, we are talking not about thousands, but about hundreds or even tens (in the case of Iceland) of new cases per day.

No one is likely to prepare for nationwide lockdowns like the one in the spring. However, certain inconveniences have to be reckoned with, because in individual countries and regions there are more and more restrictions.

[*A threat level four on a five-step scale has just been announced by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,173952,26327519,wielka-brytania-boris-johnson-oglasza-nowa-liste-restrykcji.html) This means that the spread of the virus is described as high. In London, it has been decided that pubs, bars and restaurants will close at 10 p.m. Weddings have been limited to 15 people, plans for fans to return to stadiums have been suspended, and rules on covering the mouth and nose have been tightened (including the need for shop and restaurant staff to do so, not just customers). Scotland goes even further, having banned hospitality.

There is speculation that new restrictions will be introduced by the Paris authorities as early as Wednesday evening. There are talks about restrictions on gatherings of up to 10 people or a ban on weddings and mass events. In some cities, e.g. Marseille, Bordeaux, Nice or Lyon, stricter rules have already been in force for several weeks, including the wearing of masks at work. In thirteen hospitals in Paris, Lyon, Montpellier and Saint-Etienne, the Minister of Health has introduced the so-called White Plan, a state of emergency that means full mobilisation of teams. Special wards for patients infected with COVID-19 will be activated in these facilities, and the number of places in intensive care units will also be increased.

In the Czech Republic, Health Minister Adam Vojtech resigned amid criticism after the outbreak, and Prime Minister Andrej Babis openly admitted in an address that he had made a mistake in loosening restrictions and that successes in the first months of the outbreak had dampened his vigilance. [*For several days now, Czechs have again had to wear masks indoors.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26310102,druga-fala-pandemii-w-czechach-statystyki-zakazen-wystrzelily.html) The opening hours of bars have also been reduced and the number of people who can enter them restricted. Some Czech local authorities have decided to go further with restrictions, including on family gatherings.

In the Netherlands, Prime Minister Mark Rutte made a strong appeal to football fans not to shout during games... not to shout during matches because it increases the risk of infection. [*- Just shut up," said Rutte.*](https://www.sport.pl/pilka/7,64946,26329093,premier-holandii-do-kibicow-po-prostu-sie-zamknijcie-kraj.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (74%); Chemistry (74%); Medicine + Health (73%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Awards + Prizes (64%); Medical Science (64%); Physics (64%); Writers (64%); Espionage (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Platform is not yet dead. Polemic with Eliza Michalik***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-X1G1-JCVT-R0N1-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1024 words

**Byline:** Jan Lityński

**Highlight:** Eliza Michalik rightly points to internal weaknesses in the Civic Platform, but I consider the thesis of the death of the Civic Platform or Coalition to be premature

**Body**

When I read [*Eliza Michalak's column about the non-existence of the Civic Platform*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75968,26297960,pla-juz-nie-ma-tylko-jej-kierownictwo-jeszcze-o-tym-nie-wie.html), I was reminded of a friend's remarks about meetings of the local branch of the Platform a few years ago. He said that it looked like this: members of the circle come, someone from the headquarters or from the region arrives, tells them what to think - and everyone disperses. In the Democratic Union - he continued - we met, argued, drew conclusions, and then we went to dinner, had a little drink and a sense of community.

Some will say that the continuation of the UD - the Freedom Union - has ceased to exist and has disintegrated. It is true. The Platform was built on the ruins of the Freedom Union. It appealed to people who thought they could not play an important role in the UW. It was successful, but gradually lost members disillusioned with the way it functioned.

The executive board should decide on the day-to-day work of the party. It consists of a chairman, four deputies, a secretary-general, a treasurer, regional chairmen and ten elected members. This means that the board currently consists of 38 members. And this body meets at the request of the president "not less frequently" than once every three months. It is clear that this way of managing the day-to-day business of the party is a sham.

The most important body which should decide on party policy is, of course, the national council. It is made up of several hundred people, as it includes all MPs, senators and ***MEPs***. The members elected at the convention are a minority. This means that the national council cannot hold any serious discussions, let alone take any significant decisions. MPs, senators and ***MEPs*** do not have to seek the support of party members, as everything is decided by place on the electoral list, which is decided by the leadership. According to the statutes, there are also no party authorities in the constituencies.

One can analyse this statute in greater depth and always come to only one conclusion: the life of the PO is not decided by elected bodies. So who decides? It is quite obvious: systems and coteries. Yes, the chairman is elected by all members of the PO. But that is where their role ends. Together with the chairman, they elect, without their will, a decision-making group whose composition is unclear and only implicit. And with such a statute it is obvious that it is the chairman and his confidants who decide on everything.

Internal discussions are lacking across the party and also in the parliamentary club, as Eliza Michalik points out, referring to Klaudia Jachira's emotional, but full of good points.

This way of managing the Platform has worked up to a point. But everything has its end. Contrary to Donald Tusk's well-known statement that 'we have no one to lose to', someone did appear. And PO gave up power. But it has not learned its lesson. The politics of believing in hot water remains the same.

Up to a certain point, Donald Tusk, a politician of enormous skill and charisma, replaced politics and political ideas. When he was absent, PO became defenceless against the PiS offensive.

For several years, or at least since the Smolensk catastrophe, it has been the Law and Justice party that has been setting the tone in Polish politics and imposing discussion topics. The Law and Justice party has also imposed its vision of history. An extremely simplified vision, full of lies and nationalist slogans. It happened gradually, with the passive and sometimes active support of PO and PSL, which also seems to have forgotten the tradition of independent, free and democratic peasant movements.

The vetting act was changed, the Law and Justice party's vision of the Institute of National Remembrance was imposed, the notion of "democratic opposition" was replaced with "anti-communist opposition". The symbol of recognition of such a vision of history became unreflective, effusive tributes - either to Cardinal Hlond or to the National Armed Forces, and the famous law on insulting the Polish nation, which Law and Justice had to withdraw from under international pressure.

The most important and much-needed reform of the PO, which was to raise the retirement age, was carried out without the necessary information and without any attempt to win support for this move. The lack of debate resulted in a loss of support among a significant proportion of citizens.

PiS, on the other hand, organised social movements, gaining more and more devoted supporters, not to say followers. The Platform later responded by creating Civic Clubs. This task was entrusted to a man who botched two election campaigns. The clubs became a dead institution.

The Platform has been unable to defend the secularity of the state, abandoning legal recognition of civil partnerships and giving way under pressure from the Church to expand the role of religion in schools.

We are all paying for these omissions, for PO's at least partial resignation from being an ideological political party.

The discussion proposed by Joanna Mucha about the ideological shape of the party was not taken up. Today Klaudia Jachira is proposing it. It remains to be hoped that this debate will take place.

However, I believe that Eliza Michalik's thesis on the death of the Platform or Civic Coalition is premature. The Platforma is still the largest opposition party, bringing together people ready to act. It is also a party with a vision of the state that is completely different from the one professed by those currently in power: a decentralised state, with an important role for local governments, a state that is neutral in terms of world views, with independent courts and independent supervisory institutions. This in every point is diametrically opposed to the Bolshevik practice of the Law and Justice party.

And, very importantly, ***the MEPs of the*** Civic Coalition form an extremely important link between us and ***Europe*** and its values. They are a showcase for Poland, which combines concern for the interests of the country with respect for common ***European*** values.

It is also important to remember the efforts of PO activists in uncovering the obfuscations, corruption and nepotism of those in power. This work will undoubtedly not be in vain and may at some point open the eyes of people today seduced by the rhetoric of Kaczyński and his potakiewiczs.

Rafał Trzaskowski's proposed New Solidarity movement, which refers to the past with a view to the future, also offers an opportunity to break the Coalition's internal crisis.

So it remains to be hoped.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (82%); Film (65%); Medical Devices + Equipment (63%); Indictments (61%)

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (94%); Organic Chemicals (81%); Mining + Extraction (80%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The EC has proposed a new migration pact. No compulsion, but with costs in case of refusal***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1XS-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 219 words

**Byline:** oprac. Michał Litorowicz/IAR

**Highlight:** There is a new proposal on migration law. ***The European*** Commission has proposed a so-called migration pact in which it abandons compulsory admission of refugees, but puts its faith in compulsory solidarity.

**Body**

Brussels is offering EU countries a choice - either relocate an adequate number of refugees or deport them. This means that countries that refuse to accept migrants will be responsible for carrying out the costly procedure of sending back to their countries of origin people who are not entitled to international protection.

The President of the ***European*** Commission Ursula von der Leyen expects the acceptance of new ideas. - ***Europe*** must move away from ad hoc solutions and must establish a predictable and reasonable system for migration. I am convinced that the ***European*** Commission's proposal is a good basis. This package reflects a fair and reasonable balance between responsibility and solidarity among Member States. This is a pragmatic and realistic approach- - said the head of the EC.

The Commission's proposal will now be dealt with by the Member States and ***the European*** Parliament. Brussels expects decisions to be taken quickly.

Work on a new migration law has been going on for five years. Great divisions among the Member States have prevented agreement. Countries with a large influx of migrants demanded solidarity and expected other countries to also accept refugees from Africa or the Middle East. In 2015, Poland the Czech Republic and Hungary opposed the EU relocation mechanism.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (87%); Investigations (64%)

**Industry:** Amusements + Gambling (94%); Harbors + Ports (75%); Mining + Extraction (75%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Mateusz Morawiecki on Lukashenko's swearing-in: He is aware that he does not have the support of his own people***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1YW-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 182 words

**Byline:** IAR/op. Daniel Drob

**Highlight:** Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has stressed that the secret swearing-in for another term of office of Alyaksandr Lukashenka confirms that the Belarusian autocrat is aware of what he did when he rigged the election results.

**Body**

In a Facebook post, the head of the Polish government said that Lukashenko "is aware that he does not have the support of his own people, and the aggression he is committing against Belarusian citizens is unacceptable".

The Prime Minister noted that the Polish position is clear: "Belarus must be sovereign, and a necessary condition for this is fair elections in which Belarusians, and not the apparatus of repression, will decide on the choice of authorities. Elections that are not democratic must not lead to the recognition of anyone as president of the country." The head of government assured that Poland would consistently support all efforts to help the repressed and to repeat the elections in Belarus in a democratic formula.

The inauguration of [*Alyaksandr Lukashenka's*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=Alaksandr+%A3ukaszenka#e=TagLink) next term in office was announced by the Belarusian authorities on Wednesday. The ceremony was held in secret and was not broadcast on television. The governments of the Baltic States and Germany have expressed criticism of the swearing-in. The elections of 9 August, in which the incumbent Belarusian President won according to the official results, have been described by the ***European*** Union as unfair and fraudulent.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (74%); Chemistry (74%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Awards + Prizes (65%); Medical Science (65%); Medicine + Health (65%); Physics (65%); Terrorist Organizations (65%); Writers (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (69%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***States react to Lukashenko's clandestine inauguration. FOREIGN MINISTRY: Elected in undemocratic elections***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1YB-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 458 words

**Byline:** IAR/op. Daniel Drob

**Highlight:** Poland, Germany, Lithuania and Sweden, among others, have announced in official communiqués that they do not recognise Alyaksandr Lukashenka as president of Belarus despite his swearing-in. - If the swearing-in ceremony takes place behind closed doors, the facts speak for themselves," commented Steffen Seibert, spokesman for the German federal government.

**Body**

In response to the swearing-in of [*Alyaksandr Lukashenka,*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=Alaksandr+%A3ukaszenka#e=TagLink) the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that 'a president elected in non-democratic elections cannot be recognised as legitimately exercising power, regardless of whether the swearing-in is secret or official'. The [*inauguration of Alyaksandr Lukashenka for another term of office was announced today by the Belarusian authorities*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26330127,alaksandr-lukaszenka-zaprzysiezony-na-prezydenta-uroczystosc.html). The ceremony was held in secret and was not televised. The governments of the Baltic States and Germany have expressed criticism of the swearing-in. The elections of 9 August, in which the Belarusian President won according to the official results, have been described by the ***European*** Union as unfair and fraudulent.

After Alyaksandr Lukashenka was sworn in as president of Belarus, the German ruling class reiterated its doubts about the country's recent elections. - The presidential election in Belarus did not in the least correspond to democratic requirements," said federal government spokesman Steffen Seibert. Berlin will seek to agree sanctions against Minsk as soon as possible, he added. - If the swearing-in ceremony takes place behind closed doors, the facts speak for themselves," Seibert stressed.

President Gitanas Nauseda said that Lithuania also does not recognise Lukashenko as the leader of Belarus. The Lithuanian leader noted that the August 9 elections in Belarus were not free, fair or democratic. As he said, the inauguration ceremony of Lukashenko's presidency in Minsk does not change the situation and Lithuania does not recognise him as the legitimate leader of Belarus. He pointed out that no secret and pompous ceremonies would deny the facts and create the illusion of legitimacy of his power. Nauseda recalled that his country favours new democratic presidential elections in Belarus with the participation of international observers. In turn, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius assessed that the secret inauguration in Minsk is regrettable and does not improve the situation in the country, and Lukashenko himself can be called a former president of Belarus in both political and legal terms.

The Swedish MFA chief stressed that Lukashenko has no legitimacy to rule Belarus. She commented that the 9 August elections were not free and fair.

Ukraine has not yet reached a position on Wednesday's inauguration of Alyaksandr Lukashenka and his political status. The head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba, said that the ministry would soon hold consultations on the issue. The head of Ukrainian diplomacy noted that the secret inauguration was not attended by any diplomat accredited in Minsk, not even the Russian ambassador. At the same time, he reminded that Ukraine does not recognise the August presidential elections in Belarus as free and fair.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (83%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Awards + Prizes (65%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (65%); Chemistry (65%); Espionage (65%); Medical Science (65%); Medicine + Health (65%); Physics (65%); Writers (65%); Arms Control + Disarmament (62%); Securities + Other Investments (62%); Torture (62%); Weapons + Arms (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (78%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Brexit. Green light for bill breaking deal with EU. Boris Johnson has made his point***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1V2-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 604 words

**Byline:** IAR/mf

**Highlight:** the House of Commons has given the green light to the controversial Brexit Bill, which the government has admitted breaks its deal with the EU. MPs passed the bill at the most important stage - second reading. But Boris Johnson's administration convinced rebels to the bill by making compromises and watering down the text.

**Body**

Talks on a trade deal between the ***EU*** and the UK have hit a snag after the British government published a draft bill that would allow the UK to unilaterally scrap its first Brexit deal with Brussels. Prime Minister Boris Johnson believes that an "emergency mechanism" is needed - a safeguard in case there is no agreement in negotiations on the second deal, the one on the future relationship between London and Brussels. The problem is that the first deal on brexit (which Johnson himself, after all, negotiated and called good) was not conditional on a future agreement. According to ***the EU,*** such action by the UK amounts to a breach of international law.

However, the controversial Brexit bill has just gained support in the House of Commons at the second reading stage, albeit with some compromises. Firstly, the House of Commons agreed to an additional safeguard: those in power would have to get parliamentary approval before breaching the deal. Moreover, as a result of another government decision, the provisions might not even come into force in time.

The House agreed to proceed to third reading without a formal vote. The divide largely disappeared, although some MPs - including former Prime Minister Theresa May - remained unconvinced. Boris Johnson's predecessor accused the drafters of acting recklessly and hitting the UK's international reputation.

In the evening, the Northern Ireland Regional Parliament voted against the bill. The bill breaches the very protocol that is supposed to guarantee the stability of the region.

The ***EU*** is also not impressed by the compromise, as provisions undermining the Brexit deal remain in the draft. But the British government is taking another step backwards, as the media in Britain report, by extending parliamentary work on the bill.

By mid-October we should know whether there will be a chance of a deal. But then the draft will not have passed through parliament yet. So if there is a chance of agreement, the government can simply say that it doesn't need these provisions anyway

- says Raphael Hogarth of the Institute for Government think tank in an interview with Polskie Radio.

Meanwhile, a government report has reached the British media, drawing a worrying landscape after the UK leaves the EU's single market and customs union at the end of the year. As [*Bloomberg*](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-22/u-k-s-gove-warns-of-7-000-truck-long-queue-in-brexit-worst-case) reports, in a "realistic worst-case scenario" up to 7,000 lorries could be stuck in traffic jams outside the port of Kent.

Similar simulations were already live in 2019.

The transition period between the UK and ***the EU*** runs until the end of 2020. In a letter, Minister Michael Gove warns the border industry that the flow of goods between the UK's Dover and France's Calais - the UK's key trade artery - could be reduced by up to 80 per cent compared to normal levels. The government predicts that, in a worst-case scenario, up to 70 per cent of lorries seeking to enter the ***European*** Union will not be ready for the new border controls. Gove is calling on businesses to prepare for the new paperwork now. He also predicts problems for lorries entering the UK from the ***EU***.

To relieve potential lorry congestion on the roads, the British Government is building facilities where undocumented vehicles could be stopped. Coronavirus may also have some impact on the situation at the border. On the one hand, the winter peak may reduce the number of goods transported. On the other hand, possible staff shortages among port and border personnel could be detrimental.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EU Court of Justice to decide on the independence of Polish Supreme Court judges***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1Y1-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1524 words

**Byline:** Łukasz Woźnicki

**Highlight:** Are judges appointed to the Supreme Court in a politicized procedure really independent? Can the legality of such appointments even be questioned by Polish courts? ***EU*** Court of Justice will consider two legal questions concerning the political changes in the Polish Supreme Court.

**Body**

The ***EU*** Court of Justice (CJEU) will look at two more cases concerning political changes in the Polish Supreme Court. The decision proceeds from two legal questions issued with regards to the cases of two judges: Waldemar Żurek and Monika Frąckowiak- members of the Polish Association of Judges "Themis" and "Iustitia. Following the judicial "reforms" adopted by the Polish government in 2018, the president was free to appoint multiple new judges to the Supreme Court. All the nominees were selected by the politicized National Council of the Judiciary. The CJEU will now consider the legality of their appointment.

Judges who brought the cases before the ***EU*** Court of Justice addressed the court in Luxembourg on Tuesday. They explained that "the questions concern whether persons appointed to the Supreme Court in the politicized procedure can be considered as independent judges and whether the Polish court may deliberate over the status of such persons".

In Mr. Żurek's case, the question is essentially this: can we assume that a court chaired by a judge whose appointment was a blatant violation of the ***EU*** law is still a legitimate court? The question refers to the case of the former deputy minister and current member of the Extraordinary Control and Public Affairs Chamber of the Supreme Court (IKNiSP), Aleksander Stępkowski. The president appointed him despite a decision of the Supreme Administrative Court to suspend all recommendations of the disputed National Council of the Judiciary. "It was an intentional violation of law" - claimed the Supreme Court.

-We need to ask ourselves whether the people who serve in our courts are legitimate judges or just a bunch of judge impersonators. We picked up this fight so that verdicts issued by the Polish courts can be considered legally valid. Otherwise, they'd be nothing but a piece of paper - Mr. Żurek said before the hearing.

In 2019, Stępkowski essentially ruled in his own case and dismissed Mr. Żurek's appeal against his appointment by the National Council of the Judiciary. Following the disputed ruling, the Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court issued a preliminary legal question to the CJEU. The question asked whether the Court of which Stępkowski is a member can even be considered legal according to the ***EU*** law.

-The decision of the CJEU of these doubts is important not only with respect to Aleksander Stępkowski but also with respect to other people adjudicating in the Extraordinary Control and Public Affairs Chamber and other chambers of the Supreme Court appointed in the new procedure.- say the members of the Free Courts Initiative (Wolne Sądy) who represent Mr. Żurek. - The CJEU could now decide on the legal status of the Extraordinary Control and Public Affairs Chamber of the Supreme Court -they add. Before, CJEU already considered the case of the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme court, ruling that Polish courts should be free to assess its independence.

- We propose that the response to the request for a preliminary CJEU ruling should be affirmative and decisive- said Sylwia Gregorczyk-Abram from the Free Courts initiative, adding that - a single-person bench consisting of a person appointed to hold the office of judge in gross violation of the rules of law of a Member State regarding the appointment of judges is not an independent and impartial judge.

-A gross breach of the appointment procedure made intentionally should result in the refusal to extend protection to such a person who is not a judge in accordance with the law, which arises from the guarantee of irremovability of a judge- said the Polish Deputy Ombudsman, Maciej Taborowski, who was also present at the court on Tuesday.

The Polish government requested that the prejudicial questions issued by the Supreme Court be dismissed. According to the representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Public Prosecutor's Office, Mr. Żurek's case does not fall under the jurisdiction of the ***EU*** law, and the Union itself has no authority to decide on the judicial system of its Member States. Moreover, new judges are protected by the constitutional principle of irremovability, they argue.

- A situation where the judges have to live in constant fear of having their status challenged in any way is simply unacceptable. Their security is guaranteed by the Polish law- said the Deputy Minister of Justice, Anna Dalkowska. She pointed out the possible outcomes of a CJEU ruling. It would affect 570 judges appointed with the help of the new National Council of the Judiciary who have already issued over 10,000 judgments.

- There are simply no legal grounds on which the judicial independence or the effectiveness of their appointment could be questioned- said the prosecutor Andrzej Reczka.

The legality of the new appointments is directly challenged in the second case brought before the CJEU. The question which proceeds from the case initiated by Monika Frąckowiak can be summarized as follows: Is it valid for the Supreme Court to decide that the person whose appointment was the effect of a legally flawed procedure is not a judge?

A judge from Poznań filed a lawsuit with the Supreme Court asking it to recognize that one of the new judges is in fact not a judge. It is Jan Majchrowski from the Disciplinary Chamber. Majchrowski, as Acting President of ID, appointed the disciplinary court to hear the Frąckowiak case. A spokesperson appointed by Zbigniew Ziobra is prosecuting her for failure to produce timely justifications.

Ms. Frąckowiak has filed a lawsuit with the Supreme Court to asking it to recognize the illegal status of one of the newly appointed judges. The case concerns a member of the Disciplinary Chamber, Jan Majchrowski. As the acting chairman of the Chamber, Majchrowski initiated a disciplinary proceeding against Ms. Frąckowiak.

-I speak in front of the court not as a judge, but as an ***EU*** citizen who has every right to have her case heard by an independent court. This case concerns guarantees for everyone- Frąckowiak said in a press briefing before the hearing. - The question is whether a judge appointed in a flawed procedure by a politicized body can be treated as a judge within the legal context of ***European*** Treaties. It is a case that seems to be crucial for all judges appointed by way of the new procedure - she added.

Again, the Polish government requested that it be ruled inadmissible.

Assuming that the CJEU's verdict will be affirmative, it would shake the ruling camp's judicial "reform" to its core. The Supreme Court itself has already decided four times that the Disciplinary Chamber is not a legal court, but has not yet decided to question the status of new judges. The government's narrative is that no one has the right to challenge the presidential appointments, and any potential flaws in the nomination process are annulled by the president's decision. - Controlling the process of appointments would be possible if the Constitution provided for it- Ms. Dalkowska said in the CJEU hearing. The Constitutional Tribunal compromised and controlled by the ruling camp ruled on several occasions that the nominations are legal and cannot be questioned.

Should the CJEU even decide to respond to the request for a preliminary ruling, its decision won't be announced before next year. Its ruling will be preceded by an opinion issued by the Advocate General of the CJEU in January. - We hope that the ruling will be universally applicable and lay the foundations for defining judicial independence within the legal context of the ***European*** Treaties. This would ensure that all ***EU*** judges respect the same legal standards - says a member of the "Iustitia" Association, judge Joanna Hetnarowicz-Sikora.

On Tuesday, attorneys from the Free Courts Initiative asked the CJEU to issue an unambiguous ruling that cannot be undermined by the Polish authorities (which had been the case before with regards to ruling on the Disciplinary Chamber) -We, in Poland, are witnessing a unique revolution in Poland against the rule of law. The Polish judiciary is currently relying on the heroism of the individual and the courage of individual judges, as the systemic protection of their independence has been dismantled. The CJEU is the last court whose judgment can save the independence of the courts in Poland. And this is precisely that moment" - said Ms. Gregorczyk-Abram.

-CJEU has the sole and exclusive competence to give a binding response to the question of the criteria that an independent court should meet under ***EU*** law and specify the consequences of judgments issued by a person and body that do not satisfy these criteria. For this reason, the decision it issue is absolutely crucial to the whole of the ***European Union*** - she added.

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**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Insider Trading (80%); Journalism (70%); Cardiology (63%); Criminal Law (61%); Torture (61%)

**Industry:** Newspaper Publishing (93%); Destinations + Attractions (65%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Analysts: Risky policies of Polish and Hungarian central banks. Attention to the zloty exchange rate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1XG-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 702 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** According to analysts, inflation and the actions of the central banks in Poland and Hungary are weighing on the currencies of these countries, writes "Handelsblatt".

**Body**

The German business daily writes on Wednesday (23.09.2020) that the main concern for the ***European*** Central Bank and the central banks in the ***eurozone*** countries is currently low [*inflation*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=inflacja), which has been below the 2 per cent target for years. The coronavirus pandemic has put the prospect of a change in the situation even further away. " [*Handelsblatt*](https://www.handelsblatt.com/finanzen/maerkte/devisen-rohstoffe/devisen-inflationssorgen-belasten-osteuropas-waehrungen/26207286.html)" notes that in the east of the ***EU the*** situation is different. "In Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic [*inflation*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=inflacja) has recently ranged from 2.9 per cent to almost 4 per cent. Because of these high values, the currencies of these ***non-eurozone*** countries have weakened recently. Since the beginning of August, the Hungarian forint has lost more than 5 per cent against the ***euro***" - notes the newspaper.

[*Read more: Core inflation the highest in nearly 19 years. What is happening to prices in Poland? CHART OF THE DAY]*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26138214,inflacja-bazowa-najwyzsza-od-ponad-19-lat-co-sie-dzieje-z-cenami.html)

The daily quotes DZ Bank analyst Sandra Striffler, according to whom one of the negative factors is, apart from inflation and the lowering of the ***euro*** again, also concerns about the "overly expansive monetary policy" of the central banks of Eastern European ***EU*** member states. Her colleague Tatha Ghose from Commerzbank is also pessimistic about the Hungarian forint, and to some extent also about the Polish zloty, while she has a better outlook for the Czech koruna, writes "Handelsblatt". The reason for the weakening of these currencies is the fall of the ***euro*** against the dollar in recent weeks, but also "home-made factors".

According to analysts, one of the risk factors for the currencies of the three eastern European ***EU*** countries is the increase in cases of [*coronavirus*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=epidemia+koronawirusa). According to the daily, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic came through the first wave of the pandemic relatively well. However, they are now reporting higher infection rates than in the spring. This in turn raises the concern that economic life will again be restricted.

"In addition, the relatively high inflation in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic raises the question of how the central banks there will react if this trend continues" - notes "Handelsblatt". As he writes, Commerzbank analyst Tatha Ghose sees "a credibility problem primarily at the central banks in Hungary and Poland". He believes that inflation will fall in the coming months, but then rise again. "The markets are asking whether these central banks are ready to tighten monetary policy if necessary," says Ghose, quoted by a German daily.

The newspaper adds that during the coronavirus pandemic, central banks in eastern European ***EU*** countries responded by significantly loosening monetary policy. In Hungary the reference interest rate is now 0.6 per cent, in the Czech Republic 0.25 per cent and in Poland 0.1 per cent. Given the higher inflation in these countries, the real interest rate there is even lower than in the ***euro*** zone, writes the daily.

[*Read more: New forecasts in the NBP survey. Recession in 2020 deeper than thought, inflation up*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26125832,nowe-prognozy-w-ankiecie-nbp-recesja-w-2020-r-glebsza-niz.html)

"Added to this is the fact that individual central banks are buying sovereign bonds in a big way. Above all, the Polish central bank bought bonds on a scale of around 4.6 percent of GDP from March to August," the newspaper notes. It also quotes an analysis by Allianz, according to which there are fears that the NBP in 2020 "will finance the entire budget deficit forecast at around 8 percent of GDP.

According to the daily, the Hungarian central bank is buying fewer government bonds, but has launched other programmes, such as the purchase of mortgage bonds. In the Czech Republic, the central bank has so far abandoned such measures.

Analysts quoted by the newspaper are particularly critical of the outlook for the forint, "also because the political influence on the Hungarian central bank is particularly pronounced". Data on the economic situation in Hungary has also recently fallen short of expectations. The economy contracted by more than 14 per cent in the second quarter of this year. For 2020 as a whole, Commerzbank forecasts a recession of 5.2 per cent of GDP for the country, with the Czech Republic at -6.3 per cent of GDP and Poland at -3.0 per cent of GDP. "In general, sentiment towards Eastern European currencies has not been very good recently. Their stability will depend especially on the further course of each central bank," writes "Handelsblatt".

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/pl/handelsblatt-ryzykowna-polityka-bank%C3%B3w-centralnych-polski-i-w%C4%99gier/a-55026134) website.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (74%); Terrorist Organizations (68%); Human Rights Violations (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***MEP PiS on the priority of "fighting gender". Bortniczuk: This is Mr. Kaki's journalism***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R20C-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 336 words

**Byline:** kn

**Highlight:** Kamil Bortniczuk was asked about the words of PiS ***MEP*** Patryk Kaki, who said that the government's priorities should include "reform of the state, the judiciary, the media and the fight against gender". The Covenant member responded critically. - I think that this is Mr. Kaki's journalism. (...) I think that there are many more important issues - he said in "Fakt po Faktach".

**Body**

MP Kamil Bortniczuk of the Covenant in the programme "Facts after Facts" on TVN24 was asked whether his party shares the earlier expectations of the other of PiS's coalition partners, Solidarna Polska, "as to the priorities that should be included in the new coalition agreement". - Patryk Jaki described them as follows: "we would like the government's priorities to be the reform of the state, the justice system, the media and the fight against gender, not police powers for environmentalists". Do you think these are the right priorities? - asked host Piotr Marciniak, recalling ***MEP*** Kaki's recent post.

[*Read more: Patryk Jaki: We wanted the priorities of the government to be: reform of the state, media, fight against gender*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26316422,patryk-jaki-chcielismy-zeby-priorytetami-rzadu-byly-reforma.html)

Bortniczuk disagreed that the issues listed by Yaki should be priorities for the new government.

I think that this is ***MEP*** Patryk Kaki's journalism, we have many more priorities, they are much broader. I don't know if the fight against gender during the coronavirus should be one of the government's priorities.

- he said on TVN24.

I would very much not like these crises to overlap with a political crisis, so I am keeping my fingers crossed for the leaders of our coalition partners, Law and Justice and Solidarna Polska, that they will come to an agreement. A great responsibility rests on their shoulders.

I think that these priorities that Mr Patryk Jaki mentioned could really be reformulated and presented much more broadly

- he added after a while.

There is still no final decision on talks between the leaders of PiS and Solidarna Polska on the continuation of the ruling coalition. On Wednesday afternoon after a meeting of the ruling party's leadership at its headquarters on Nowogrodzka Street, PiS spokeswoman Anita Czerwińska [*said that "the ball is in Solidarna Polska's court"*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26332026,zakonczylo-sie-spotkanie-na-nowogrodzkiej.html). The "last chance meeting" between Jarosław Kaczyński and Zbigniew Ziobro ended at around 8 pm on Wednesday.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Rainbow illumination on the EC building in Brussels: Stop "LGBT-free zones" in Poland***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1TV-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 234 words

**Byline:** elaborated by. Natalia Pacholczyk

**Highlight:** On Tuesday 22 September, the EU Equality Commissioner accepted a petition with 300,000 signatures calling on ***EU*** institutions to take action on homophobia. In the evening, a rainbow flag and slogans to stop the practice of "LGBT-free zones" in Poland were displayed on the EC building in Brussels.

**Body**

On 14 September, ***the European*** Parliament took up a report on the rule of law in Poland. Later in her speech, the President of the [***European*** *Commission,*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=komisja+europejska) Ursula von der Leyen, condemned manifestations of hatred, discrimination or violence against LGBT activists. Although the word "Poland" was nowhere mentioned, the reference was quite explicit. - LGBT-free zones are zones free of humanist values and have no place in our Union," [*von der Leyen said*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26306930,szefowa-ke-ursula-von-der-leyen-w-unii-europejskiej-nie-ma.html).

On Tuesday 22 September, Helena Dalli, who is the EU Commissioner for Equality, met with representatives of the Campaign Against Homophobia and accepted a petition with 300,000 signatures calling on the ***EU*** to take action on homophobia in Poland. In the evening, a rainbow illumination and inscriptions referring to "[*LGBT-free*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=LGBT) zones" in Poland were displayed on the ***European*** Commission headquarters building in Brussels.

Slogans such as: "Union: Time to turn words into action. Stop 'LGBT-free zones' in Poland!" or "We are not an ideology. We are citizens of Poland". Poland's emblem on a rainbow background and a white and rainbow flag were also displayed. Some social media users wrote about insulting national symbols in this context. A similar flag appeared a year ago on a flagpole at Wolności Square in Bydgoszcz. [*At that time, the public prosecutor's office, following an expert opinion on heraldry, assessed that the case did not have the features of a prohibited act.*](https://bydgoszcz.wyborcza.pl/bydgoszcz/7,48722,24560415,prokuratura-zbadala-teczowego-orla-zla-wiadomosc-dla-homofobow.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (77%); Terrorist Organizations (77%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Espionage (67%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (70%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Donald Tusk received a letter and star referring to Brexit. "Yes, we are still very close".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1T8-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 234 words

**Byline:** Natalia Pacholczyk

**Highlight:** the former President of the ***European*** Council shared on his Twitter a picture of a letter and an embroidered star. The politician received this gift from a UK resident who asks Donald Tusk not to forget the country.

**Body**

Donald Tusk, as President of the ***European*** Council, was one of the negotiators of the terms of the [*UK*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=wielka+brytania)'s exit from the ***European*** Union. The politician has repeatedly made it clear that he does not like the idea of Brexit. For this reason, the former Polish Prime Minister was criticised by the supporters of such a solution. However, as it turns out, he also gained sympathy of the opponents of the resignation of the UK from the [***EU***](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=unia+europejska) membership.

A letter received by [*Donald Tusk*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=donald+tusk) from a resident of the United Kingdom testifies to this. The message is accompanied by an embroidered star reminiscent of those on the flag of the ***European*** Union.

"Dear Donald Tusk, I embroidered this star to thank you for your balanced approach to the issues surrounding [*Brexit*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=brexit). I call it a displaced star, a reminder that we are all part of the ***European*** constellation and that we are better together. Don't forget about us, we are still very close" - This is the text of a letter addressed to the former Prime Minister. It is accompanied by a card on which is written "Thank you. Remember us. Great Britain" and a yellow star.

The former President of the ***European*** Council did not reveal who the author of the letter was. Posting a picture on Twitter, he only added from himself: "Yes, we are still very close". [*Donald Tusk received a similar parcel in March 2019*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,24544056,donald-tusk-dostal-laurke-od-szescioletniej-sophie-pisze-o.html). Back then, 6-year-old Sophie wrote to the politician that despite Brexit, all countries should remain friends.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Awards + Prizes (94%); Music Groups + Artists (65%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EU diplomacy chief: UN to be renewed, not dismantled***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1YK-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 931 words

**Byline:** Josep Borrell

**Highlight:** From climate change and arms control to human rights, global cooperation is faltering, international agreements are being denounced and international law is being undermined or selectively applied. We need the UN as never before.

**Body**

Josep Borrell - ***EU*** High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy.

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If this were an ordinary year, I would now be attending the inauguration of the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. It is an event that brings together in one place the largest number of policymakers from around the world and is an important item on the diplomatic calendar. However, this year is far from ordinary, and the week-long session will be virtual.

These circumstances are unfortunate for several reasons. We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the UN and one would like to mark the occasion in a better way. Moreover, the current global situation means that the multilateral system, of which the UN is the backbone, is facing challenges that it has not faced before. This is precisely when we need it most.

Never before has the supply of multilateral solutions been so limited and the demand for them so high. Every day we see how nationalism and strategic frictions, especially between the United States and China, are paralysing the UN Security Council and the wider international system. From climate change and arms control to maritime security, human rights and other areas, global cooperation is faltering, international agreements are being denounced and international law is being undermined or selectively applied.

This is worrying ***Europeans***. But the deepening crisis of multilateralism is not just their problem: the security and rights of all people are at stake.

Terms like 'multilateral system' and 'rules-based international order' seem vague and lack the force of slogans like 'America First' or 'Take Back Control'. But they mean something very concrete and real: the choice between peace and war, between free societies and closed societies, between an economy based on sustainable development and one that fuels growing inequality and unchecked climate change.

A world governed by agreed rules is the foundation of our common security and prosperity and freedoms. A rules-based international order provides security for states, freedom for people and investment for businesses. It also guarantees the protection of nature. The alternative - 'the stronger party is right' - has been tried many times in human history. - has been tried many times in the history of mankind, and its terrible harvest best justifies the need to maintain the multilateral system. Unfortunately, it is being tried again and again, with the results that we all know.

That is not the Union's approach. We still believe in the United Nations and we support it. This support is not just rhetorical, but also political, financial and diplomatic - when we try to act as a mediator in the Security Council.

While others were trying to destroy the World Health Organisation in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union was at the forefront of negotiations leading to an agreement to launch an independent investigation into the origin of the coronavirus. As a Union, we are also the largest donor to the COVID-19 Global Access to Vaccine (COVAX) programme, which was set up to ensure that an effective vaccine is available worldwide as a global public good as soon as possible.

The Union's contribution is a quarter of the UN budget. It is often said that ***Europe*** achieves less geopolitically than might be expected of it. But when it comes to multilateral engagement, it finances much more.

In conducting crisis management operations, we work with the UN to promote stabilisation and reconstruction in many conflict zones: from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa, from the Balkans to the Middle East.

Where wars and humanitarian crises are most acute, you will find the Union and the UN working side by side.

***Europeans*** fought hard for an international climate agreement and are now doing everything they can to maintain it. We continue to strive to protect biodiversity, access to clean water and other natural resources.

We see this as an investment in global security and global prosperity, and therefore also in our security and our prosperity. We know that we will only be safe, healthy and protected if our neighbours are safe, healthy and protected. What works for individuals also works for whole countries.

Despite the difficulties, the Union will maintain its course and its willingness to find common solutions. It can be difficult and tiring, but we are always ready to discuss how to make our system more effective, more grounded in law and better adapted to needs. We are ready to talk to those who think like us and to those with whom we disagree.

Today's multilateralism must be different from 20th century multilateralism: there has been a shift in power and the challenges are no longer the same.

Most of the issues that will shape our future - cyber data analytics, artificial intelligence, biogenetics, autonomous vehicles and many other developments - are emerging in a regulatory vacuum.

We must fill it with agreed principles, norms and standards and ensure that they are also applied in situations where the main stakeholders are not governments.

The Union believes that change should be about building, not about destroying. We need to renew the system, not dismantle it.

So, this week and next, we will support the ideas that guide the UN General Assembly and defend the multilateralism that all countries need. A world without the UN would be a threat to us all.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Investigations (75%); Indictments (74%); Celebrities (67%)

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (92%); Mining + Extraction (82%); Traveler Safety + Security (69%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***What will the race for gas in the Cypriot sea lead to?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1W6-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 964 words

**Byline:** Stefania Di Lellis, La Repubblica

**Highlight:** Near Nicosia, at least three Turkish ships are drilling the seabed for gas. "This evokes nightmares of war," say Cypriots watching.

**Body**

"Nicosia, the last divided capital", proclaims an inscription in three languages - this plaque is the only legible sign in the area. A deep wound of division runs through the city: the line that has separated Turkish Cypriots from Greek Cypriots for almost 50 years.

In 2011, gas deposits were discovered under the waters around Cyprus. What was supposed to be a source of wealth for the inhabitants has turned out to be their curse. The island is becoming the scene of an increasingly fierce battle between much more powerful opponents than those who sit on either side of the Cyprus wall.

- We are a small island, and divided we are even more vulnerable, I hear from Kemal Baykalli. A Cypriot of Turkish origin, a pacifist with UniteCyprusNow, his opinion is also shared by the Greeks. Together with Andromachi Sofokleous they have created a trilingual podcast (in Greek, Turkish and English) Nicosia Uncut, through which the two communities can dialogue with each other.

- We will elect a new president in October in the northern (Turkish) part of the island, Baykalli says. - And we have to choose who will want to play the role of negotiator, who will want a federation. The idea is to use our resources together. If we don't make a real peace, we will no longer be the main actors on our own stage.

For the place on stage is taken by strangers. Many. Above all Turkey, which has sent three drilling and research vessels into the waters around the island.

With this 'research expedition', Erdogan is sending two messages to Nicosia. First: you cannot give foreign companies - including the Italian company Eni - permission to extract gas, because you have to do it in agreement with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (not recognised by the international community).

Secondly, the sea areas that Cyprus claims as its own and would like to exploit overlap with the territory that Turkey claims as its own. To make sure the message is understood, Turkey's dictator has announced special naval military exercises for this week.

The web surrounding Cyprus' deposits is dense. One of its threads is called EastMed: a planned pipeline that would bring gas from the eastern Mediterranean, via Cyprus and Crete, and then perhaps to Italy and other parts of ***Europe***. It is a Pharaonic project, but the United States is looking favourably on it, hoping to free ***Europe from*** Russian gas.

The project is also being 'watched with interest' by Rome and would be of strategic importance to Israel, which wishes to deepen its cooperation with other countries in the Mediterranean region. Ankara, incidentally left out of this partnership, would prefer the pipeline to run towards ***the European*** Union via a cheaper route, i.e. overland via Turkey.

Turkey has not even been admitted to the EastMed Gas Forum, a platform for overseeing the regional gas market that includes virtually all countries in the region except Lebanon. "This is a policy of isolation that Ankara sees as a provocation," comments Fiona Mullen of consultancy Sapienta Economics.

In order to bring down the EastMed gas pipeline project, the Turks have concluded a maritime border agreement with the Libyan government of Fayiz as-Sarraja. This agreement further muddles the question of ownership of the waters through which the pipeline would be drawn, for with confrontation hanging in the balance, the investment is exposed to increasing risk.

An armed clash is not just a hypothesis: there was a collision between Turkish and Greek ships in August. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo then cancelled the arms embargo on Nicosia, and the French, Italians, Greeks and Cypriots held joint manoeuvres.

- Yes, we are afraid of war," admits the bartender at Swimming Birds, "TV news broadcasts long reports on Turkish threats and customers discuss them lively.

Across the border on the island, it is not war that inspires fear.

- The Turkish Cypriots realise that they do not have the power to make decisions on this issue. They are much more concerned about COVID-19 now," Baykalli explains.

The coronavirus wiped out the crowds of tourists usually enjoying slider skewers at this time of year at the Check Point Charly tavern leaning against the border wall and stopped those who usually crossed to the other side of the border to fill up on cheap petrol. It has also blocked the operations of major gas companies. But the strategy games go on.

The easing of tensions in Cyprus is not helped by the attitude of Athens needing a partner to help pass sanctions against Ankara for its aggressive policies and provoking energy tensions at the next ***European*** Council meeting (12 October).

Cyprus is throwing its little authority at the EU negotiating table, where it has sat since 2004, by threatening to oppose sanctions against Lukashenko for repression in Belarus unless measures are taken against Ankara.

Some believe that Russian oligarchs are behind this, colonising high-rise apartments for billionaires in Limassol and in return for mountains of money getting Cypriot passports and with them a pass to ***Europe***.

- Turkey has shown goodwill, Germany will encourage dialogue - predicts Turkish Cypriot ***MEP*** Nijazi Kizilyurek optimistically. On this side of the wall, Chancellor Merkel, who has held the EU presidency for six months, is seen as a hope and French President Emmanuel Macron as an enemy. This view of the situation has only been strengthened by the Greek government's announcement of major arms purchases 'made in France'.

In the blindingly white courtyard of Nicosia University, a group of students are discussing the 'gas war'. - They are making all this fuss over something that belongs to the past,' concludes 21-year-old Kyriakos. - They should think more about clean energy. We have plenty of sun here for sale and no one will steal it from us.

translation. Bartosz Hlebowicz

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (69%); Human Rights Violations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Spain is facing a second wave of coronavirus. More than 10 000 cases a day***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1XF-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 776 words

**Byline:** Maciej Stasiński

**Highlight:** the capital is in the worst situation. Madrid, where SARS-CoV-2 infections are growing exponentially, is introducing further restrictions and encouraging people not to leave their homes.

**Body**

Spain is the country most affected by the second wave of the coronavirus in ***Europe***. Almost 11 000 new cases were reported there on Tuesday, as in the previous six days, when nearly 10 000 people were infected each day. In the last 24 hours, 21 people have died (171 in one week). The total number of deaths in Spain has reached 31 000.

The epidemic is growing in most parts of the country, but the situation is worst in the capital.

Madrid's hospitals - and especially its intensive care units - are filled with coronavirus patients, with a shortage of doctors and sanitation staff. If in Spain as a whole COVID-19 patients occupy about 10 per cent of beds, in Madrid the average is 26 per cent. And in some of the capital's ICUs coronavirus-infected patients use all the beds, so there are not enough for other patients. In Madrid, 3111 patients lie in hospitals, 417 of them in ICUs.

The city authorities are trying to contain the spread of the epidemic by introducing new sanitary restrictions in particularly vulnerable areas. However, this is not having the desired effect. For the past few days, bars and restaurants have been open until 10 p.m. in some districts and until midnight in others. Some districts had restrictions imposed and others did not, but the metro between them ran normally.

Not surprisingly, also in the 16 districts not covered by the restrictions on staying in public places, the number of new cases is increasing exponentially. Their number reaches 1 thousand per 100 thousand inhabitants. In the coming days, the restrictions will cover other districts, and perhaps even the entire city of 4 million inhabitants.

In the background of the fight against the epidemic in Spain, there is a constant political row between the left-wing government and the right-wing opposition, as well as between regional autonomies governed - as in Madrid - by the opposition or - as in Catalonia - by local nationalists.

Faced with rising disease rates, the right-wing authorities in the Autonomous Region of Madrid are letting go of their stubborn adherence to their own orders and defying the advice of the left-wing central government and the health authorities.

The head of the autonomy, Isabel Diaz Ayuso, contested from the beginning of the epidemic the state of alert imposed by the government throughout the country and then its gradual relaxation in individual 17 regions. Like the Catalan authorities, she claimed that she was better able to deal with the epidemic herself and only needed money and equipment from the central government. She fired her local health minister when the latter recommended harsher forms of quarantine for residents, and has since made the most important decisions herself, often without listening to the recommendations of her health ministry.

Now, under the pressure of the epidemic, it is beginning to relent. It has announced that it will raise the salaries of more than 5,000 GPs, paediatricians and paramedics (those most in short supply) at a cost of 83 million ***euros***. Each of them will get a raise of 5,700 ***euros*** a year.

Following a meeting between Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and the head of the capital's local government, further restrictions in Madrid are a foregone conclusion. For the moment they are good advice, but they will become orders with penalties for non-compliance.

The Spanish health minister has appealed to all residents of the capital to stay with their immediate family for 24 hours and not to leave their homes without a very important need. He was supported by the mayor of Madrid. The head of the capital region herself has not yet done so, but has stated that further restrictions are possible. This means that the Madrid authorities are beginning to follow the same sanitary recommendations that the Spanish Ministry of Health makes for the whole country.

The epidemic is also forcing the Catalan authorities to tighten security measures. In order to cut the chain of infections, the government in Barcelona intends to introduce a limit of six people at gatherings.

Catalonia wants to apply the same rules in public life as it applies in schools.

- It turned out that the number of new infections is not only increasing due to the resumption of the school year, but is also increasing in the workplace, in social life and in family contacts, everywhere. This means we have to wear masks everywhere, including when we drink a coffee or a beer in a pub garden, says Catalan Health Minister Josep Maria Argimon.

The authorities, as everywhere, have a problem with non-compliance with orders. In Badalona, they had to stop 400 people partying in the open air at night without any precautions.

In the village of Almenar, police raided another party at 4am. It was attended by 200 people who arrived at the venue in 50 cars.

Participants at the illegal events were tested and those who tested positive for coronavirus infection were also placed in isolation.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (69%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Who and how is helping the victims of the Belarusian regime's harassment. "In addition to indignation, action is needed".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1VH-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1094 words

**Byline:** Hanna Malashenia

**Highlight:** From paying fines and covering medical expenses to helping people find new jobs. This is how solidarity works in Belarus.

**Body**

Since the beginning of the electoral campaign (8 May) ahead of the ultimately fraudulent presidential elections, hundreds of people have been beaten, arrested, fired from their jobs or fined. They are being supported by a number of civil initiatives.

To date, charitable foundations (including BYhelp, BYSOL, "Honest People", "Names", Support Victims of Police Brutality in Belarus, Human Rights Foundation, Media Solidarity Belarus) for repressed Belarusians have raised a total of over $6.2 million. These funds are provided for medical and psychological assistance to protesters injured by OMON, for financial support for striking workers and for all those dismissed from work for political reasons.

- I want to express my deep gratitude to the founders of the BYSOL Foundation, volunteers, and all the indifferent people who donated. Your support is invaluable and helps to build a new Belarus," says Vyacheslav Litvinchuk, the former deputy headmaster of Gomel Middle School No. 34, in his recorded speech.

Litvinchuk, like thousands of Belarusians, suffered for daring to express his political views. He was released after being detained during one of the peaceful demonstrations in the centre of Gomel. It was then that the BYSOL Foundation (its founders are Andrei Strizhak, Aleksei Lyavonchyk, Yaraslau Likhachuski) helped him. Each repressed person, who asked for help while looking for a new job, receives from the organisation a one-off compensation of 1500 ***euros*** (500 ***euros each*** for three months).

Donations to BYSOL come from ordinary citizens from all over the world, as well as from well-known businessmen, politicians and celebrities. As of 21 September, 1,068 people (including doctors, teachers, militiamen, journalists, employees of state-owned enterprises) had already applied to the foundation - all those who had been fired or had themselves decided to leave their jobs because of their disagreement with the policies of the current government in Minsk. BYSOL has already managed to donate money to 212 of them, allocating $320,000.

After receiving financial assistance, many Belarusians record video messages of gratitude and appeal to all those who are hesitant about anti-regime involvement not to be afraid, but to follow their example.

Another initiative, 'Honest People', in addition to raising money for people who have lost their jobs, also helps them find new ones. The organisation's website offers jobs, as well as retraining.

- Each offer (there are almost a hundred at the moment) is checked by a team of volunteers, so there is no doubt about their quality and reliability, say the foundation's representatives.

The options for retraining are also numerous (around 160): from computer programming to cosmetics courses. Plus an estimated salary in the job covered after completing the training.

Foundations such as BYSOL and "Honest People" have emerged quite recently, while the BYhelp project has existed since 2017. Its activists help those in need in various ways - e.g. pay off fines, pay for their stay (meals are paid there) in "isolators", i.e. places of temporary detention. After the protests of 9-11 August, those injured by the actions of the militia and OMON are also offered help in paying for medical treatment, including abroad if necessary.

- All payments are made in consultation with human rights defenders. Priority in receiving them is given to those who have been persecuted for demanding their rights and freedoms for the first time, BYhelp representatives say.

According to a report on 17 September, the foundation has 1 million 137 thousand Belarusian roubles (almost 438 thousand dollars) at its disposal. This money covered 340 fines, 237 medical interventions, the work of eight lawyers and 69 stays in solitary confinement.

On 10 September - to raise funds to support independent media and journalists - BYhelp launched the MediaSOL initiative, which offers financial support to editors, scholarships for journalists who have lost their jobs for whatever reason. Almost ***€8,500*** has been raised for these purposes.

The ProtectBearus project, set up by the founder of the IT company PandaDoc, Mikita Mikado, who lives in the USA, became hugely popular. The aim of this initiative was to help those law enforcement officers who had crossed over to the "side of good": they were offered legal and financial assistance, payment for retraining courses, including IT courses. Out of approx. 600 requests for assistance, approx. 50 cases have already been positively verified.

The idea gained great popularity among citizens, but caused irritation and further forms of repression among the authorities. At the beginning of September, PandaDoc accounts in Belarus were blocked, and four key employees of the Minsk office (Yulia Shardiko, Dmitry Rabtsevich, Vladislav Mikhailap, Viktor Kuvshinov) were arrested on charges of "fraud". - They face 3 to 10 years in prison. As written on the website savebelarusit.org, they are all now "hostages" of the authorities in their relations with the Mikado.

Mikita Mikado himself sees the arrest of employees and the blocking of accounts as an attempt by the authorities to put pressure on himself. An effective one. On 15 September, in an interview with the BBC's Russian service, he announced the closure of his project, explaining: "I don't want anyone not involved in my personal initiative to go to prison".

CEO of Deepdee startup Yaraslau Likhachuski reacted to this on his Facebook account: "I admire the courage of Mikita Mikado, who took the most important and difficult, because the first step towards dialogue between uniformed Belarusians and their civilian brothers and sisters. This was one of the most powerful blows to the system," he wrote. He announced that he would continue the Mikita Mikado idea.

- We will not stop until the last silovik goes to the side of the nation and everyone who committed crimes is convicted, he added.

However, the authorities continue to persecute unregistered foundations in the country. On 10 September, the Justice Ministry once again reminded organisers and participants in charity projects of their administrative responsibility. On 21 September, the websites of three foundations - Belarus-future.org (founded by ex-presidential candidate Valery Tsepkalo), Dapamazhy.by and Bysol.org - became inaccessible to ordinary users.

However, despite the threats, the foundation's employees do not stop working and actively support those in need.

"As well as expressing outrage, we need to act" - writes the BYHelp team. It addresses Belarusians with the words: "Thank you for your solidarity. Do not give up! For our freedom and yours! Long live Belarus!".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Xi Jinping's surprising move. China has been quicker than Poland to state when it wants to be climate neutral***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1T1-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 446 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Mikołaj Fidziński

**Highlight:** Chinese leader Xi Jinping has announced that China plans to achieve climate neutrality in 2060. China is the planet's biggest "polluter", emitting around 10 billion tonnes of CO2 a year.

**Body**

The pledge to achieve China's climate neutrality in 2060 was presented by Xi Jinping at the UN General Assembly. The Chinese leader called for a "green revolution" in science, technology and industry. He announced that his country would revise its climate goals to be in line with the Paris Agreement. - Humanity cannot afford to ignore the warnings of nature - said Xi Jinping, referring to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Xi Jinping's promise, China will peak its CO2 emissions by 2030. At present, the Middle Kingdom is the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide with around 10 billion tonnes per year. This is over 25% of global emissions.

By comparison, Poland releases around 330 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Our country has not yet announced the date by which we would achieve climate neutrality. [*The analytical company McKinsey estimates that it would be possible in 2050. -*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,172392,26020495,neutralnosc-klimatyczna-polski-do-2050-roku-jest-osiagalna.html) However, the Polish Economic Institute recently predicted that [*in the worst case scenario, Poland could achieve climate neutrality as late as 2067. (in the optimistic scenario, 11 years earlier).*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26249509,neutralnosc-klimatyczna-polska-osiagnie-ja-w-2056-roku-albo.html)

Read also: [*Bill Gates warns of another crisis. "COVID-19 is terrible, but climate change could be worse"*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,172392,26190249,bill-gates-ostrzega-przed-kolejnym-kryzysem-covid-19-jest.html)

China's climate neutrality is welcome. Now it is time for action

Xi Jinping's declaration was welcomed by climate activists and politicians, among others. It was seen as "an important signal that responding to the climate crisis is a priority for China" by, among others, Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International.

We need strong action from every country to keep the temperature under control, to combat climate change and to ensure that our planet remains a liveable place

- Frans Timmermans, executive vice-president of the ***European*** Commission in charge of the ***European*** Green Deal, tweeted in turn.

Some observers point out, however, that the declaration must now be followed by actions. Justyna Piszczatowska from the industry portal [*green-news.pl*](https://www.green-news.pl/1277-chiny-neutralnosc-klimatyczna) reminds that in recent months China has been talking mainly about record investments in coal-fired power plants. She also quotes Li Shuo, climate policy expert at Greenpeace East Asia, who says China's declaration "shows Xi's continued interest in using the climate agenda for geopolitical purposes". Xi Jinping's commitment is part of the confrontation between China and the US. Just before the Chinese leader, Donald Trump spoke at the UN assembly, and it was a speech with a very different tone. Among other things, the US president criticised the Paris agreement, calling it a "one-sided deal".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Legislation (81%); Legislative Bodies (81%); Business Forecasts (76%); Economic Conditions (76%); Economic Growth (76%); Gross Domestic Product (76%); Industrial Espionage (74%); Employment Services (69%)

**Industry:** Traveler Safety + Security (94%); Poultry (64%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Warsaw archdiocese against collecting signatures for "anti-LGBT" project. Unlike the Episcopate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1YM-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 330 words

**Byline:** Katarzyna Nowak

**Highlight:** The Archdiocese of Warsaw has referred to the campaign to collect signatures in churches for the "Stop LGBT" bill, which bans, among other things, equality parades. "We inform that this initiative, due to its nature, should not be promoted in churches and church premises," - reads a communiqué issued by the archdiocese. The episcopate had earlier given the action the green light.

**Body**

The press office of the Warsaw archdiocese has issued a communiqué on the "Stop LGBT" bill promoted by Kai Godek's foundation, which includes a ban on equality parades. It was reported last week by activists that signatures were being collected in many parishes in Poland. They reported the matter to the ***European*** Commission, because - as they managed to establish - as many as nine parishes that collected signatures in their areas received a total of 26.8 million PLN in subsidies from the ***European*** Union.

The Archdiocese of Warsaw has announced that it does not approve of collecting signatures for the project on church premises.

In connection with questions from and to Priests, we would like to inform you that this initiative, by its very nature, should not be promoted in churches and church premises. Let us not deprive lay Catholics of their subjective activity

- Father Marcin Szczerbiński, director of the Department for Family Pastoral Care at the Warsaw Metropolitan Curia, wrote in a press release quoted by Onet.

Earlier, the leadership of the Polish Episcopate sent a letter to diocesan bishops encouraging them to collect signatures in church areas. "Bearing in mind that it is up to the bishop of the place to decide whether it is possible for the faithful to sign such a project on church grounds, I would like to ask Your Eminence/Excellence to consider - at his discretion - the possibility of a favourable approach to this matter" - This was the content of the letter, to which the journalists of "[*Wyborcza Wrocław"*](https://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/7,35771,26287611,kosciol-wspiera-projekt-ustawy-zakazujacy-marszow-lgbt-episkopat.html) reached. The official message was that this is not an official position of the Episcopate, but only "passing on information about the legislative initiative".

On Monday, the collection of signatures for the bill was also opposed by Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki, Metropolitan of Poznań, who stressed that he does not agree to the promotion of the "Stop LGBT" bill on church premises of the Archdiocese of Poznań, nor to the collection of signatures under it.

[*Read also: Archbishop Gądecki speaks out on collecting signatures for the "Stop LGBT" project. "He does not agree".*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114883,26325327,abp-gadecki-zabral-glos-ws-zbierania-w-kosciolach-podpisow.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Medicine + Health (71%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Weapons + Arms (70%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (64%); Chemistry (64%); Arms Control + Disarmament (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (75%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (61%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Belarus. Protesters clash with OMON after Lukashenko's official swearing-in. "Blood in the streets".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R206-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 424 words

**Byline:** Katarzyna Nowak

**Highlight:** protests continue in Belarus after the unannounced official inauguration of Alyaksandr Lukashenka as president. They are being suppressed by OMON officers, among others. "Police are brutally beating people. Lukashenko is afraid". - correspondents present at the scene report. There are also videos on social media showing police brutality.

**Body**

In Belarus, protests on Wednesday were exceptionally numerous. Protesters took to the streets in Minsk, Brest, Vitebsk and Zhodin to protest against the secret inauguration of Alyaksandr Lukashenka as president. The ceremony took place behind closed doors - it was not announced and not broadcast by any media (only government officials and military personnel were present). It has already been condemned by some ***European*** leaders, including representatives of the Polish, German, Lithuanian and Swedish governments. - If the swearing-in ceremony takes place behind closed doors, the facts speak for themselves," commented Steffen Seibert, spokesman for the German federal government.

[*Read more: States react to Lukashenko's clandestine inauguration. FOREIGN MINISTRY: Elected in undemocratic elections*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26332191,panstwa-reaguja-na-potajemna-inauguracje-lukaszenki-niemcy.html)

According to local correspondents, demonstrations began in various parts of Belarus after an appeal to this effect was sent out via the Telegram messenger. The Interfax agency estimates the number of protesters at around 7 000. The militia began violently suppressing the protests. "All special services are mobilised. In Minsk, water cannons were used against the protesters" - described Andrzej Poczobut, a journalist and member of the Main Board of the Union of Poles in Belarus. He also posted footage showing crowds of protesting Belarusians surrounded by police cars. "Seeing this mobilisation you understand why the inauguration was held in secret," - he added.

Social media is also awash with pictures of people injured during detentions and footage of OMON officers picking demonstrators out of the crowd and beating them.

"Police are brutally beating people. Lukashenko is afraid. This is not the behaviour of a leader who got 80 percent of the vote," - wrote independent journalist Franak Viacorka. He also posted photos of bloodied people injured after taking part in a peaceful protest. "Today's protest was spontaneous. People frustrated with Lukashenko's secret inauguration went to the city centre and the police divided them into groups. They were beaten, there are many detainees. Police and internal troops participated in the repression," he added.

"Blood in the streets, almost two months since the protests began," - reads under another of the reports.

Meanwhile, footage of Lukashenko's inauguration, recorded by the government press service, has surfaced on social media. - We did what had to be done. Unfortunately, not everyone understands this today - he addresses the military. "President of OMON", - commented Andrzej Poczobut, who shared the recording.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Weapons + Arms (70%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (67%); Chemistry (67%); Medicine + Health (67%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (82%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Germany. Police raid on employment agencies. Poles among main suspects***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X6-W8C1-JCVT-R1XN-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

September 23, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 259 words

**Byline:** Sebastian Rosłon

**Highlight:** the German police carried out a huge operation involving 800 police officers. Sixty flats in five German states were searched. The action is related to the illegal smuggling of workers from Eastern ***Europe***. Among the detainees are also Poles.

**Body**

The police [*raid*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=ob%B3awa) began on Wednesday morning (23 September). The search was conducted simultaneously in five states: Saxony-Anhalt, Lower Saxony, Saxony, Berlin and North Rhine-Westphalia.

The main suspects are ten people aged between 41 and 56. The [*Polsat News*](https://www.polsatnews.pl/wiadomosc/2020-09-23/wielki-nalot-sluzb-na-agencje-pracy-tymczasowej-w-niemczech-wsrod-zatrzymanych-sa-polacy/) portal reports that among them are three Poles, six Germans and one Ukrainian woman. In total, more than 20 people have been detained.

The officers conducting the raid have secured data carriers. Investigators want to look into the organisation of a German recruitment company that had several subsidiaries and a Polish company that also operates in [*Germany*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=niemcy).

Illegal workers from Ukraine and Belarus were allegedly transported to Germany using forged identity documents. Police have established that at least 82 people have entered Germany in this way over the past six months.

Romy Töwe, Head of the Federal Police Department for Combating Crime in Halle, said that the use of forged documents for illegal employment is "flourishing" in central Germany. He added that such workers are "mercilessly exploited". - This goes hand in hand with the high level of damage done to social security funds, as well as to companies that comply with the rules, he added.

The investigation of the case had been ongoing since the beginning of 2020. The reason for launching the investigation was the findings of the Magdeburg [*police*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=policja), who were the first to establish the facts regarding the illegal smuggling of workers and their placement in work in the meat industry.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (77%); Terrorist Organizations (77%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Weapons + Arms (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Espionage (67%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%); Arms Control + Disarmament (62%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Europarliament wants to tighten climate targets. What does Poland say about this?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYX1-F09W-F563-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 766 words

**Byline:** Tomasz Bielecki, Brussels, Deutsche Welle

**Highlight: *The European*** Parliament has voted in favour of increasing the target for greenhouse gas emission cuts to 60% by 2030. The EU is now facing very difficult negotiations, mainly with Poland, to agree on at least 55%.

**Body**

The Union's current target is a 40% reduction in emissions in 2030 (compared to 1990), but ***European*** Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, at a recent "State of the Union address" in the ***European*** Parliament, put forward a proposal to raise this target to "at least 55%" to keep the Union on the path to climate neutrality in 2050.

A new reduction target as part of the "climate law" must be approved by both the ***European*** Parliament and EU governments in the ***EU*** Council. But this week ***MEPs,*** by a narrow majority (352 to 326), adopted an amendment that went much further than von der Leyen's by tightening the reduction target to 60%. Today the ***European*** Parliament approved its entire modified version of the climate law with 392 votes in favour, 161 against and 142 abstentions.

Manfred Weber, head of the centre-right ***European*** People's Party (***MEPs'*** largest club), called the 60% target "a shot in the dark". Manfred Weber, head of the centre-right European People's Party (EPP), the largest MEP club in the EU, called the 60% target a "shot in the dark".

- The ***European*** People's Party will not vote against the "climate law". But we will abstain because we don't like the over-ambitious 60% target, which really threatens jobs," announced German Christian Democrat Peter Liese piloting the issue in the EPP faction. Even during the debate on the draft, Zdzisław Krasnodębski (Law and Justice) protested against the "populist bidding in proposals to reduce greenhouse gases as much as possible in the shortest possible time". However, the amendment by 60 per cent. - Despite the opposition of the EPP fraction - it divided even the PO ***MEPs.*** Among those voting against it were Janusz Lewandowski and Andrzej Halicki, while Róża Thun and Magdalena Adamowicz supported it.

Furthermore, ***the European*** Parliament supported in the "climate law" the goal of climate neutrality in 2050 for all EU countries. [*This plan contradicts the position of Poland, which at the December 2019 summit did support neutrality for the entire Union, but with the caveat that it is unable to make such a commitmentat the national level*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,25509181,unia-zdecydowanie-za-eliminowaniem-wegla-i-neutralnoscia-klimatyczna.html). What next? Even from some of the loudest ***MEP*** advocates of a 60% reduction, it can now be heard that this is a mainly tactical position to help the ***European*** Parliament negotiate with the ***EU*** Council for "at least 55%" of the original draft.

- The German presidency should not be in too much of a hurry. Let Angela Merkel first check if there is the required majority in the ***EU*** Council for at least 55 percent, and from that position convince the sceptics. Poland and the Czech Republic will be the hardest hit, says Frenchman Pascal Canfin, head of the ***Europarliament's*** environment committee.

According to unofficial information, a qualified majority (15 countries representing 65 percent of the ***EU***'s population) is already required in the EU Council in favour of the "at least 55 percent" target, but the belief is now strong in Brussels that a consensus of all 27 ***EU*** countries should be sought at the ***EU*** summit on an issue so difficult for industry and so financially and socially costly. Especially as the current 40% reduction target was also set unanimously by EU leaders in 2014.

- This means that at the ***EU*** summit in December the topic of climate neutrality will return in the context of Poland, as it is difficult to talk about the 2030 target without it. - an EU diplomat explains to us.

- The energy transition will either be fair or it won't be, Commission deputy Frans Timmermans said at ***a MEP*** debate on "climate law", warning that underestimating the social costs of the EU Green Deal could lead to its rejection by ***European*** voters.

Poland's agreement to accelerate CO2 reductions will be haggled over in the coming weeks for additional ***EU*** support, including as to the number of free emissions permits (ETS) for power generation and industry. Under the current draft of the Reconstruction Fund and the ***EU'***s seven-year budget, ***€4*** billion is earmarked for Poland in the Just Transition Fund, but half of this pot is to be frozen until Poland fully adopts the 2050 neutrality target.

The ***European*** Commission's analysis of tightening the greenhouse gas reduction target from the current 40% to 55% in 2030, published in September, indicates that this more ambitious plan could, depending on the macroeconomic model adopted, at best increase real EU GDP by 0.55% in 2030.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (82%); Terrorist Organizations (82%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (75%); Company Activities + Management (69%); Espionage (69%); Families + Children (69%); Shareholders (69%); Awards + Prizes (67%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (67%); Chemistry (67%); Medical Science (67%); Medicine + Health (67%); Physics (67%); Writers (67%); Arms Control + Disarmament (61%); Weapons + Arms (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (81%); Consulting Services (69%); Professional Services (69%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (67%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Parliament European Parliament stepping up climate action. Difficult negotiations with Poland***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYY1-F09W-F022-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 766 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight: *The European*** Parliament has voted in favour of tightening the 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target to 60%. The EU is now facing very difficult negotiations, mainly with Poland, to agree on at least 55%.

**Body**

The Union's current reduction target is 40% in 2030. The current EU target is 40% by 2030 (compared to 1990), but ***European*** Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen tabled a proposal to increase this to "at least 55%" during her recent "State of the Union address" in the ***European Parliament to*** keep the ***EU*** on track for climate neutrality in 2050. But this week ***MEPs,*** by a narrow majority (352 to 326), approved an amendment that went much further than von der Leyen's, tightening the reduction target to 60%[*. The* ***European*** *Parliament backed its entire modified version of the climate law with 392 votes in favour and 161 against. 142* ***MEPs*** *abstained from voting.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,172392,26379367,pe-chce-zwiekszenia-redukcji-emisji-co2-o-60-proc-projekt-poparlo.html)

Manfred Weber, head of the centre-right ***European*** People's Party (***MEPs'*** largest club), called the 60% target "a shot in the dark". The 60 per cent target is a "shot in the dark" and the high number of abstentions is mainly due to the decision of the EPP. - The ***European People's*** Party will not vote against the "climate law". But we will abstain because we really don't like the over-ambitious 60% target, which really threatens jobs, announced German Christian Democrat Peter Liese piloting the issue in the EPP faction.

Even during the debate on the draft, Zdzisław Krasnodębski (Law and Justice party) protested against the "populist bidding in proposals to reduce greenhouse gases as much as possible in the shortest possible time". However, the amendment by 60 per cent. - Despite the opposition of the EPP fraction - it divided even the PO ***MEPs.*** Those voting against it included Janusz Lewandowski and Andrzej Halicki, while Róża Thun and Magdalena Adamowicz supported it.

Moreover, ***the European*** Parliament supported in the "climate law" the goal of climate neutrality in 2050 for all EU countries, i.e. against the position of Poland, which at the December 2019 summit supported neutrality for the entire Union with the reservation that it is not in a position to make such a commitment at the national level. What next? Even among some of the loudest ***MEP*** advocates of a 60% reduction, it can now be heard that this is a mainly tactical position to help the ***European*** Parliament negotiate with the ***EU*** Council for "at least 55%" of the original draft. - The German presidency should not be in too much of a hurry. Let Angela Merkel first check whether there is the required majority in the ***EU Council for at least*** 55 percent and convince the sceptics from that position. Poland and the Czech Republic will be the hardest hit, says Frenchman Pascal Canfin, head of the ***Europarliament's*** environment committee.

According to unofficial information, a qualified majority (15 countries representing 65 percent of the ***EU***'s population) is already required in the EU Council in favour of the "at least 55 percent" target, but the belief is now strong in Brussels that a consensus of all 27 EU countries should be sought at an ***EU*** summit on an issue so difficult for industry and so financially and socially costly. Especially as the current 40% reduction target was also set unanimously by EU leaders in 2014. - This means that the December ***EU summit*** will bring back the topic of climate neutrality in the context of Poland, as it is difficult to talk about the 2030 target without it. - an EU diplomat explains to us.

- The energy transition will either be fair or it won't be, Commission deputy Frans Timmermans said at ***a MEP*** debate on "climate law", warning that underestimating the social costs of the EU Green Deal could lead to its rejection by ***European*** voters.

Poland's agreement to accelerate CO2 reductions will be haggled over in the coming weeks for additional support from the ***EU***, including as to the amount of free emissions permits (ETS) for power generation and industry. Under the current draft of the Reconstruction Fund and the ***EU'***s seven-year budget, ***€4*** billion is earmarked for Poland in the Just Transition Fund, but half of this pot is to be frozen until Poland fully adopts the 2050 neutrality target.

The ***European*** Commission's analysis of tightening the greenhouse gas reduction target from the current 40% to 55% in 2030, published in September, indicates that this more ambitious plan could, depending on the macroeconomic model adopted, at best increase real EU GDP by 0.55% in 2030.

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/pl/start/s-11394) website[*.*](https://www.dw.com/pl/start/s-11394)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (69%); Weapons + Arms (65%); Company Activities + Management (63%); Espionage (63%); Families + Children (63%); Shareholders (63%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (75%); Consulting Services (63%); Professional Services (63%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EP wants to increase CO2 emissions reduction to 60% - a position backed by 11 MEPs from Poland***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYY1-F09W-F002-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 574 words

**Byline:** Maria Mazurek/IAR

**Highlight: *MEPs*** have voted to raise the CO2 emissions reduction target from 40 to 60 per cent of 1990 levels. "In favour were 392 ***MEPs***, including 11 from Poland. This does not mean that the decision will become law, it is just a position which will now be the basis for negotiations with ***EU*** member states.

**Body**

***The European*** Parliament has adopted a report on increasing CO2 reductions[*.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=w%EAgiel) ***MEPs*** want emissions to fall by 60% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

The current target is 40%, but it has been known for some time that Brussels will want to increase it, as a step towards realising another very ambitious plan: for the ***EU to*** achieve climate neutrality by 2050. [*A few weeks ago, the* ***European*** *Commission*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,172392,26304974,szefowa-ke-chce-zwiekszenia-redukcji-emisji-co2-nasza-gospodarka.html) proposed increasing the reduction to 55%.

The EP proposal is therefore tougher and that means it will not necessarily stick. For the new reduction target to become law, the agreement of all EU countries is needed. Now the negotiations will begin, in which the EP will present its position, but they will not be easy. Two countries, Denmark and Finland, are known to support 60%. But Poland, for example, has already expressed doubts that even a slightly lower EC target could be met.

MEPs in the ***European*** Parliament were also divided on the issue: 392 MEPs supported the target, 161 voted against and 142 abstained. A majority for the position was reached, but, interestingly, with the majority of ***MEPs*** from the ***European*** People's Party (EPP), the largest faction in the EP, disagreeing. However, some of its members broke out and supported a 60% reduction in CO2 emissions. Three Polish ***MEPs*** did so: Magdalena Adamowicz, Janina Ochojska and Róża Thun. The rest of the PO and PSL MEPs abstained from voting, believing that the climate law is important but that the 60% target is too high. This was also the official position of the EPP - the group supports the 55% target while recognising that a higher target would put jobs at risk.

"In ***the EU*** we want climate neutrality, not indifference; a reduction in CO2 emissions, not fewer jobs; an end to energy poverty, not a loss of security. And the Green Deal will only succeed if the world follows us. Hence the important minimum target of 55% for 2030. - combines realism and ambition" - Jerzy Buzek wrote on Twitter.

The goal was supported by all the Poles belonging to the Socialist group: Marek Balt, Marek Belka, Robert Biedroń, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Łukasz Kohut, Bogusław Liberadzki and Leszek Miller, as well as Sylwia Spurek from the Green group. In contrast, all the United Right ***MEPs in the European*** Conservatives faction voted against.

In turn, all United Right ***MEPs in the European*** Conservatives faction voted against. They criticised the position of the EP and the Polish ***MEPs*** who supported it. In their view, Poland, as a country with an economy based mostly on coal, is in a more difficult situation than, for example, Western countries. "Poland will have huge difficulties to face these assumptions at all. Because it already has a problem not because we govern worse, but it has a different starting point, but also other ***European*** countries do not know how to implement the assumptions that have been implemented so far. There are questions - why are we introducing stricter measures, what purpose does it serve?" - Grzegorz Tobiszowski, ***a*** PiS ***MEP,*** said, pointing out that even the 40 per cent target, the current one, is problematic.

Anna Zalewska, in turn, was critical of the Poles who voted for the higher reduction. "We are asking them to go back to Poland, to come face to face not only with the miners but with the entire energy industry and tell us why they did it," - she said.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (63%); Arrests (62%)

**Industry:** Mining + Extraction (93%); Organic Chemicals (88%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (69%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***There will be medicines for COVID-19 patients; EC signed contract to supply remdesivir***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYY1-F09W-F012-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 458 words

**Byline:** oprac. Kamil Rakosza / PAP

**Highlight: *The European*** Commission said on Thursday it had signed a framework agreement on joint procurement for the supply of up to 500,000 doses of remdesivir, which treats patients with Covid-19. The drug is already starting to run out in several ***EU*** countries, as almost all production has been bought up by the US.

**Body**

A joint procurement agreement with pharmaceutical company Gilead has been signed by 36 countries, not only those in the [***EU***](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=unia+europejska), but also countries in the ***European*** Economic Area, the UK and the Western Balkans. They can now place orders for direct purchases of the drug Veklury (this is the trade name of [*remdesivir*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,26369099,konczy-sie-lek-wykorzystywany-w-terapii-covid-19-placila-za.html)).

It is currently the only agent with a conditional marketing authorisation in the ***EU for the*** treatment of COVID-19 patients who need oxygen. Remdesivir was one of the agents given to US President [*Donald Trump following his*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=donald+trump) detection of [*coronavirus*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,173952.html).

"Today we are guaranteeing access to remdesivir for up to 500,000 patients in need of treatment. We are doing everything we can to ensure the availability of safe and effective COVID-19 treatment. Through our joint EU procurement, we are giving countries across ***Europe the*** opportunity to pool their efforts and ensure access to the necessary equipment and medicines" - stressed Health and Food Safety Commissioner Stella Kyriakidu.

The signing of the joint procurement agreement was made possible by the [*EC's earlier agreement with Gilead to*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26375358,komisja-europejska-podpisze-umowe-na-dostawe-remdesiviru-lek.html) provide 33,380 doses of the drug Veklura. This agreement was funded by the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI). The drugs supplied under this framework have been distributed in the ***EU*** and UK since August.

Reuters reported that several ***European*** countries had experienced shortages of the drug, whose global stockpile was almost entirely ordered by the United States.

The [***European*** *Commission*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=komisja+europejska) reported that the joint procurement agreement will ensure that countries can continue to source Veklury's drug in perpetuity if they choose to purchase the product. Gilead said it will begin processing orders from next Monday.

Joint procurement is an instrument that the EC used earlier this year to procure personal protective equipment, respirators, test materials or intensive care drugs.

According to information provided by the EC, further EU purchases are being prepared. A joint procurement procedure for the supply of medical equipment for COVID-19 vaccination was launched on 28 September. It covers 27 types of equipment grouped into six categories: vaccine carriers, waste containers, syringes, disinfectants, personal protective equipment and anaesthetics.

The procedure for joint procurement of essential intensive care medicines is being finalised. In the coming days, countries will be able to start placing orders for intensive care medicines: painkillers, antibiotics, muscle relaxants, anaesthetics, resuscitation drugs and others (PAP, from Brussels Krzysztof Strzępka).

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Law Courts + Tribunals (73%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (87%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (70%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Green energy from the Baltic Sea***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYX1-F09W-F539-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 794 words

**Byline:** Dominika Wantuch

**Highlight:** By 2050, energy from offshore wind farms may satisfy up to 60% of Poland's energy demand. Although investments today are not the cheapest, at each stage they will pay off more than keeping coal-fired power plants alive.

**Body**

"Offshore wind energy developed in the Baltic Sea has a chance to play an important role in the economic recovery from coronavirus and the greening of EU economies, in the quest to build a zero-emission energy system," - Michał Kurtyka, Minister of Climate, said last week in Szczecin.

It was there that the "Baltic Declaration for Offshore Wind Energy" was signed. In addition to Poland, the document setting out the directions for the development of renewable energy sources in the Baltic Sea was signed by Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and ***the European*** Commission.

The declaration was signed just a few days after an unprecedented case in Polish history started in court against the Belchatow power plant, which is the largest emitter of carbon dioxide in ***Europe***. ClientEarth Prawnicy dla Ziemi foundation sued the owners of the power plant for contributing to climate change.

Shortly before this, in July, the British think tank Ember published data on energy production in the ***European*** Union in the first half of 2020. They show that from January to June 2020. 40% of the ***EU's*** energy came from renewables (up 11% on 2019), with coal producing only 12% of the ***EU's*** electricity. Hard coal production fell by 34% in the ***EU*** and lignite by 29%.

Unfortunately, the data is not something to be proud of for all countries. In Ember's analysis, Poland overtook Germany in coal-fired power generation for the first time and became the biggest smoker of the dirty fuel in the ***EU***. "Poland currently generates as much electricity from coal as the other 25 ***EU*** countries (excluding Germany)," wrote experts from the British think tank.

- This has to change. We cannot persist with coal - says Kamila Tarnacka, Vice-President of the Polish Wind Energy Association. And she emphasises: - Firstly, changes in the approach to energy production are required of us by the ***EU*** and the Green Deal. Secondly, energy from coal is currently more expensive than energy from wind, both onshore and offshore, as well as energy from photovoltaics.

An opportunity to change the direction of the Polish energy sector is to be found in onshore windmills, which could be unblocked by the end of this year, and precisely in offshore windmills, which are successfully growing in strength in the Baltic countries.

- "The Baltic Declaration is a tightening of cooperation between the Baltic states in the construction of offshore wind farms. Together we will create solutions that will facilitate offshore development in the Baltic - explains Kamila Tarnacka. What kind of solutions? - It is very important to plan the development of networks together and synchronise them so that it is possible to transmit energy between the states - she explains. Latvia and Estonia already have such ideas, such declarations are also coming from Denmark to Poland.

***The European*** Commission estimates that countries with access to the Baltic Sea are capable of jointly building 93 GW of wind power by 2050. In turn, offshore wind farms in Poland are capable of generating as much as 28 GW of wind power in the 2050 perspective. - This will make it possible to satisfy even 60% of energy demand, PWEA experts point out. At the same time, they underscore that by 2040 between 8 and 11 GW may be created, while investments in offshore wind farms estimated at over PLN 100 bln may generate even 70 000 new jobs and boost the Polish shipbuilding and metallurgical industries, influence the expansion of ports, as well as companies in the area of cabling, electricity and many other services.

- Wind farms in the Baltic Sea are new to Poland, so the first investments are bound to be somewhat more expensive. They require the creation of a whole plan, infrastructure, technical facilities, launching technologies, supply chains and many other factors. But with wind energy it was similar in the beginning - it was expensive. Today it is the cheapest,' Kamila Tarnacka points out.

Importantly, according to PWEA's estimates, the launch of wind farms in the Baltic Sea will allow the energy transition to take place faster than envisaged in the National Energy and Climate Plan (NERP) and will allow the costly and questionable nuclear project to be abandoned.

Electricity from the first installed wind farm on the Baltic Sea is to flow around 2025-26. The legislation may be adopted later this year.

In Szczecin, while signing the 'Baltic Declaration', Minister Kurtyka emphasised that the prepared law "contains all the elements, from permits, to grid connections, to the support system" for investors, which is a necessary condition for launching investments.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Terrorist Organizations (76%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (65%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Spain: the coronavirus has plunged the economy. But there is a big plan to rebuild it***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6116-FWK1-F09W-F422-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 614 words

**Byline:** Maciej Stasiński

**Highlight:** Spain's economy will shrink by 11 per cent this year and unemployment will rise to 17 per cent. The government intends to emerge from the slump at the expense of gigantic public investments with aid from the ***European*** Union.

**Body**

Six months after the coronavirus outbreak, Pedro Sanchez's left-wing government is showing Spaniards the extent of the devastation it caused to the economy by freezing it completely in the spring. At the same time, it wants to use the collapse for a huge and expensive modernisation that is expected to pull the economy out of it over the next six years.

Spain's GDP will fall by 11.3 percent this year and unemployment will exceed 17.1 percent, more than expected a few months ago. However, already next year, the government expects the economy to rebound by 7.2 per cent and by another 7 per cent in 2021, thus exceeding pre-pandemic levels within two years.

Predictions are based on the assumption that growth will also return elsewhere in ***Europe*** and the world next year, and that a vaccine against the virus will end the pandemic.

The estimates do not take into account the benefits of the ***European*** anti-crisis fund, because the rules for its distribution and use have not yet been finally adopted by the ***European*** Union. Spain will receive around ***EUR*** 140 billion from the fund over the next six years. Half is non-refundable aid and half cheap loans.

If ***the European*** aid is as Spain expects and if it is fully used as planned, economic growth in the coming years is expected to be more than 2 percentage points higher at around 9.8%.

However, the government does not want to rebuild the economy on the same foundations as before the crisis. It intends to radically reorient it, rebuild it to meet ecological criteria - through new energy sources and technological modernisation.

Money earmarked for modernisation is to go towards upgrading infrastructure, environmental protection, renewable and economical energy sources, social and regional cohesion, modern education, assistance to small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, training for new professions, digitisation, innovation and gender equality.

To achieve this, the government wants to launch gigantic investments, including public ones. To this end, it wants to use 72 billion ***euros***, which Spain expects to receive from the ***European*** crisis fund over the next three years. Spain wants to invest as much as 70% of this money in the "green" economy and digitalisation. Already next year, the Spanish want to use 27 billion ***euros*** from this ***European*** solidarity aid.

It will mean a budget debt the likes of which Spain has never had before in modern history. The gigantic investment and budget spending plan will cost almost 200 billion ***euros***, the most ever, and will raise public spending by more than 54 percent.

The public finance deficit in 2020 will exceed 11% of GDP, larger than the highest ever recorded during the previous great crisis in 2009. Public debt is set to increase by a fifth from its current level and will also be the highest in history, reaching 118% of annual GDP.

The plan to rebuild the economy after the pandemic is expected to result in 800 000 new jobs within three years and a drop in the unemployment rate below 14%.

However, the grand plans for reconstruction and economic revolution will encounter enormous difficulties in parliament, where politics is like quicksand.

The left-wing coalition government of socialists and left-wing populists from Podemos does not have a majority and is up against fierce opposition from the right and the far right. Every law the government cares about, including the budget, depends on the support of small regional nationalist and nationalist parties or the centre-right liberal Citizens. It will be difficult for a weak and unsustainable coalition government to implement a plan for such a thorough and costly overhaul of the country.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (90%); Human Rights Violations (86%); Securities + Other Investments (86%); Military Weapons (82%); Espionage (69%); Awards + Prizes (67%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (67%); Chemistry (67%); Medical Science (67%); Medicine + Health (67%); Physics (67%); Writers (67%); Torture (64%); Investigations (63%); Management Theory + Practice (62%); Engine + Turbine Mfg (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%)

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Russia accuses OCCP of political punishment for Nord Stream 2***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYY1-F09W-F02J-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 435 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the Office for Competition and Consumer Protection has imposed a 29.3 billion zloty fine on Gazprom and its western partners in Nord Stream 2 because Warsaw wants to create a trading hub for US liquefied gas in Eastern ***Europe***.

**Body**

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to comment on the decision by the OCCP, which announced on Wednesday that it had fined Gazprom and five Western ***European*** companies for violating a ban on forming a company to finance the construction of the new Baltic gas pipeline Nord Stream 2 from Russia to Germany. The penalty amounted to 10 percent of the annual turnover of the accused companies, which in the case of Gazprom amounts to almost 29 billion 76 million zlotys, and in the case of the companies of German concerns Uniper and Wintershall, Austrian OMV, Dutch-British Shell and French Engie - a total of 234 million zlotys.

However, Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Russian foreign ministry, did not shy away from commenting on Thursday.

Zacharowa accused the OCC of taking its decision for political reasons.

"It is clear that this is yet another politically motivated attempt to put pressure on the Russian gas exporter [Gazprom], which has been reliably supplying gas to its customers in ***Europe*** for many years. We are not in the least bit surprised by Warsaw's efforts to obstruct the construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline using questionable methods - including those that clearly do not correspond to the jurisdiction of Polish ministries," - Zacharova said at the press conference.

UOKiK chairman Tomasz Chróstny on Wednesday asserted that he had not consulted Polish politicians on his decision and stressed that UOKiK - like other ***European*** antitrust authorities - acts independently of the government, guided by economic rather than political considerations.

A spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry also gave her opinion on why Moscow considers the UOKiK's decision to be political.

"Behind the decision of the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection lies the intention, in favour of Washington, at the expense of ***EU*** funds and with pressure on companies from other countries, to put into practice the idea of creating an alternative hub [centre] for gas trade for the sale of US liquefied gas to Eastern ***European*** countries," - Zacharova concluded.

In doing so, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman accused Poland of acting against the interests of ***Europe***. "Warsaw is completely ignoring the principles of fair competition and the interests of ***European*** consumers, undermining energy security and, incidentally, also the environmental security of ***Europe,***" - Zacharova said.

Russia ritually maintains that the US opposes deepening ***EU*** dependence on Russian gas simply because it wants to increase sales of its liquefied gas in ***Europe***. This Russian 'message of the day' is also repeated like a mantra by Gazprom's front of allies in Germany, linking politicians from the SPD social democracy with those from the far left (Die Linke) and the far right (AfD).

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***How PiS rules - audit of ministries. The Civic Coalition holds PiS to account. VIDEO]***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYX1-F09W-F543-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 1286 words

**Byline:** Dorota Roman

**Highlight:** Press conferences summing up the work of individual ministries before the change of ministry structure. Civic Coalition MPs hold the PiS government to account. See video.

**Body**

Video available to subscribers.

Civic Coalition MPs presented an audit of Law and Justice's five-year rule in the Sejm today.

See the video recording of all the press conferences.

Ministry of the Environment - MEPs' assessment of the ministry's activities Agnieszka Pomaska, Urszula Zielińska

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - assessments by MEPs Beniamin Godyla, Tomasz Lenz.

Ministry of Sport - the work of the Ministry is assessed by the following MEPs: Krzysztof Grabczuk, Ireneusz Raś

The Ministry of Development and the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy - the activities of the ministry are assessed by MEPs Mirosława Nykiel, Waldemar Sługocki.

Ms Nykiel: The competitiveness of businesses was undermined during the pandemic. There was no transparency in tenders. A great flop in Poland's economic development. The actions of the PiS government have been a disaster.

Ministry of Defence - the work of the Ministry is assessed by MEPs Czesław Mroczek, Jerzy Wcisła.

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Inland Navigation is assessed by MEPs Artur Łącki, Arkadiusz Marchewka and Jerzy Wcisła.

Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Science and Higher Education - the activities of the ministries are assessed by MEPs: Barbara Nowacka, Krystyna Szumilas.

Krystyna Szumilas: What happened today is that the new education minister is a homophobe. According to MEPs, the education ministry has failed to prepare schools, students and teachers for the difficult times of the coronavirus pandemic.

- It should be the head of schools who decides on the possibility of moving to remote working. This cannot be done without money. Money for education is scarce by this government. The minister of education was not interested in the students who "disappeared" from the records during the first wave of coronavirus. The new education minister does not know schools. He prefers to fight with ideology, and the human being is not important for him - said Krystyna Szumilas.

Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy - the work of the Ministry is assessed by MEPs Magdalena Kochan, Marzena Okła-Drewnowicz, Michał Szczerba.

- What we see when we look at Polish seniors is an increase in poverty. The safety of senior citizens is under threat," said Michał Szczerba.

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage - the activity of the ministry is assessed by the following MPs: Piotr Adamowicz, Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska, Iwona Śledzińska-Katarasińska.

Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska: Minister Gliński shows the worst qualities of a civil servant. Thirty years ago we abolished censorship, but after thirty years censorship is coming from the ministry. History will forget the minister who did not stand up for culture.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - the activities of the Ministry are assessed by the following MEPs: Bogdan Klich, Agnieszka Pomaska, Paweł Zalewski.

Agnieszka Pomaska: ***European*** policy has become an element of national policy. Today, Poland's position in the ***EU*** is very weak. - We will show that the Law and Justice government is to blame for the fact that Poland is badly discussed in the ***EU. The Law and*** Justice government is to blame for the fact that Poland is being deprived of ***EU funds*** - said Ms Pomaska.

Ministry of Justice - the actions of the ministry are assessed by the following MPs: Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz, Arkadiusz Myrcha, Michał Szczerba, Katarzyna Piekarska. - The Justice Fund is used for Zbigniew Ziobra's political activities, said Michał Szczerba.

Katarzyna Piekarska: We call on the minister to debate the state of the Polish justice system. - The PiS virus has dominated the activities of the prosecutor's office. It is a virus which makes the prosecutor's office inefficient. This institution must be reformed first - said Arkadiusz Myrcha.

The Ministry of the Interior and Administration and the Ministry of Digitalisation - the activities of the ministries are assessed by MEPs Zbigniew Konwiński, Grzegorz Napieralski.

Ministry of Health - the actions of the ministry are assessed by MEPs Marek Hok, Monika Wielichowska, Beata Małecka-Libera. - We have prepared "10 cardinal sins of PiS in health care". - MP Marek Hok said.

Beata Małecka-Libera: We have chaos in the health service. There is a drama. - The health care system has been shattered - said the MP. - A coronavirus pandemic is in the offing. PiS has not prepared the health service for it. The government was never prepared to deal with the pandemic. The eminently irresponsible Prime Minister Morawiecki, back in July, said that coronavirus was on the market. We demand responsible action," said MP Monika Wielichowska.

Ministry of Infrastructure - MEPs Cezary Grabarczyk, Maciej Lasek, Paweł Olszewski evaluate the ministry's activities.

Ministry of State Assets and Ministry of Climate - the actions of the ministries are assessed by MEPs Krzysztof Gadowski, Gabriela Lenartowicz, Paweł Poncyliusz.

Paweł Poncyliusz: The value of state-owned companies is falling. Banks were repolonised. It turns out that these banks operate on the same principles as commercial banks. They do not help Poles. - The companies have "bloated" marketing budgets. This money could have gone to the health service - said MP Poncyliusz.

Civic Coalition MPs presented an audit of five years of Law and Justice governments. The series of sixteen conferences began with a discussion of the functioning of the finance ministry.

Prof. Rosati: Why did the government put the country into such debt? To avoid responsibility before the State Tribunal. - The PiS government, as a result of five years of handouts, has left no financial reserves. The government is manipulating spending - said MP Dariusz Rosati.

Izabela Leszczyna has criticised the government over the VAT gap. - In a crisis year the VAT gap has shot up," she said.

Today in the Sejm - from 8.30am to 4pm - Civic Coalition MPs are holding the PiS government to account for its work to date. KO parliamentarians are presenting an audit of individual ministries before the structure of ministries is changed.

- 8.30- Ministry of Finance - Izabela Leszczyna, Dariusz Rosati, Janusz Cichoń, Paulina Hennig-Kloska, Krystyna Skowrońska

- 9:00 - Ministry of State Assets and Ministry of Climate - Krzysztof Gadowski, Gabriela Lenartowicz, Paweł Poncyljusz

- 9:30 - Ministry of Infrastructure - Cezary Grabarczyk, Maciej Lasek, Paweł Olszewski

- 10:00 - Ministry of Health - Marek Hok, Monika Wielichowska, Beata Małecka-Libera

- 10:30 - Ministry of Interior and Administration and Ministry of Digitalisation - Zbigniew Konwiński, Grzegorz Napieralski

- 11:00 - Ministry of Justice - Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz, Arkadiusz Myrcha, Michał Szczerba, Tomasz Zimoch

- 11:30 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Bogdan Klich, Agnieszka Pomaska, Paweł Zalewski

- 12:00 - Ministry of Culture and National Heritage - Piotr Adamowicz, Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska, Iwona Śledzińska-Katarasińska

- 12:30 - Ministry of the Family, Labour and Social Policy - Magdalena Kochan, Marzena Okła-Drewnowicz, Michał Szczerba

- 13:00 - Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Science and Higher Education - Barbara Nowacka, Krystyna Szumilas

- 13:30 - Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation - Artur Łącki, Arkadiusz Marchewka, Jerzy Wcisła

- 14:00 - Ministry of Defence - Czesław Mroczek, Jerzy Wcisła

- 14:30 - Ministry of Sport - Krzysztof Grabczuk, Ireneusz Raś

- 15:00 - Ministry of Development and Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy - Mirosława Nykiel, Waldemar Sługocki

- 15:30 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Beniamin Godyla, Tomasz Lenz

- 16:00 - Ministry of the Environment - Agnieszka Pomaska, Urszula Zielińska

In recent days, [*Civic Coalition politicians inspected, among others, provincial offices and ministries.*](https://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/7,35771,26370277,poslowie-ko-kontroluja-jak-urzednicy-sa-przygotowani-do-walki.html) The KO MPs checked the state of preparation for the fight against the second wave of COVID-19.

Today's series of press conferences holding the PiS government to account is another initiative by the new head of the Civic Coalition club. Cezary Tomczyk has been in charge since 25 September.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Olympics (82%); Sports + Recreation (82%)

**Industry:** Mining + Extraction (94%); Harbors + Ports (84%); Organic Chemicals (80%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (71%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Handelsblatt: Nord Stream 2 could become financial ruin***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYY1-F09W-F026-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 552 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** A German business daily writes about the possible consequences of the decision of the Polish OCCP, which imposed a fine on Gazprom and the Nord Stream 2 investors.

**Body**

"Handelsblatt" writes on Thursday (8.10.2020) about the intensification of the dispute over the [*Nord Stream 2*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=nord+stream) gas pipeline. It reports about the [*decision of the Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26374801,nord-stream-2-uokik-nalozyl-na-gazprom-gigantyczna-kare-ponad.html) which found on Wednesday that the gas pipeline under construction distorts competition and violates consumer interests. It has therefore imposed the maximum penalty of 6.5 billion ***euros*** on the Russian company Gazprom. In turn, the Western European companies involved in financing the investment - Uniper, Wintershall Dea, Austrian OMV, French Engie Energy and Dutch-British Multi Shell - were fined a total of ***EUR*** 52 million.

"Handelsblatt" writes that Gazprom and its partners on Wednesday "indignantly" rejected the Polish office's decision. Uniper Gas & Transportation "does not share the assessment that is the basis of the UOKiK's decision" - A spokesman for the corporation told the newspaper. He explained that the agreements concluded by Nord Stream 2 investors concern financing, not joint ventures. According to Uniper, the financing agreements are not subject to the notification requirement under Polish law. There is also no similar precedent in the previous practice of ***European*** antitrust authorities," writes "Handelsblatt", explaining Uniper's position.

He adds that Uniper is examining the possibility of appealing the Polish office's decision. Settlement of the dispute could take four to five years. Winterhall Dea and Shell also do not rule out taking such action, and Gazprom has already announced that it will appeal against the decision of the OCCP, sharply criticising it.

"Handelsblatt" estimates that if the Polish fine on Nord Stream 2 becomes final, "the profitability of the pipeline, which is being built at a cost of 9.5 billion ***euros, will*** ultimately come into question." Analysts of the Moscow-based Sbierbank have already calculated that due to the inflated prices of the construction companies, which belong to businessmen close to President Vladimir Putin, it will be "a billion-dollar investment ruin". - writes the German daily.

It also notes that Gazprom announced as recently as Tuesday that it wants to complete the missing 120-kilometre section of the 1,230-kilometre pipeline in the short term. In December, Allseas, the Swiss company that owns the specialist vessels that lay the offshore pipeline, halted work on Nord Stream 2 due to the threat of US sanctions. In turn, Russian specialist vessels, redeployed to the port of Mukran on Rügen, have not yet been able to start laying the pipes due to necessary technical modifications.

As "Handelsblatt" writes, "Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki announced in September that his government would increase pressure on Germany" regarding Nord Stream 2. "Especially after the poisoning of Russian oppositionist Alexei Navalny, this project must be stopped. Nord Stream 2 was also discussed during US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit (to Warsaw) in August. Poland has built a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Świnoujście, where American LNG also arrives". - notes the German daily. It adds that although Nord Stream 2 lies outside Polish waters, the government in Warsaw believes it has influence over it, as the Yamal pipeline, which transports gas from Siberian fields to ***Europe,*** passes through Poland. So far, about 30 billion cubic metres of gas has flowed to Germany via the Yamal.

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/pl/start/s-11394) website[*.*](https://www.dw.com/pl/start/s-11394)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (78%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Human Rights Violations (65%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Germany: No sanctions against Nord Stream 2 for the attack on Navalny***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYX1-F09W-F560-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 731 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** The governments of Germany and France have proposed that the ***EU*** introduce sanctions against a group of Russians for the assassination of opposition leader Alexei Navalny. They tried to poison him with a previously unknown variety of the neurotoxin novichok developed in the Soviet Union.

**Body**

At the end of next week, a ***European*** Union summit is expected to decide on a response to the attempt on the life of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny. For almost a month since the end of August, he has been treated at Berlin's Charite clinic, where he was brought at the request of his family from a hospital in the Russian city of Omsk, where he was taken after suddenly losing consciousness with symptoms of poisoning.

In early September, the German government announced that military experts had detected traces of the neurotoxin Novichok, an extremely dangerous chemical weapon secretly developed in the Soviet Union, in Navalny's body. This implied the use of a banned chemical weapon, a violation of international law.

The findings of the Bundeswehr experts were later confirmed by independent laboratories in France and Sweden.

The German government has unsuccessfully called on Russia to explain the attempt on Navalny's life. But so far, Russia has not even launched an investigation into the case, and many top-ranking Russian politicians - such as Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin, SVR intelligence agency director Sergei Naryshkin and Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov - have publicly suggested that the novichok in Navalny's body could only have been found in Germany, and that the assassination attempt on the oppositionist was a provocation by Western secret services and, above all, the American CIA.

After the German government announced that Navalny had been attacked with novichok, some media and politicians there appealed to Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to stop the construction of the new Nord Stream 2 Baltic gas pipeline from Russia to Germany.

This week, Alexei Navalny also called for sanctions against Nord Stream 2 in an interview with the daily newspaper Das Bild. He also criticised former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who patronised the agreement to build the first Nord Stream pipeline system and is now chairman of the board of directors of the company building Nord Stream 2. Navalny called Schroeder "Putin's errand boy who defends assassins".

These appeals have had no effect. On Wednesday evening, the foreign ministries of Germany and France said that Russia has so far failed to provide a credible explanation for Navalny's assassination. And in this situation, Berlin and Paris will propose to the governments of other ***EU*** countries to introduce joint EU sanctions against Russia.

"The proposals will target those considered responsible for this crime [the attack on Navalny] and violation of international norms due to their official functions, as well as the entity involved in the Novichok programme," the German and French heads of diplomacy said.

According to unofficial reports, Berlin and Paris are proposing to ban the entry and freeze possible assets within the ***EU of*** several officers of the Russian military intelligence service GRU.

Meanwhile, the daily Le Monde wrote on Thursday that these symbolic sanctions are to include nine people from Russian President Vladimir Putin's administration and the secret services. Also to be blacklisted is the State Scientific and Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology (GosNIIOChT), where Novichok was allegedly developed in Soviet times.

According to Le Monde, France has concluded that Germany is not going to revise its attitude towards Nord Stream 2 after the assassination of Navalny.

However, there is no doubt that Nord Stream 2 will not be affected by the sanctions, and it is interesting that Germany, which now holds the ***EU*** presidency, put forward this proposal together with France - sharing responsibility for it and making it '***European***' in advance.

Germany had already announced that it would propose a joint ***EU*** response to the assassination of Alexei Navalny once the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) had completed its research.

Last Tuesday, [*the OPCW said it had handed over a report to the German government that*](https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2020/10/opcw-issues-report-technical-assistance-requested-germany) Navalny had tried to poison himself with substances containing cholinesterase inhibitors - such as novichok.

The OPCW also found that the neurotoxin that Navalny was attacked with had a structure similar to the characteristics of two of the four varieties of novichok on the list of banned chemical weapons. At the same time, however, the structure of this neurotoxin did not fully match the characteristics of the four varieties of novichok on the OPCW lists.

That is, Navalny was attacked with a variety of novichok still unknown to the OPCW. And it is not known when this neurotoxin was developed: before or after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (81%); Military Weapons (78%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Torture (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Belarus wants to remove a large number of Polish diplomats from Minsk. The Foreign Ministry announces an "adequate" response***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYX1-F09W-F54W-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 361 words

**Byline:** elaborated by. Sebastian Rosłon

**Highlight:** - The demand for a drastic reduction of Polish diplomatic personnel in Belarus will not remain without an adequate response from the Polish side - said Deputy Foreign Minister Marcin Przydacz. The minister also announced that Poland "will find areas and ways to respond to this unfriendly gesture at the appropriate time and in the appropriate form".

**Body**

[*On Friday 2 October, the*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26363584,bialorus-zada-by-polska-i-litwa-wycofaly-czesc-dyplomatow-ze.html) Belarusian [*Foreign Ministry*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26363584,bialorus-zada-by-polska-i-litwa-wycofaly-czesc-dyplomatow-ze.html) demanded that Poland and Lithuania drastically reduce the number of diplomats operating in the country. [*Minsk's*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=Mi%F1sk) decision came after the ***EU*** adopted sanctions against Belarus' top state officials for rigging the presidential election. On Monday, the Polish Foreign Ministry recalled some of its staff accredited in Belarus and announced a "solidarity" response.

Marcin Przydacz, Deputy Foreign Minister, in an interview with the [*Polish Press Agency*](https://www.pap.pl/aktualnosci/news%2C731550%2Cwiceszef-msz-zadanie-wladz-w-minsku-drastycznej-redukcji-liczby-polskich), said that the actions of [*Belarus*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=bia%B3oru%B6) will not remain without reaction, and Poland "will find areas and ways to respond to this unfriendly gesture at the appropriate time and in the appropriate form".

Przydacz stressed that Poland has taken a number of steps in the [***EU***](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=unia+europejska) arena. - Until today we have confirmation that the majority of ***EU*** Member States' embassies accredited in Minsk have already summoned their ambassadors for consultations," the deputy minister said, adding that the newly appointed ambassadors of some countries will not go to Belarus in the nearest future.

The Belarusian foreign ministry has demanded that only 18 people remain in the Polish embassy in Minsk. This would mean a reduction of staff by 32 people. The Belarusian authorities explain that in this way the number of employees at the Polish embassy will be equal to the number of employees at the Belarusian foreign mission in Poland.

Belarusian Foreign Ministry spokesman Anatoly Hlyaz said the decision was linked to the "destructive role that the leaders of Poland and Lithuania have decided to play in practice in relation to Belarus".

The [*withdrawal of some Polish ambassadors from Belarus "for consultation"*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114883,26371545,szef-polskiego-msz-czesc-ambasadorow-odwolanych-z-minska-na.html) was announced by Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau on Twitter. The minister noted that the decision was taken after consultations with EU diplomacy and ***EU*** member states.

[*Zbigniew Rau*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=zbigniew+rau) added that "support for Belarusians and their efforts to democratise their country remains a priority". He also mentioned that we need channels of communication and opportunities to act in favour of a sovereign and democratic Belarus, and that attempts to stigmatise any ***EU*** country would be met with an "unequivocal, solidarity-based response".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (77%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Espionage (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (74%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Brexit is gone, but it's back. And the troubles are back. Boris Johnson is running out of time***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYX1-F09W-F537-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 292 words

**Byline:** Maria Mazurek

**Highlight: amid** a coronavirus pandemic, a global economic crisis and other developments, the subject of brexit has quietened down. Time is running out to work out a deal to define the future trading relationship. A hard Brexit is still possible.

**Body**

A coronavirus pandemic and an economic crisis put a lid on [*brexit*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=brexit) for a few months. Meanwhile, Britain's formal exit from the ***European*** Union has not ended the saga that has been ongoing since 2016.

Here we have another iteration of the familiar scenario: negotiations dragging on until the last minute and the risk that they will not be concluded in time. If that happens, [*the UK*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=wielka+brytania) will eventually leave the Union anyway - only without a trade deal. That would mean chaos, the return of tariffs and huge costs.

"I have just spoken to Boris Johnson. ***The EU*** prefers a deal, but not at any price. It's time for the UK to put its cards on the table," Charles Michel, head of the ***European*** Council, wrote on Wednesday afternoon.

Boris Johnson, too, recently indicated that the British people "would be able to live with" World Trade Organisation rules.

Among the issues in dispute, fish has been at the top of the agenda - the right to fish in British waters. - This is only 0.07 percent of the British economy. Fishing for the UK brings in as much revenue as one Harrod's shop in London - says Michael Dembinski of the British-Polish Chamber of Commerce. So why is this such an important issue? More on Brexit and what it could all mean for Poles in the latest episode of [*Eye on the World.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=oko+na+%B6wiat)

At a time of climate crisis, [*environmental*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,172392.html) issues are often more challenging for decision-makers than 'mere' political disagreements. Global temperatures are rising and ice in the far north is melting. Last season's sea ice melt in the Arctic was the second worst ever measured. And it is not only sea ice that is melting. A Polish glaciologist, who studied the glaciers on site, will talk about the dramatic situation of the glaciers in Spitsbergen.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Suits + Claims (67%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (74%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Pole prosecuted by Polish authorities granted political asylum in Norway***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYY1-F09W-F02X-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 594 words

**Byline:** Robert Stefanicki

**Highlight:** Sentenced to two years for fraud and extortion, Rafał Gaweł, co-founder of Białystok's Teatr TrzyRzecze and the Centre for Monitoring Racist and Xenophobic Behaviour, has been granted asylum in Norway.

**Body**

In early 2019. The Bialystok Court of Appeal - halving an earlier lower court sentence - [*sentenced him to two years in prison as a matter of law*](https://bialystok.wyborcza.pl/bialystok/7,35241,24333099,dwa-lata-wiezienia-dla-zalozyciela-teatru-trzyrzecze-lagodniejsza.html).

The indictment contained more than a dozen charges, including fraudulent activity amounting to over PLN 300 000 and concealing assets from a bailiff. The victims are one of the banks and the Batory Foundation. Gaweł allegedly used funds for private purposes, which he obtained for the operation of institutions set up by him.

The judge's reasoning was that "he has made extortionate loans and grants a way of making a comfortable living. Which is all the more painful because it undermines trust in other civic initiatives that rely on grants and donations".

From the outset, Gaweł pleaded not guilty and claimed he was convicted in an 'unfair trial based on fabricated evidence'. As a result of the withdrawal of subsidies by the state, he fell into debt, but he was not given the chance to pay it off and instead it was decided to send him to prison by example.

Representatives of the Centre filed dozens of notifications to prosecutors' offices about racist and xenophobic acts. This, according to Gawl, did not please the leadership of the Ministry of Justice. He claimed that the investigation and trial against him was the prosecution's revenge for publicising "the swastika as a Hindu symbol of happiness" (this is how the prosecutor from Białystok justified his refusal to initiate proceedings, and his supervisor lost his post for this).

Three days after the verdict, Gaweł crossed the border into Norway - without his passport, which had been seized in connection with the case. He was accompanied by his wife and two-year-old daughter.

He applied for political asylum in Norway. In the first instance, the immigration office rejected it, but a week ago, while considering the appeal, a second decision was made, favourable for Gaweł.

- The documentation was so extensive and the complainant's explanation so convincing that the tribunal found that he was entitled to protection," Marianne Granlund of the office that handled the Pole's appeal was quoted by the Norwegian newspaper Verdens Gang as saying.

The decision entitles you and your family to stay in Norway for one year. The permit may be extended. Gaweł and his family members will have the opportunity to obtain permanent residence there and to take up employment.

"The Norwegian state," Gaweł explained, "based its decision to grant me asylum on three pillars:

- the impossibility of conducting a fair and just trial, due to the destruction of the tripartite division of power by the Polish government and the politicisation of the courts;

- the lack of reaction by the Polish state to the activities of far-right and fascist militias and organisations which use violence against political opponents with impunity;

- real and documented persecution against me by members of the Polish government and law enforcement agencies, which has been reflected in my four complaints accepted by the ***European*** Court of Human Rights".

Gaweł wrote on Facebook that he is the first Polish citizen in over 30 years to be granted political asylum in the Kingdom of Norway.

It seems that this may become the new norm. In September, the Netherlands decided to suspend (pending the opinion of the ***EU*** Court of Justice) the surrender to Poland of all citizens suspected or convicted of a crime because "Polish courts are no longer independent of the Polish government and parliament".

After Gawlo left the country, Poland issued an international arrest warrant for him and requested his arrest and extradition to Norway. He is still listed as wanted in the police database.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Indictments (74%); Investigations (65%); Film (63%)

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (90%); Mining + Extraction (90%); Organic Chemicals (78%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Lukashenka the slayer of coronavirus? It's just a propaganda fairy tale***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:611D-DYY1-F09W-F01X-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 8, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 520 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Poczobut

**Highlight:** The information given by the Belarusian authorities about illnesses and deaths from the coronavirus has as much to do with reality as Lukashenko's election victory announced by the Central Election Commission.

**Body**

- Belarus' experience in the fight against the coronavirus is invaluable to the world, Alexander Lukashenko said on Thursday at a special meeting devoted to the epidemiological situation in the country. This time you have to give him credit. The Belarusian response to COVID-19 is indeed unique.

If the Belarusian Ministry of Health is to be believed, the local mutation of the coronavirus has exceptional properties. The coronavirus appears only in places where Alexander Lukashenko has a political interest.

In Grodno, the opposition tried to get permission to hold a rally and did not get it. The reason - coronavirus pandemic, the gathering of large numbers of people in one place will contribute to the spread of the disease. At the same time, pro-Lukashenko groups got permission to demonstrate without any problem, and the grand parade and celebrations of Belarusian Independence Day on 3 July, which attracted tens of thousands of people, did not cause even a minimal increase in the number of people infected. Why? Because it was not in the interests of the organiser, Alexander Lukashenko.

Lawyers have also been restricted from meeting clients in custody because of the coronavirus. Of course, investigators and prosecutors are not affected by the coronavirus, so they can carry out their investigative activities without any obstacles. There are more similar examples of selective spread of COVID-19 in Belarus.

In recent weeks, questions about the coronavirus in Belarus have returned with regular frequency. This is not surprising, since one sees protests on the television news, crowds of thousands of people, and asks oneself how this affects the epidemic situation. Could it be that there is no coronavirus in Belarus? Or are these restrictions introduced in many ***EU*** countries an exaggeration?

If we look at the official statistics, it is indeed a Belarusian miracle. Since the beginning of the epidemic, just over 80 000 people have fallen ill and 807 have died. This low mortality rate is one of the best in the world. Lukashenko, the author of the Belarusian method of combating the coronavirus, should therefore be approached by a queue of foreign leaders asking him how to achieve such miraculous results.

However, no one is standing. Why not? Because there are no miracles in Belarus. The world realises that the data on illnesses and deaths in COVID-19 reported by the Ministry of Health have as much to do with reality as Lukashenko's election victory announced by the Central Election Commission has with it.

According to official mortality data submitted by the ministry to the UN and thus made known to the Belarusian public, only during the second quarter of 2020 the number of dead is more than 5,500 higher than the national average for the last five years. It is clear that such an increase has one reason - it is part of the Belarusian victims of the coronavirus. Their total number is impossible to estimate for now, but it is clear that the final price Belarusian society will pay for Lukashenko's experiments in the fight against the coronavirus will be very high.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (81%); Terrorist Organizations (77%); Medical Devices (67%); Arms Control + Disarmament (64%); Espionage (64%); Weapons + Arms (64%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (90%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (84%)

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Commission European Commission comments on the CT ruling. "EU has no competence regarding the right to abortion".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3YW-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 566 words

**Byline:** oprac. Weronika Bruździak-Gębura/IAR

**Highlight: The *European*** Commission spokesperson referred to Thursday's ruling by the Polish Constitutional Court on abortion. - Legislation in this area belongs to member states - he said. He stressed, however, that the EC has concerns about the independence and legitimacy of the Constitutional Tribunal.

**Body**

- Under the treaties, ***the EU*** has no competence regarding the right to abortion. Legislation in this area belongs to member states," ***European*** Commission spokesman Christian Wigand said on Friday, as quoted by PAP.

At the same time, Wigand added that the ***European*** Commission continues to have concerns about the independence and legitimacy of the Constitutional Tribunal in Poland, as demonstrated by the ongoing Article 7 procedure. At the end of September, the EC concluded that [*there were no conditions for ending the Article 7 procedure and that it would continue.*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26329283,niemiecki-minister-procedura-z-art-7-wobec-polski-nie-zostanie.html)

Earlier, the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of ***Europe***, Dunja Mijatović, among others, also spoke on the issue. "Removing the basis for almost all legal abortions in Poland is tantamount to a violation and breach of human rights. Today's ruling by the Constitutional Court means an abortion underground and travel abroad for those who can afford it and even greater torment for everyone else. This is a sad day for women's rights." - she wrote on Twitter.

Christian Wigand's words are a reaction to Thursday's ruling by the Constitutional Court, which said that abortion in the case of severe and irreversible impairment of the fetus or its incurable life-threatening disease is unconstitutional. The motion was filed in 2019 by a group of more than 100 MPs from PiS, PSL-Kukiz'15 and the Confederation.

The Court analysed the provisions of the 1993 Act on Family Planning, Protection of the Human Foetus and Conditions for the Permissibility of Termination of Pregnancy. A compromise developed 27 years ago allowed the termination of pregnancy in three cases: when the pregnancy poses a threat to the life or health of the pregnant woman; when the pregnancy is the result of a prohibited act; and when prenatal tests or other medical indications point to a high probability of severe and irreversible fetal impairment or an incurable disease threatening its life.

The latter will cease to be legal after the TK's ruling is published in the Dziennik Ustaw (Journal of Laws), or at least until the PiS loses power. This opinion was expressed, among others, by Prof. Andrzej Zoll, president of the [*Constitutional Tribunal*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26426061,prof-zoll-komentuje-wyrok-tk-matek-ktore-decyduja-sie-na.html) in the years 1993-1997, privately a supporter of this solution, who believes that [*Thursday's ruling of the Constitutional Tribunal is "devoid of constitutional basis" because "President Przyłębska was elected by President Duda contrary to the constitution" and "it is also ruled by the so-called doubles, who have no right to do so".*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26426061,prof-zoll-komentuje-wyrok-tk-matek-ktore-decyduja-sie-na.html)

Thursday's ruling was not unanimous. [*Two judges, Piotr Pszczółkowski and Leon Kieres, filed dissenting opinions.*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26426012,tk-niejednomyslny-w-sprawie-aborcji-zdania-odrebne-sedziow.html)

"This woman also has every right to demand health protection from the state, she must not be objectified, treated as a means to fulfil the constitutional role of the family. A woman's dignity is no less important than the protection of unborn life. Demanding heroic attitudes from women is unworthy in the usual sense of the word". - wrote Judge Pszczółkowski.

- The oath formula, which I took when taking up my function in the Constitutional Tribunal, does not allow me to support today's decision (...). The Sejm has been working on a total ban on abortion for three years. The MPs could have resolved this issue, but they preferred to leave the decision in the hands of the Tribunal. This is an attempt to avoid political responsibility (...). Here we have a bypass of the legislative process. This can even be assessed as circumvention or infringement of the law', said Leon Kieres, the only judge of the Constitutional Tribunal elected before the Law and Justice party came to power.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Law Courts + Tribunals (64%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (81%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"'NYT' in 'Wyborcza'. After Trump Europe will never trust America again***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3XW-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1331 words

**Byline:** Steven Erlanger, The New York Times

**Highlight:** Biden's rule could "civilise" transatlantic relations, but the damage once done cannot be so easily repaired. Does this mean that the US will never again regain its position as global hegemon?

**Body**

Thanks to the agreement with the New York Times, "Wyborcza" publishes daily materials related to the elections in the USA prepared by the most important American editorial office.

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Many ***European*** leaders cannot wait for Joe Biden to win. They are sick of being disrespected by President Donald Trump, who moreover treats them as rivals rather than allies. But they are also painfully aware that four years of Trump's rule have irreversibly changed the world and America.

Even if the new president treats his allies with the respect they deserve, fundamental trust is in ruins. In addition, according to many ***European*** diplomats and experts, the foundations of US foreign policy are no longer supported by both US parties, making it less credible than it once was. - The shining city on a hill no longer shines," says German ***MEP*** Reinhard Bütikofer bluntly.

- For the first time in modern history, ***Europeans*** are afraid that there is no longer a consensus on foreign policy in the US, adds Ivan Krastev, director of the Bulgarian think tank Center for Liberal Strategies. - Any change of administration in the White House could mean a complete change of policy. For ***Europeans,*** it is a nightmare.

According to experts, Trump has lowered expectations so much that it will not be difficult for Biden to please the ***Europeans***. He may do so by extending New START (the nuclear arms control treaty between the US and Russia), re-signing the Paris climate agreement, joining the World Health Organisation and even reinstating the nuclear agreement with Iran. After Biden, ***Europe expects*** well-attended meetings and public declarations of closer relations, calmer trade relations, a return to reforming the World Trade Organisation and a less combative atmosphere at the G7 and NATO summits.

But Trump's confrontational vision is shared by a great many Americans today. With this in mind, French President Emmanuel Macron is already trying to force ***Europe*** to adapt to the rise of China and the withdrawal of the US from its role as world leader.

The idea of a "strategically autonomous ***Europe - a Europe*** less dependent on Washington and with its own strong voice on the international stage - is gaining in popularity, but has little to do with reality yet.

The head of the Italian Institute of International Affairs, Nathalie Tocci, and French security analyst François Heisbourg fear that Biden's presidency could suspend legitimate efforts for ***European*** autonomy and cause ***Europeans to*** start "burying their heads in the sand" again.

In turn, Trump's re-election would accelerate work on ***European*** autonomy, even if his threats of US withdrawal from NATO - as suggested by John Bolton, former national security adviser - are over the top.

US foreign policy has traditionally been the product of joint arrangements between Republicans and Democrats - the old adage that 'domestic policy ends where the ocean begins' had its value, especially during the Cold War. But the collapse of the USSR meant that foreign relations also fell victim to political polarisation.

- ***Europeans*** are losing their sense of US leadership at an incredible rate, and the country's inability to contain a pandemic has only exacerbated that perception, says Jeremy Shapiro of the ***European*** Council on Foreign Relations.

- Biden will not solve all the problems with America, he adds. - He won't be president forever, and the Democrats won't always be in power. People have learned that America cannot be trusted because each successive administration turns previous arrangements upside down.

Some warn that the current incoherence of US foreign policy is undermining US credibility.

- America is losing geopolitical importance, assesses Francis Fukuyama of Stanford University. - Polarisation in American foreign policy will not disappear with the election of Biden. Americans simply disagree with each other on basic issues, they cannot even agree on how much America should be involved in global affairs and NATO.

William Burns, a former US diplomat, now head of the Carnegie Endowment think tank, believes that no matter who wins the election, the damage is irreparable. - One of the more insidious effects of polarisation is the politicisation of foreign policy, he explains. - This has permanently damaged America's reputation and trust in the world.

***Europeans*** would see a Biden presidency as "civilising", as Heisbourg put it, but rebuilding relations would require new commitments from allies; especially on the China issue. But after Trump's entire term in office, America's allies are less willing to take big risks and more cautious than before.

- If you know you can't plan more than four years ahead because the US may change president, your actions become more chaotic, says Mark Leonard, director of the ***European*** Council on Foreign Relations.

The confrontation with China is, according to the Europeans, one of the few issues on which the Republicans get along with the Democrats. ***European*** leaders have no intention of being pawns on the chessboard in this rivalry, given that China is ***Europe's*** second largest trading partner after the States.

Opinion polls show that most ***Europeans*** do not want to take sides in the Washington-Beijing conflict. - 'We don't see as much of a threat from China as the US, and we are not an equal competitor in this struggle,' says Rem Korteweg of the Clingendael Institute.

Washington will also keep up the pressure on the ***Europeans*** to spend more on defence - a cross-party demand on which there is consensus in the United States.

Trump has already succeeded in forcing the ***Europeans*** to increase their arms budget. But these actions also have more prosaic reasons: ***The Europeans*** needed to hedge against a waning US commitment to NATO.

- ***European*** partners have become more assertive towards American policy. This is one of the few pluses of Trump's presidency, comments Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer, head of the Paris branch of the US think tank German Marshall Fund.

Before Trump, disagreements between allies were rarely fundamental.

- 'We have always had some differences of opinion, but there has never been a deep distrust of a shared worldview,' says Gro Harlem Brundtland, a former Norwegian prime minister who has worked with many American presidents from both parties. - Meanwhile, for the past four years, many ***European*** leaders have no longer taken for granted that they can trust the States even on the most basic issues.

According to the former Norwegian Prime Minister, trust cannot be rebuilt so easily. - Although most ***European*** leaders believe that a close relationship between the US and ***Europe*** is best for world peace, such a strong polarisation between the two biggest parties in the US is frightening. Everyone is wondering where this is going.

According to Burns of the Carnegie Endowment, the global hegemony of the US has come to an end. In his view, the US has no desire to engage in "grand foreign policy crusades" today.

- We will not go back to 1949, 1992 or even 2016. The world has changed and the transatlantic relationship must change with it, the analyst believes.

Burns argues that if Biden wins, his administration will first focus on the internal recovery of a country struggling with a pandemic. He predicts that Biden will seek a more collaborative relationship with ***Europe***, indirectly supporting "***European*** security that does not rely solely on NATO".

- ***Europeans*** will remain sceptics, with the renaissance of US isolationism in mind, says Burns. - But pragmatic coalitions on China, 5G, Russia, Africa and climate change are still possible. It's just that both sides need to invest their time and trust in this new relationship.

translation. Maciej Orłowski

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (82%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Military Weapons (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (74%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Abortion in the world - where is it legal? Poland among countries such as Niger or Algeria [MAPA].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R401-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 576 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Justyna Bryczkowska

**Highlight:** On 22 October the Constitutional Tribunal, headed by Julia Przyłębska, ruled that abortion on grounds of foetal damage is incompatible with the Polish constitution. This ruling places Poland among the three ***European*** countries with the most restrictive abortion laws - Malta and Ireland are also in the same group. In the world, on the other hand, such restrictive regulations are in force in some African, South American and South Asian countries - Poland can be compared with such countries as Algeria, Niger or Bolivia.

**Body**

The so-called embryopathological premise (which allows the termination of a pregnancy when tests indicate severe and irreversible damage to the fetus or an incurable disease threatening its life) was the reason for performing about 98 percent of legal abortions in Poland in 2019: out of 1,100 procedures, about 1,074 were carried out precisely because of it, reports the Ministry of Health.

The judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal places Poland, in terms of restrictive abortion laws, amongst such countries as Bolivia, Peru, Namibia, Niger, Chad and Algeria. Restrictive abortion laws are in force in most African and South American countries, Arab states and some other countries with Muslim majorities.

[*>>> ROP on the ruling of the Constitutional Tribunal: the drama of women is growing. "The view of one of the parties to the dispute has been arbitrarily imposed" <<<*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114883,26427339,rpo-ws-wyroku-tk-narasta-dramat-kobiet-w-arbitralny-sposob.html)

Apart from Poland and Malta, in the vast majority of ***European*** Union countries, abortion can be performed not only on health grounds, but also, for example, on economic or social grounds, when a woman lives in poverty and cannot afford to bring up her child. Ireland, which for a long time had an almost total ban on abortion enshrined, no longer criminalises abortion as a result of a referendum on 25 May 2018. In ***Europe, the*** exceptions are the Vatican, San Marino and Malta, where abortion is illegal. In contrast, Monaco, Andorra and Liechtenstein are countries where access to abortion is heavily restricted.

A total ban on abortion and the threat of punishment for abortion is in force in seven countries around the world: El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Chile, the Vatican, the Dominican Republic and Malta. Restrictive abortion laws, which allow abortion in the case of saving the life of the mother, are in turn in force in 30 countries around the world. In contrast, termination of pregnancy is legal in, for example, India, Kyrgyzstan and Vietnam.

Worldwide, on average one in four pregnancies ends in abortion - reports [*Amnesty International.*](https://amnesty.org.pl/aborcja-najwazniejsze-fakty/) The organisation also emphasises that restricting or banning abortions does not make the number of procedures smaller - these are performed in abortion undergrounds, often in unsanitary conditions and by unqualified people.

[*>>> Commission* ***European Commission*** *comments on the CT ruling. "****EU*** *has no competence regarding the right to abortion.*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26427734,ke-komentuje-orzeczenie-trybunalu-konstytucyjnego-ue-nie-ma.html)

The organisation [*Women on Waves*](https://www.womenonwaves.org/pl/page/460/abortion-laws-worldwide) reports that approximately 25% of the population live in countries that have very restrictive abortion laws, and the WHO in turn estimates that this translates into 40% of women of childbearing age worldwide. This group includes mainly South American countries such as El Salvador, El Salvador and African countries such as Nicaragua.

The World Health Organisation estimates that 22 million unsafe abortions are performed worldwide each year, with the largest proportion taking place in developing countries. Illegal and unsafe abortions are the third most common cause of death among pregnant women worldwide - these deaths are preventable. The important point here is that legal abortion performed by qualified professionals is one of the safest medical procedures, often even safer than childbirth itself, according to Amnesty International.

Experts also note that the number of women choosing abortion is falling where there is good access to sexual education and contraception. Meanwhile, after the CT ruling, anti-abortion law in Poland will be more restrictive than in Iran, Colombia or Pakistan.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Espionage (63%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (76%)

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[***Navalny: I am going back to Russia. The Kremlin is changing, we will change too***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3WS-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1509 words

**Byline:** Tikhon Dziadko, Berlin

**Highlight:** - Sanctions and blacklists? If the West wants to help Russia, its citizens and itself, it should block the channels of exporting dirty money from Russia. There is no need for sanctions on people who use novichok as a weapon to block the outflow of money stolen from our citizens, says a Russian oppositionist.

**Body**

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny heads the Moscow-based Anti-Corruption Foundation. In August, he was transported from Siberia to Berlin for treatment for a serious illness that doctors confirmed was caused by a novichok-type neurotoxin. Tikhon Dziadko, editor-in-chief of TV Dodzhda, the last independent station in Russia, talks to him in Berlin.

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Tikhon Dziadko: After the attempt to poison you in August, ***the European Union*** sanctioned six Russians close to Putin and the institute where novichok is believed to have been developed. Is that enough?

Alexei Navalny: I am primarily interested in what is happening in Russia, the reaction of ***Europe*** is of secondary importance. I understand that the outrage in many countries is not connected only with me. What is more outrageous is the use of chemical weapons. Nobody likes chemical weapons.

What I wish for is an investigation on Russian territory, or at least a semblance of an investigation. For what is happening now is another sign that no one can count on justice in our country.

As for sanctions and blacklists, I have always believed that if developed countries want to help Russia, its citizens and themselves, they should block the channels of export of dirty money from Russia. No sanctions are needed on the people who invented novichok and use it as a weapon to block the outflow of money stolen from our citizens.

The killers and their principals must be held criminally responsible. But what is really needed is to expel all those oligarchs and propagandists who are getting rich and investing in the West, while the Russian people suffer misery and humiliation. These are the people who must be fought. I do not know what measures ***European*** countries will take in response to the attempt to poison me, but I would like them to take care to punish not only the obedient who follow orders, but also the high-ranking scoundrels who hide their stolen money in Berlin, London or Paris.

Have you helped to put together a list of those subject to sanctions?

- I do not need to make a new list. Take a look at the first better investigation by our Anti-Corruption Foundation, most of which are precisely about how people claiming to be patriots misappropriate vast sums of money and buy themselves luxury properties in Manhattan or Mayfair. My list is my Youtube blog. Anyone can go there, download names and add to any anti-corruption list.

I do not communicate with politicians either here in Berlin or anywhere in ***Europe***. The only ones I talk to now are doctors. And I don't think ***Europe*** and its politicians need my help. They are imposing sanctions not because of me, but because the use of chemical weapons violates international laws and conventions. That is why the request for a formal investigation and statements on the use of Novichok in my case was made not by ***European*** governments, but by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

When you were lying in hospital, the media reported that the Russian consulate demanded to see you.

- According to the rules, consular assistance is to be given to those who need it. All I need is for Russia to investigate the attempted murder of me.

Since there is no criminal case, because the official position at all levels is that there was no attempted murder - well, I would like to have the clothes I was wearing when they poisoned me. There is every reason to believe that novichok was applied to my clothes, which were left in the hospital in Omsk. I would also like to get my medical records. And I would like to see the video recordings seized by Interior Ministry officers from the hotel in Tomsk where I was most likely poisoned. We do not know where they are. I want to see who entered my hotel room.

Will there be any investigation?

- I thought they would at least pretend. The lack of even a semblance of an investigation is proof to me that the order was given by President Vladimir Putin. Otherwise we would have seen something like the investigation after the murder of Boris Nemtsov. In that case, neither the organiser was arrested, nor was the principal named. Only those who pulled the trigger were arrested. But at least there was an investigation.

According to the French press, Putin denies using chemical weapons in talks with leaders of other countries, then states that he poisoned himself.

"Le Monde" quoted Putin's conversation with President Macron. He said: "Navalny is an internet troublemaker, it is possible that he himself has swallowed novichok".

- Putin is thus making himself a laughing stock. I have no doubt that the French side let it go to the press because they were outraged by this insolence. This was no prank, no mad general ordered the mysterious kicers to eliminate someone. It was Putin's own design.

You have one of the best investigative structures in Russia. If the Russian Federation is not conducting an official investigation, will the Anti-Corruption Foundation conduct its own?

- Yes, we have one of the best investigative teams in the world. But in our investigations, we mostly use publicly available information. We work with open sources and we simply analyse them well. In my case, you have to look at the surveillance data. As I understand it, there was a strangely detailed report of my movements before I left Tomsk, apparently prepared by the section of the FSB responsible for monitoring me. I was constantly watched. The entire hotel was under video surveillance. This most important evidence - the recordings - was seized in its entirety.

We are not naive. There will be no sensationalism, we will not publish photos of the guilty any time soon.

In recent years you have often been asked if you are afraid of death. Now they have actually tried to kill you. How do you feel?

- Well, I am alive and, funnily enough, I feel no bitterness. Of course I have strong feelings for the people who did it. But I can't think of strangling them with my own hands. I want justice for me and for all those around me, because it cannot be considered a normal country that does not launch an investigation after such a brazen attempted murder.

I am quite famous. But what if I were an ordinary activist fighting some oligarch or governor? What if I were fighting for human rights in the Caucasus? When the victim is someone roughly known, like me, and nothing happens, what can ordinary people expect? If even I cannot count on even a semblance of justice, what is a Russian citizen to count on?

Will the Anti-Corruption Foundation's strategy change? After all, the stakes have risen. Until August 20, when you were poisoned, you conducted investigations, pursued a strategy of "smart voting" (encouraging people to vote for a candidate who opposes the party in power, United Russia), and organized rallies. How will you modify your actions?

- The stakes have risen in the sense that we are seeing the gradual disintegration of the regime. We knew that we were dealing with bastards who were obsessed with money and power and who would not let go. But now we understand better than ever that their instrumentarium includes political assassination.

But so far the basic strategy is the same. We must address the people. Demand the right to stand freely in elections. Organise rallies.

With that said, I missed over a month in Russia. I am abroad and I keep catching myself thinking that I am losing touch with reality. That is why I do not want to devise a strategy in Berlin against the Russian regime. I do not want to be an émigré activist. My current priorities are effective rehabilitation and returning to Russia.

We will adapt to new realities and new political situations if, for example, there are early presidential elections. We have always wanted flexibility to be our strength. The Kremlin changes, we change.

Are you considering leaving your family abroad?

- This is a question for my family, for my wife. But Julia supports my work, we will definitely come back.

I am a realist. I know that even if I surround myself with thirty guards, they can arrest them tomorrow for participating in an illegal assembly. And then pour a bucket of novichok over my head.

I try to behave as sensibly and responsibly as possible, but I know that it is impossible to compete with the machinery of the whole state. I have probably become more of a fatalist than before. I just do what needs to be done. I ask people to support me.

How do you envisage your return? There is a whole range of possibilities. Some imagine a big rally, others ask if they will let you in at all.

- How could they not let me in? I am a Russian citizen, I have a Russian passport. They cannot refuse me entry. Of course, I can see attempts to threaten me with some kind of criminal case. I am past the stage in my life when I was worried about that. I was not afraid then and I am even less afraid now.

I am not setting up any scenarios. Should I, like Solzhenitsyn, come to Vladivostok and travel by train across Russia, fraternizing with admirers at every station? I do not want unnecessary pathos. After all, I am just a Russian politician temporarily on treatment in Berlin. I will return to Russia in tourist class. I'll take a taxi, go home and then go to work in the morning - and that's it.

translation. Sergiusz Kowalski

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**Classification**

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**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (62%); Terrorist Organizations (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (73%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Spain's government backs down from the jump on judicial self-government. All forces to fight coronavirus***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R404-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

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**Length:** 773 words

**Byline:** Maciej Stasiński

**Highlight:** Pedro Sanchez's left-wing government survived easily a vote of no confidence tabled by the ultra-right VOX. The country is bracing for a renewed state of epidemic alert due to the rapid spread of the coronavirus.

**Body**

Thursday's parliamentary debate on the motion of no confidence in the left-wing government tabled by the far-right VOX party was fierce and almost hostile. VOX leader Santiago Abascal described Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's cabinet as "the worst Spanish government in 70 years" - meaning that General Franco's dictatorship was better for Spain. He accused Sanchez of all kinds of crimes, including contributing to the deaths of citizens through epidemics and breaking up the country.

However, he collided with a chorus of opposition that he did not expect. As a demagogue and ultra-right-wing autocrat, he was attacked not only by the Socialists and their coalition partner, the populist left-wing Podemos, but also by all the other parliamentary parties, notably the right-wing Popular Party.

Its leader Pablo Casado has firmly dissociated himself from the extreme right: - Enough of this! Either VOX or Spain - he concluded a devastating half-hour speech for Abascal.

The right-wing leader denied his far-right rival's competence to lead Spain in ***Europe***, accused him of "hatred, rage and uproar" and of "nationalism" and gave him a trashing, announcing that his right wing would not support attempts to dismantle Spain from the right flank.

The right has made it clear that, although it does not support the left-wing government and even fiercely fights it, it also considers the extreme right in power to be a disaster for Spain.

Abascal, who not only counted on the support but also quietly hoped to replace Casado as the leader of a united right and an alternative to the leftist government, did not expect such an attack.

The vote completed the spell of bitterness for the far right. All 298 MPs were against the motion of censure, which would have resulted in Abascal being appointed prime minister, in addition to 52 representatives of his own party.

Apart from the right's break with the extreme VOX, the most important event of the debate was Prime Minister Sanchez's surprising announcement to withdraw a bill that would have given the government a chance to control the supreme judicial council, the judicial self-government, and exclude the opposition from influencing its composition.

[*The motion tabled a few days earlier caused an outcry in Spain. It was immediately compared to an attack on the justice system in Poland and Hungary. The*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26404603,rzad-hiszpanii-ma-apetyt-na-samorzad-sedziowski-opozycja-oskarza.html) ***European Union*** also criticised it as incompatible with the principles of separation of powers and the rule of law. It called on the government to withdraw it.

Prime Minister Sanchez took the opportunity to make a virtue out of an image failure and reach out to the opposition. He has invited the People's Party to talks on the renewal of the judicial council, whose term expired two years ago. Political disputes between the parties have so far prevented the election of new members.

As the political temperature of the political power struggle subsided, [*it was time to fight the coronavirus epidemic that continues to spread like wildfire.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26423437,hiszpania-rzad-zapowiada-trudne-piec-miesiecy-zanim-epidemia.html)

Prime Minister Sanchez announced that hard times were ahead for the Spanish people. He appealed for discipline and a spirit of resistance.

- The situation is very serious. We have to reduce contacts and social mobility. There is no other way out," he declared on Friday.

This means that the government is probably preparing to reintroduce a nationwide epidemic alert and curfew. Before doing so, however, it wants to secure support in parliament, because the alert can only be declared once in 14 days, and then its extension requires parliamentary approval. The liberal Citizens have already given their consent.

The state of alert and universal curfew are supported by the majority of the 17 regions, but opposed for the time being by the autonomous regions of Madrid, Catalonia and the Basque Country, which are jealous of their powers. On Friday, however, the Basque Country's prime minister bowed down and asked the Spanish government to impose an alert and curfew.

Nevertheless, without waiting for the central government, regional governments are introducing increasingly drastic measures. Restrictions on movement have already been ordered by Aragon, Andalusia, Valencia and Castile-Leon, among others.

After Navarre, La Rioja also announced the closure of the entire region to passenger traffic, i.e. cordoning it off from the rest of the country (except for travel on professional and scientific matters).

Madrid, where the state of alert expires on Saturday, has declared from Monday a de facto curfew from midnight to 6am, that is, a ban on all public and private gatherings outside the circle of family members living together. It also restricts the movement of residents in the 32 most affected areas and in 12 neighbourhoods of the city and region.

In Spain, more than one million people have so far been infected with the coronavirus and 34,000,521 have died. The government estimates that, because not all cases are detected, the true number of people who have been in contact with SARS-CoV-2 already exceeds 3 million.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

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**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (71%); Indictments (64%)

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (94%); Mining + Extraction (82%); Organic Chemicals (64%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"'Prosecution takes on foreign policy'. Dutch EAW under the magnifying glass of investigators***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3YF-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 749 words

**Byline:** Ewa Ivanova

**Highlight:** - The National Prosecutor's Office takes on foreign policy and orders Dutch ***European*** Arrest Warrants to be torn up in retaliation. What happens if all of ***Europe*** doesn't execute our EAWs? - asks one of the prosecutors.

**Body**

National prosecutor Bogdan Święczkowski gave his subordinate prosecutors an astonishing order. They are to carry out "a particularly thorough analysis of ***European*** Arrest Warrants (EAW) issued by the Dutch authorities" in terms of obligatory grounds for refusal to execute them. "Wyborcza" reached the content of this letter. Its addressees are all heads of regional (formerly appellate) prosecutor's offices. It was issued on 13 October.

The EAW is an institution within the ***European*** Union designed to simplify the transfer of wanted persons between Member States. It replaces the complicated extradition procedure. The EAW is issued by a court in the country that requests the surrender of a fugitive who is in the territory of another country. The warrant is then examined by the public prosecutor in the state where the wanted person is present. The prosecutor asks for consent or refusal to surrender the person wanted under the EAW, and the court in the state that is to execute the EAW makes the final decision.

According to Mr Święczkowski's letter, prosecutors are to look more closely at Dutch EAWs. To assess whether the EAW issued by the Netherlands meets the conditions set out in the Criminal Procedure Code, in particular whether the execution of the EAW issued by the Netherlands does not violate human and civil liberties and rights 'with respect to the independence and impartiality of the Dutch judiciary'.

Here the state prosecutor gives investigators a clear indication. He gives as a model the decision of the District Court in Warsaw of 21 September. The decision was precedent-setting: a [*Polish court refused to hand over the parents of an autistic child to the Dutch side*](https://warszawa.wyborcza.pl/warszawa/7,54420,26250630,prokuratura-przeciwko-wydaniu-holandii-rodzicow-ktorzy-uprowadzili.html). According to the court, there are doubts as to whether the Dutch courts are independent and autonomous from other authorities.

Swieczkowski's letter is a reaction to the July ruling of the Amsterdam court.

A Dutch court failed to execute an EAW issued by the District Court in Poznań in relation to the surrender of a Pole suspected of transporting a considerable quantity of drugs or psychoactive substances. Instead, it referred a preliminary question to the CJEU, [*questioning the independence of the judiciary in Poland*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26392717,tsue-europejski-nakaz-aresztowania-wciaz-dla-polski.html). "The consequence of this request was the suspension on the territory of the Kingdom of the Netherlands of the execution of EAWs issued in Poland also in other cases," - writes Święczkowski.

According to him, the Amsterdam court's decision to suspend the execution of all Polish EAWs in cases before it 'was taken in violation of applicable ***European*** Union law'. According to the national prosecutor, the suspension of the Polish EAWs would only be possible after the completion of the Article 7 TEU procedure, i.e. if there was a finding of a serious and persistent breach by Poland of the values on which the Union is based.

Święczkowski recalls that the principle of mutual recognition of judgments is the cornerstone of judicial cooperation in criminal matters within the Union. Its expression is, inter alia, the execution of every EAW within the ***EU*** on the basis of the principle of reciprocity. "The mechanism of the ***European*** Arrest Warrant (EAW) is based on a high degree of trust in relations between Member States, which is reflected in the fact that the grounds for refusal are kept to a minimum" - points out the national prosecutor.

But in the face of the Dutch court's conduct, Święczkowski tells investigators to keep a close eye on Dutch EAWs. He points to EU Court jurisprudence on the need for a case-by-case assessment of systemic irregularities that may be relevant to the surrender of a prosecuted person. The authority executing the EAW, having doubts about the independence of the judiciary in the state that issued the warrant, should - according to the National Public Prosecutor's Office - verify the situation in a "concrete and thorough" manner. It should examine the situation of the person being prosecuted, the nature of the crime and whether his or her surrender would violate the person's right to a "fair trial".

As Święczkowski writes, in view of the "failure of the authorities of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to respect the principle of mutual trust", the Dutch EAW should be closely scrutinised for implementation.

At the end of the letter, Bogdan Święczkowski obliges heads of regional prosecutor's offices to immediately inform the National Prosecutor's Office about situations in which the Netherlands sends EAWs to Polish authorities, as well as about decisions taken.

Prosecutors are critical of Swieczkowski's letter. - The National Prosecutor's Office is taking on foreign policy and ordering Dutch EAWs to be pulled down as retaliation. What will happen if the whole of ***Europe does*** not execute our EAW? - asks one of the prosecutors.

- This is the beginning of the end for the recognition of Polish judgments within the ***EU***," judges another.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Espionage (62%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (73%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***There is a request from Polish MEPs to the European Commission European Commission for reimbursement of abortion for women deprived of this right***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3YX-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 223 words

**Byline:** Anita Karwowska

**Highlight:** "We propose to establish the possibility of reimbursing abortion costs in certain cases throughout the EU from ***European*** funds". - announced ***MEP*** and former Prime Minister Leszek Miller

**Body**

Write: [*listy@wyborcza.pl*](mailto:listy@wyborcza.pl)

A joint question to the ***European*** Commission was tabled on Friday by ***MEPs*** Leszek Miller, Marek Belka and Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, who are members of the ***European*** Parliament's Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats.

This is in response to [*the decision of the Constitutional Court*](https://www.wysokieobcasy.pl/wysokie-obcasy/7,53580,26422072,za-chwile-trybunal-konstytucyjny-podejmie-decyzje-w-sprawie.html?fbclid=IwAR1_JBij26_kBlCjwZJCfAPNhPssQ9xHxZZB6tmCpb8Mgc9dVA1VFnIXHDI&_ga=2.154231480.1229814532.1603443909-287525578.1603443909&disableRedirects=true#S.koronawirus-K.C-B.1-L.1.duze), which on Thursday, under the direction of Julia Przyłębska, ruled (with two dissenting votes from judges Leon Kieres and Piotr Pszczółkowski) that abortion on the grounds of illness or severe foetal malformation is unconstitutional.

"In this situation, thousands of women will be faced with a dramatic choice each time and will be forced to seek medical help outside their own country. Unfortunately, Directive 2011/24/EU excludes the possibility of reimbursement for medical treatments in another Member State when they are not covered by the benefits in the Member State of affiliation.

However, ***the European*** Parliament takes the view that denying access to guaranteed legal abortion constitutes an act of violence against women." - ***MEPs*** wrote.

Miller, Belka and Cimoszewicz are asking the ***European*** Commission to take steps to introduce reimbursement in strictly defined cases for medical treatments across the Union when they are not available in a particular country.

Former Prime Minister Leszek Miller announced his initiative on Twitter.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Weapons + Arms (65%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (63%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Kaczynski is responsible for the escalation. He wants to save power***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614D-1G41-F09W-F4NP-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 502 words

**Byline:** Bartosz T. Wieliński

**Highlight:** For a long time the ruling party has been heating up the temperature by provoking a clash with society. The campaign against LGBT people, attacks on the ***European*** Union, the detention of opposition lawyer Roman Giertych, and finally Thursday's verdict in the Constitutional Tribunal controlled by the Law and Justice party were supposed to divert attention from the increasingly obvious ineptitude of the authorities. Is this plan working?

**Body**

The rows of police cars and hundreds of armoured officers who stood in the way of demonstrators in Żoliborz show the essence of PiS's power in Poland. The police were thrown into action not to enforce the strictures of the epidemic, but to protect Jaroslaw Kaczynski's villa in Żoliborz. Kaczyński, for years an MP, now deputy prime minister, openly enjoys his privileges - at night the police used gas to protect his peace. It is Kaczyński who is responsible for the escalation of tension. He hopes that by bringing society to a boil he will save his power.

The coronavirus epidemic has brought Poland to the brink of disaster, and the United Right camp has not prepared for its second wave. The campaign against LGBT people, the attacks on the ***European*** Union, [*the detention of opposition lawyer Roman Giertych*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26423118,giertych-nie-jest-podejrzanym-pelnomocnicy-zawiadamiaja-sad.html#S.main_topic-K.C-B.2-L.3.maly), and finally [*Thursday's verdict in the Law and Justice-controlled Constitutional Tribunal*](https://www.wysokieobcasy.pl/wysokie-obcasy/7,53580,26422072,za-chwile-trybunal-konstytucyjny-podejmie-decyzje-w-sprawie.html) were supposed to divert attention from the increasingly obvious ineptitude of the authorities. Is this plan working?

In a sense, yes, because on Thursday afternoon the discussion was not about the fact that the number of infections had reached 12 000 and that the coronavirus had killed as many as 160 people, but about the verdict of the Constitutional Court declaring abortion due to foetal damage to be unconstitutional. Only that the scale of the spontaneous protest was enormous. When KOD marches passed through Polish cities four years ago, government propagandists in the national media mocked that the demonstrators included people of serious age. At night in Żoliborz, police treated only young people with gas. The result of the presidential election showed that Kaczyński has no appeal to young people. Attempts to warm up his image among young voters by pushing for a ban on fur farming not only came to nothing, but divided those in power.

The protest will continue on Friday evening. The events in Warsaw should not, of course, be compared with [*what is happening in Belarus*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26419019,niedobrze-ze-tak-bezczelnie-placza-sie-po-minsku-lukaszenka.html), where the scale of repression has assumed barbaric proportions. But we may be facing a similar scenario in Poland to that in Bulgaria, [*where protests against the corrupt and inept government of Prime Minister Boyko Borisov have been ongoing since July*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26264243,bulgaria-nie-ustaja-gwaltowne-antyrzadowe-protesty.html).

By escalating the tension in Poland Kaczyński was not only masking his ineptitude, but he was also giving an argument to the government propaganda that there is a war going on in Poland for Polish souls, for the future of Polish families and Polish children, who are threatened by the LGBT imported from the West. Didn't the thought cross President Kaczyński's mind to cut the situation in Poland, which resembles a Gordian knot, once and for all? To lead to a final battle and, throwing all his might, to smash the opposition, intimidate the social groups supporting it and take the independent media on a short leash?

The epidemic allows the authorities to do more, and this gives room for abuse. In Hungary, where Kaczyński draws his inspiration from, for example, the parliament was suspended and the authorities rule by decrees. It does not have to end with the Constitutional Court ruling on abortion.

It is such a sad reflection, after a day in which our authorities have taken further steps down the authoritarian path.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Torture (63%); Arms Control + Disarmament (62%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Espionage (62%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (65%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Opposition: A dangerous precedent. TK has replaced democratically elected MPs***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R40H-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 722 words

**Byline:** Iwona Szpala

**Highlight:** After the Constitutional Tribunal's verdict on abortion, the opposition is planning a civic bill to liberalise the law on abortion. It supports civic protests that are springing up all over Poland.

**Body**

The whole of Poland is demonstrating. In Warsaw, in the evening there will be a second protest in front of Jarosław Kaczyński's house, and on Saturday there will be a walk to Nowogrodzka Street in front of the Law and Justice (PiS) headquarters, in accordance with the rules in force during a pandemic: in groups of several people, wearing masks and with appropriate spacing.

Barbara Nowacka MEP (Inicjatywa Polska) emphasises that this is a civic action organised by women's organisations which vetoed Thursday's verdict of the Constitutional Tribunal. - There will be no logo, so there will be no party patronage, and of course opposition politicians will be at the protest," she says.

The Left announces a citizens' bill to liberalise abortion law. - We have just formed a citizens' legislative committee, we are joined by important women's organisations, including the Federation for Women and Family Planning, the All-Poland Women's Strike, the Abortion Dream Team, and more are coming forward. As the Left Party, in February we submitted to the Sejm a draft liberalisation of the abortion law, but so far the draft has not even received a number. The same project will be a citizens' initiative, the Sejm will be obliged to deal with the regulations - says Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus (the Left). She adds that depenalisation of abortion is to be included in the bill.

The Civic Coalition is also planning its own projects. Barbara Nowacka speaks of two initiatives: universal and easier access to prenatal tests and sexual education of the youth. Nowacka also declares KO's support for the abortion liberalisation project proposed by the Left Party.

MP Marcin Kierwiński (KO) wrote this morning: "The police, to protect Kaczyński's comfort, beat and attacked women. This is what the PiS president's dream Poland looks like? Belarus is bowing down. We will defend Polish women and their freedom!".

The opposition announces action in the ***European*** Union. Just moments after the verdict, its leaders were already talking about the pseudo-victory with which PiS decided to circumvent parliament, to drastically tighten regulations. "In the Sejm, Kaczyński chickened out before women. Today he used a pseudo-tribunal with doubles and party nominees to force Polish women to be heroic. This is simply inhumane," PO leader Borys Budka wrote on Twitter.

Dariusz Rosati (KO) commented similarly on social media: "Yesterday's ruling <> is a manifestation of mindless fanaticism and blindness. Under the pretext of defending life, the lives of thousands of women are being destroyed by sentencing them to torture. This inhuman verdict shows the true face of <<good change>>. Fortunately, the 'pseudo-TK' is not the Court.

- We are in the process of analysing what real consequences the Constitutional Court's verdict may have. This is about human rights, it is about a dangerous precedent in which the Court changes the law by replacing democratically elected MPs and senators," says PO MP Michał Szczerba.

- ***The European*** Commission has been dealing with the state of the rule of law in Poland for months and has referred the matter to the Court of Justice of the ***European*** Union. The Law and Justice government has been given time, among other things, to straighten out the legal situation in the Constitutional Tribunal, which concerns the status of judges who have been incorrectly appointed. There are financial penalties hanging over Poland, there has been no improvement so far, and on Thursday the so-called double judges handed down a judgment on abortion. The Commission will not send its enforcement forces here. A hearing can be expected in the ***European*** Parliament, and this is a source of knowledge for ***MEPs*** and EU Commissioners. As parliamentarians we will reiterate our appeal for consistent and rapid action to protect civil rights," says Andrzej Halicki, chairman of the KO delegation in the ***European*** Parliament.

KO and Lewica are criticising those in power and the Constitutional Tribunal headed by Julia Przyłębska, described by Kaczyński [*as the social discovery of the year*](https://wyborcza.pl/10,152484,24781204,prezes-pis-odkryl-karty-julia-przylebska-jest-moim-towarzyskim.html). PiS has its own message to convey: it promises help for children born with defects, support for their families.

Left MP Adrian Zandberg asks on Twitter: "What care can be given to a newborn with no brain or no lungs? What kind of help can be given to a thrush? Why even say such things? You have shown that you are empathy-free fanatics. You no longer have to pretend otherwise. Nobody will believe you anyway.

Senator Krzysztof Brejza comments on his Twitter: "The famous <> is precisely the use of gas against women. A fetus without a head? Let it grow inside you, donate, give birth by natural forces, watch it die, live mentally destroyed. And if you jump up - get gas in your eyes".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (88%); Terrorist Organizations (87%); Military Weapons (86%); Securities + Other Investments (74%); Espionage (69%); Awards + Prizes (68%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (68%); Chemistry (68%); Medical Science (68%); Medicine + Health (68%); Physics (68%); Writers (68%); Torture (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Harbors + Ports (69%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***RMF: Parliament European Parliament European Parliament prepares 'strong resolution' after CT ruling on abortion***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R40V-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 308 words

**Byline:** elaborated. Weronika Bruździak-Gębura

**Highlight: *The European*** Parliament will refer to Thursday's Constitutional Court ruling on a ban on abortion on grounds of severe and irreversible fetal abnormality, RMF FM reports. The resolution is to be ready "as soon as possible".

**Body**

- We have just decided to draft as soon as possible a strong resolution against the abortion ban, which violates women's fundamental rights, says Evelyn Regner, Social Democrat ***MEP and*** head of the EP's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in an interview with an [*RMF FM*](https://www.rmf24.pl/fakty/swiat/news-parlament-europejski-szykuje-mocna-rezolucje-przeciwko-decyz,nId,4811260) correspondent[*.*](https://www.rmf24.pl/fakty/swiat/news-parlament-europejski-szykuje-mocna-rezolucje-przeciwko-decyz,nId,4811260)

According to Katarzyna Szymańska-Borginon, the resolution may be put to a vote as early as during the next EP session, i.e. in mid-November. The EP is also expected to address the violation of Polish women's rights during the Gender Equality Week organised by the ***Europarliament***, which will take place next week.

PiS MP and deputy infrastructure minister Marcin Horala addressed this information. "Parliament is going to interfere in a particular judgment of the judiciary? Where are the defenders of judicial independence when they are needed?" - he asked on Twitter. "Ms Przyłębska's tribunal is Kaczyński's toy, not any judicial authority," - Tomasz Lis wrote him back.

[*A spokesman for*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26427734,ke-komentuje-orzeczenie-trybunalu-konstytucyjnego-ue-nie-ma.html) the [***European*** *Commission*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26427734,ke-komentuje-orzeczenie-trybunalu-konstytucyjnego-ue-nie-ma.html) also commented on Friday on the CT ruling[*.*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26427734,ke-komentuje-orzeczenie-trybunalu-konstytucyjnego-ue-nie-ma.html) He said that "it is up to the member states to legislate in this area". Christian Wigand recalled, however, that the Commission has "concerns about the independence and legitimacy of the ECJ", which is reflected in the ongoing Article 7 procedure against Poland.

At the request of a group of more than a hundred MPs from PiS, PSL-Kukiz'15 and the Confederation of 2019, the Constitutional Court took up the 1993 law on family planning, protection of the human foetus and conditions of permissibility of abortion. The legislation allowed the termination of pregnancy in three cases:

The latter premise will cease to be lawful after the TK ruling is published in the Dziennik Ustaw (Journal of Laws). In the opinion of many lawyers, including Prof Andrzej Zoll, the ruling is devoid of constitutional basis, because, inter alia, "it is ruled by the so-called doubles, who have no right to do so".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (67%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***CT verdict. Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights of Europe comments: This is a sad day for women's rights***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3VR-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 248 words

**Byline:** Natalia Pacholczyk

**Highlight:** Council of ***Europe*** Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović was critical of the Constitutional Court ruling on tightening abortion laws. - Removing the grounds for almost all legal abortions in Poland is practically banning them and violating human rights, she said.

**Body**

On Thursday, 22 October, [*the Constitutional Tribunal*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=trybuna%B3+konstytucyjny) ruled that the permissibility of [*abortion*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=aborcja) in the case of a high probability of severe or irreversible fetal disability is unconstitutional. This decision has been widely commented on, not only in Poland, [*but also abroad*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26424801,zagraniczne-reakcje-po-wyroku-tk-w-sprawie-aborcji-rownoznaczne.html). The Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of ***Europe*** has also commented on the TK judgment.

"Removing the basis of almost all legal abortions in Poland is practically banning them and violating human rights. Today's ruling by the Constitutional Tribunal means abortion in the underground/abroad for those who can afford it, and even greater suffering for the rest. A sad day for women's rights" - Dunja Mijatović wrote on Twitter.

On Thursday, the Constitutional Court ruled that abortion in cases of severe and irreversible fetal impairment or incurable life-threatening disease is unconstitutional. This ruling leads to the collapse of the existing "abortion compromise". The ruling will enter into force as soon as it is published in the Official Gazette.

The penalties for illegal termination of pregnancy are defined in the Penal Code. According to its provisions, a person who, with a woman's consent, terminates her [*pregnancy*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=ci%B1%BFa) or assists in its termination (in breach of the provisions of the law) is subject to a penalty of up to three years' imprisonment. Such a person faces between six months and eight years in prison if the abortion is performed after the foetus has reached the capacity to live independently outside the pregnant woman's organism.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (78%); Terrorist Organizations (76%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (63%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Activists sound the alarm ahead of EP vote: A death sentence for nature, climate and small farms***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3WP-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 379 words

**Byline:** elaborated by. Patryk Strzałkowski

**Highlight:** "The current Common Agricultural Policy proposal is harmful to animals, the environment and citizens who depend on quality food and farming" - NGOs alert. The CAP will be voted on by the ***European*** Parliament on Friday. Greenpeace and Greta Thunberg, among others, have strongly criticised the proposal supported by the EP's largest factions.

**Body**

In the shadow of the fight against the second wave of the epidemic - and, in the case of Poland, the protests following Julia Przyłębska's verdict in the Constitutional Court - the ***European*** Parliament debated and on Friday voted on the draft ***EU*** Common Agricultural Policy for the next seven years.

This week I wrote about one of the issues in the CAP that has sparked protests - two amendments that ban the use of the names of meat dishes and dairy products for their plant-based substitutes. These include vegetarian burgers, plant-based sausages and cheese substitute. The consumption of meat and dairy products in excess is associated with a very negative impact on the environment. According to NGOs, such a ban will hit the growing market for plant-based substitutes, and with it the fight for climate and environmental protection.

However, these amendments are only some of the negative aspects of the CAP from the point of view of climate policy and the protection of biodiversity, activists are warning. Greta Thunberg called it a "surrender" in the fight for climate and nature. Compassion Poland writes that "the current Common Agricultural Policy proposal is harmful to animals, the environment and citizens who care about quality food and farming".

Marco Contiero, Greenpeace's agricultural policy director, said the proposal, which was drawn up between the EP's largest groups, was "a death sentence for nature, the climate and small farms, which will disappear at an alarming rate". He charged that "***the European*** Parliament is deliberately continuing this destruction of the environment, while scientists warn that agriculture must change to face the climate crisis and protect nature".

Some of the activists' objections include the lack of protection for peatlands (very important stores of CO2), the lack of requirements for sustainable fertilisation, the allocation of only 5% of arable land for purposes other than arable and livestock farming, or the lack of a ban on ploughing or land-use change in Natura 2000 areas. Many of these issues are very technical and say little to anyone outside of the experts and activists, but they stress that the climate and environmental impact of all these assumptions will be dire.

The fate of the Common Agricultural Policy, and with it partly the climate and the environment, is in the hands of ***MEPs***. The results should be known on Friday.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (82%); Investigations (70%); Human Rights Violations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (63%); Mining + Extraction (63%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Record infections in Germany. Whole Poland declared a risk area***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3V9-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 805 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** The number of new coronavirus infections in Germany has exceeded 11,000 in the last 24 hours, a record.

**Body**

The Robert Koch Institute has reported that a record of daily coronavirus infections has been set in Germany. In addition, the list of countries included in risk areas has been modified.

The government in Berlin will therefore include the whole of Poland, Switzerland and almost all of Austria as of next Saturday. This means that returnees to Germany who have been in Poland, Switzerland and Austria over the past two weeks may be subject to a compulsory quarantine in accordance with the orders issued by the individual German states. The coronak crisis is also assuming increasingly worrying proportions in Germany itself.

The President of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) has described the current situation in Germany as "very serious". However, there is still a chance to slow down the rate of spread of the coronavirus, Lothar Wieler declared today (22.10.2020) in Berlin. Since the beginning of September, the number of new infections has been increasing "faster and faster" and the process is, he stressed, "very dynamic". Currently, 40 percent of the country is in the so-called red zone.

"We are not helpless," he added, referring to the behaviour of the German public in coronavirus. However, the RKI chief did not rule out the possibility that the coronavirus could start spreading "uncontrollably" in some regions of Germany.

In this situation, the "consistent observance of the rules of hygiene" is of particular importance: wearing protective masks, keeping a social distance, avoiding large groups of people and not leaving the house unnecessarily.

Lothar Wieler drew attention to the steadily increasing number of elderly people infected with coronavirus. The number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals is also increasing.

Compared to the first wave of the pandemic in the spring, more people are now contracting coronavirus in their own homes after meeting friends and acquaintances. However, there are fewer cases of contracting coronavirus on public transport and in hotels.

For the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in Germany, the number of new infections has exceeded five figures. As reported by the Robert Koch Institute, there have been 11,000 287 in the last 24 hours; the previous record was 7,830 cases. The number of deaths rose to 9 thousand 905, 30 more than the previous day.

However, the current figures are difficult to compare with those from the spring, as there are now many more tests for coronavirus being carried out in Germany and therefore more new cases are being detected.

On Wednesday 21 October, Federal Health Minister Jens Spahn, who went into isolation at home, was reported to have tested positive for a coronavirus. The tabloid "Bild" reported that all politicians who had contact with him during Wednesday's cabinet meeting at the Chancellery would be tested for coronavirus.

The first ***EU*** countries have already reacted to the increasing number of new coronavirus infections. In the Czech Republic, almost all shops have been closed since today, except for grocery shops and pharmacies. The government in Prague has also ordered that all human contact be kept to an absolute minimum. The ***European*** Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) reported that the rate of new coronavirus infections within 14 days in the Czech Republic is the highest in the whole of ***Europe***.

The Slovak Government is not currently ruling out the introduction of a lockdown. Prime Minister Igor Matovic has stated that in order to avoid the same high number of new coronavirus infections as in the neighbouring Czech Republic, it may only be effective to 'lock down the whole country'.

In Ireland today, the highest level, level five, of alert was introduced for six weeks. In practice, this means that everyone who can afford it will be working from home until 1 December. Shops that do not sell essentials for everyday life will remain closed. Meetings with people outside the family circle have been kept to a minimum. Outdoor sporting activities are possible within a 5 kilometre radius of home. Schools in Ireland, however, remain open.

Similar orders have been introduced in Italy in the Lazio administrative district, which includes Rome. They will come into force on the evening of Friday 23 October and will be in force for 30 days. Residents in this region will only be able to leave their homes for legitimate reasons, such as to go to work or to the doctor. In previous days, such rules were announced in Lombardy and Campania.

The number of coronavirus infections in Spain has passed the one million mark. Friday 23 October marks the end of a two-week city lockdown in Madrid. Local authorities are currently considering closing the neighbourhoods most affected by coronavirus and banning people from leaving their homes at night. Such a measure is currently being discussed as a possible solution to be introduced throughout the country.

[*Article taken from the "Deutsche Welle" website*](https://www.dw.com/pl/rekord-zara%C5%BCe%C5%84-w-niemczech-polska-og%C5%82oszona-obszarem-ryzyka/a-55357798)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (95%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (75%); Chemistry (75%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Medicine + Health (71%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Awards + Prizes (65%); Medical Science (65%); Physics (65%); Writers (65%); Espionage (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (61%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"Die Welt": Polish government too proud to ask Germans for help. "People are dying in front of hospitals".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3VB-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 368 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** The German government and the federal states should openly offer Poland support in the treatment of patients with COVID-19, assesses "Die Welt".

**Body**

The German daily writes that the Polish government, unlike the Czech Republic, does not intend to take advantage of German help in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. It cites Prime Minister's Chancellery chief Michal Dworczyk, who confirmed in a radio interview that Poland would rely on its own resources.

"Meanwhile, COVID-19 patients from the Czech Republic are already being treated in Bavaria. In Poland, on the other hand, the state media play down the crisis in the country. Politicians think that solidarity can be dispensed with and thus contradict what the medical staff say. The latter are complaining. The health system is on the verge of collapse, many hospitals no longer accept patients, beds are occupied, there is a shortage of staff and equipment, and people are dying in front of hospitals," writes the correspondent of Die Welt Philipp Fritz in his commentary. In his view, these dramatic scenes are reminiscent of the situation in Bergamo, Italy, during the first wave of the pandemic.

"Poland, which handled the crisis well in April but then relativised the epidemic, entered the second wave unprepared. Members of the ruling Law and Justice party blame the opposition and even doctors for this," Philipp Fritz writes.

A large field hospital with places for many patients is currently under construction at the National Stadium in Warsaw, he adds. "But asking for help does not fit into the communication strategy of the Polish government, and especially asking Germany, which in Poland is always blamed for all the evil in the ***EU***" - adds the German journalist. And he notes that precisely the eastern German regions near the Polish border have a surplus of hospital beds at the moment.

"The federal authorities and the federal states should not wait for a request from Poland, but openly offer help. It needs ***European*** solidarity, first of all from Germany, because Poland is after all a neighbour and a close partner," Fritz judges.

As he adds, the Polish government's "false pride" can give way to sympathy and genuine cooperation if Berlin shows that it is a reliable partner in the face of a crisis of unprecedented magnitude. "Doctors, nurses and of course the sick would all be very grateful," Philipp Fritz concludes.

[*Article taken from the "Deutsche Welle" website*](https://www.dw.com/pl/die-welt-polski-rz%C4%85d-zbyt-dumny-by-poprosi%C4%87-niemc%C3%B3w-o-pomoc-w-walce-z-pandemi%C4%85/a-55357250)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (81%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***We are preparing for a long wave of protests. There is much more anger in us now***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R405-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 212 words

**Byline:** Marta Lempart

**Highlight: A** network of doctors' revolt is being formed, who say that they will not comply with the so-called verdict. A team of lawyers is also being formed, which will act in individual cases and prepare relevant documents for the ***European*** Commission and ultimately the ***European*** Court of Justice - announces Marta Lempart.

**Body**

We are preparing for a long wave of protests, we feel the same energy as during the demonstrations in 2015 to defend the Court or in 2017 to defend the courts. Only now there is much more anger. On Thursday evening we crossed a taboo, we went to protest in front of Jaroslaw Kaczynski's house.

We take a very cautious approach to observing safety rules, and appeal for everyone to have masks, preferably two, and gloves. We try to keep our distance, which is difficult if the police are pushing us into one place.

The police cannot ban assemblies without imposing a state of emergency, we are ready to defend our cases in the courts.

A network of doctors' revolt is forming, saying they will not comply with the so-called verdict.

A team of lawyers is also being set up to act in individual cases and to prepare the relevant documents for the ***European*** Commission and ultimately the ***European*** Court of Justice.

At the same time, the Left, in cooperation with social organisations - will present an initiative to legalise abortion in Poland, signatures for the motion will start to be collected after the sanitary regime is relaxed. We need to move forward. The anthem during our protests will be the Empire March from "Star Wars" played every day at 19.00.

Marta Lempart

Nationwide Women's Strike

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Weapons + Arms (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Medicine + Health (69%); Law Courts + Tribunals (64%); Arms Control + Disarmament (63%); Espionage (62%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (68%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Protests in Poland after the ruling camp-controlled constitutional court further restricts abortion rights***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614M-0P91-JCVT-R3Y2-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

October 23, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 796 words

**Byline:** Dawid Krawczyk, Małgorzata Bujara, Oktawia Kromer

**Highlight:** On Thursday, Poland's Constitutional Tribunal ruled that terminating a pregnancy due to fetal abnormalities violates the constitution. In practice, the decision imposes a de facto ban on abortion. Hundreds of people took to the streets of Warsaw to protest the ruling. Demonstrator clashed with riot police near the house of Jarosław Kaczyński. Police used pepper spray.

**Body**

On Thursday, late in the afternoon, Poland's Constitutional Tribunal ruled that terminating a pregnancy due to fetal abnormalities violates the constitution. While Poland already has some of the most restrictive abortion laws in ***Europe***, by ruling the so-called embryopathological premise for terminating a pregnancy invalid, the court decision will now force pregnant women into giving birth to children with incurable diseases and serious physical defects. In practice, it imposes a de facto ban on legal abortion. The ruling concludes a years-long campaign of anti-abortion activists and conservative organizations seeking to further tighten the Polish abortion laws.

For doctors performing pregnancy termination procedures, it means a real possibility of having to face a prison sentence. For women, it means risking the loss of health or even life by having to give birth even in cases when a neonatal death is certain and known in advance.

Commenting on the court's decision, the Council of ***Europe***'s Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, tweeted: "Removing the basis for almost all legal abortions in Poland amounts to a ban & violates Human Rights. Today's ruling of the Constitutional Court means underground/abroad abortions for those who can afford & even greater ordeal for all others. A sad day for Women's Rights".

"Women's chances for a safe pregnancy and their right to information about their health have been taken away. It's dehumanizing. It deprives them of the right to a dignified, independent decision to have offspring. If I were in my reproductive period, I would not have decided to give birth to a child in present-day Poland. My sympathy is with all the young Polish women who are being objectified" - said Monika Płatek, a professor of law at the University of Warsaw.

The court's decision is the more controversial since critics, legal experts, and former judges accuse the Constitutional Tribunal of having been compromised by the ruling Law and Justice party, claiming that that the institution is no longer impartial. Julia Przyłębska, the head of the tribunal, is privately a close friend of Jarosław Kaczyński.

Aborcyjny Dream Team (Abortion's Dream Team), an NGO which provides support to Polish women seeking to have safe abortions, launched a [*dedicated crowdfunding campaign*](https://zrzutka.pl/55g5gx) following the yesterday's ruling. In less than 24 hours, it raised more than 500 thousand złotys (€110 thousand).

In response to the court's ruling, opponents of tightening the abortion laws began to gather in front of the Constitutional Tribunal in Warsaw. Shortly after 8:00 pm, the protesters started their march through the city and dispersed around 2:00 am near Jarosław Kaczynski's house in the district of Żoliborz.

Around 7:00 p.m., there were still only a couple of women picketing in front of the Constitutional Tribunal. They held small, quickly-made paper banners with slogans such as: "There's blood on your togas", or "Hands off my uterus!".

After 7:00 pm, more people started to arrive at the site of the protest. The sidewalk and the bicycle path in front of the court's entrance gate quickly filled with people carrying black umbrellas and flags with the "Women's Strike" logo. Despite the growing number of people, the protest still proceeded in silence.

At around 9:00 pm, as many as one thousand demonstrators started to march towards the Law and Justice party headquarters on Nowogrodzka Street. The entrances to the headquarters were guarded by several dozen police officers and several police cars. Protesters hung a banner saying "Fuck Off" on a fence near the building.

Meanwhile, police forces started to gather in front of Jarosław Kaczyński's house. Police cars were blocking the street, there were hundreds of officers.

After the protesters arrived near the site, shortly after midnight, the police used pepper spray and physical force to fend off demonstrators trying to push through the cordon around the house. It turned into a riot. One of our reporters, Jędrzej Nowicki, got pepper-sprayed. According to unofficial information, over a dozen people were detained.

The protesters started to disperse around 2:00 am. Another protest had already been announced to take place Today. The demonstrators will meet at 7:00 pm exactly where the last protest ended- in the district of Żoliborz, near the house of Jarosław Kaczyński.

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Every day, 400 journalists at Gazeta Wyborcza write verified, fact-checked stories about the coronavirus pandemic for you.

They are on the front lines in 25 Polish cities. They work on the ground, reporting from hospitals and airports.

We have decided to open online access to our news stories and special guides focused on the issue of public health, for free.

The access to information should be equal for all.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Insider Trading (86%); Criminal Law (67%); Torture (67%); Cardiology (64%); Journalism (61%)

**Industry:** Newspaper Publishing (94%); Destinations + Attractions (64%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

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