

**Date and Time:** Monday 18 January 2021 11:55:00 CET

**Job Number:** 134312580

**Documents (70)**

[*Election 2020: Rafal Trzaskowski with the support of the mayors of European cities*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R16C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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2. [*Szymon Holownia: Will not convey his support to Rafał Trzaskowski*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R15R-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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3. [*a vaccine for Poland should be expected sooner from the EU than from America*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R19X-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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4 [*Lufthansa will be supported by nationalisation. It will receive EUR 9 billion from the German government*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R18F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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5 [*Andrzej Duda's 2015 election promises. Quite a few of them are still waiting to be implemented [CHART OF THE DAY].*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R14P-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*Poles and Hungarians do not want authoritarian governments, results of a major European survey show*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:606T-HMP1-F09W-F36P-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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7. [*large increase in coronavirus infections in Europe. WHO director fears renewed overload of hospitals*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1BJ-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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8. [*Trzaskowski published the election programme "New Solidarity 2020"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1C0-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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9 [*US media after Duda's US visit: "Photo opportunity", "Support before the election".*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R16P-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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10. [*CJEU: Hungarian law on 'foreign agents' incompatible with EU*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1BM-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R180-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 11th [*declaration of Duda and Trump on 5G. How does it link to Microsoft's investment in Poland?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R180-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*TVP's*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R191-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 12th [*"news" agitates without borders. "Life is better as Poland is long and wide".*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R191-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R188-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 13th [*Russian bank WTB lost to the EU Court. It is about sanctions imposed for aggression in Ukraine*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R188-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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14. A [*significant increase in the number of coronavirus infections in Ukraine*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R158-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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15. [*why is PiS so afraid of a Trzaskowski win and spreading money around in dumpsters?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1BH-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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16. [*According to a new study, Poles and Hungarians do not want authoritarian governments*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R18S-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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17th [*Germany: primo collapses, Wirecard declares insolvency. The result of a major financial scandal*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R19M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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18. [*Italy: how to kick-start the economy and save jobs? The crisis is worse than in 2008*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R182-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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19. [*foreign media on withdrawal of US troops from Germany. "Afront", "Duda a favourite partner of Trump".*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R169-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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20 [*Wirecard goes bankrupt. Collapse of Germany's technological pet*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R17M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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21. [*Andrzej Duda on meeting with Donald Trump: There were really no deals this time*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R15T-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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22nd [*Trump-Duda meeting in the US. US media on "nationalist president of Poland"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R15D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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23rd [*Foundation encourages entrepreneurs to vote for Duda. "President of Polish affairs".*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R178-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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24th [*Kosovo president accused of war crimes. He flew to meet Trump but had to turn back*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1BB-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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25 - [*Sikorski on Duda's US visit: An expensive photo op and a flop. Democrats will remember it for us*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R18X-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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26. [*Trzaskowski: Macierewicz should stand before the State Tribunal. PiS has paralysed control institutions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1C2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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27th [*EC warns: inflation 4.5 percent Economists divided: "PiS can" versus "not worth scaring"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R04B-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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28th [*New proposal for a compromise on the EU budget. The "Polish" 16 billion euro is in question*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R04G-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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29 [*Timmermans and Roth on the plan for the Union: "Many players have seen where Europe's weak spot is"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R042-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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30. [*it will be more difficult for Polish carriers in the EU. Controversial changes approved*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R011-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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31. [*Germanyruns the Union, or Merkel's last chance*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R03W-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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32. [*Orlen will take over Lotos and rob it*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B1-3771-F09W-F4VC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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33 - [*When will we move away from coal, what about new national parks? Here are the candidates' eco-postulates*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R00F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*Rafal Trzaskowski stresses that citizens are his boss, not the party leader*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R041-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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35th [*Finland opens up to travellers from more countries. Poland still missing from the list*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R02K-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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36. [*vote for a democrat, not an avatar*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B1-3771-F09W-F51C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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37 - [*Foreign media on the elections in Poland: "A key choice for democracy", "A test for populism".*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R03C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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38 [*'Deer of the Confederacy'. Gliński bribes the far right, Żaryn gathers support from radicals for PiS*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R04M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R067-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 39th [*Speaker of the Senate delivered the address. "We will stand eye to eye with history. This will be no ordinary election."*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R067-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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40 - [*PiS president on media as 'nervous system'. They are supposed to control bodies and minds*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R020-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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41. [*repaid your loan before the deadline? In these 14 banks you will get your commission back*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R054-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: lug 10, 2020 Fino a lug 10, 2020 |

42 [*Why did the Serbs take to the streets? It is not just about lockdown*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R052-00000-00&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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[*Lennon's*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R034-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 43rd [*'Imagine' a pro-Soviet song? The Italian right wing in the culture war*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R034-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: lug 10, 2020 Fino a lug 10, 2020 |

44 - [*Free to hate. This is a pillar of the Duda and PiS programme*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R03Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F18B-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 45th [*Europe is bailing out. But will it make it?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F18B-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: lug 25, 2020 Fino a lug 25, 2020 |

46th [*Conference on the climate at Fr Rydzyk's school. Minister Woś misstated the truth several times*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F19T-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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47th [*Head of the European Council:The provisions on linkingfunds to the rule of law are very clear*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F187-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: lug 25, 2020 Fino a lug 25, 2020 |

48. [*Journalists from around the world stand in solidarity with the reporters of the Index website, which the Hungarian government wants to take over*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F199-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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[*The last Governor of Hong Kong: Dialogue with China yes, but not on Chinese terms*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F180-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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50. [*125 billion for Poland and 50 gr for sweetened drinks*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60F6-N1W1-JCVT-R031-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60F5-WBT1-JBK9-24H2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 51st [*EP does not accept the EU budget*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60F5-WBT1-JBK9-24H2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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52 [*Cimoszewicz will answer for the accident?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60F5-WBT1-JBK9-24H1-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*RMF*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F19K-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831) 53[*: The minister announced the denunciation of the Istanbul Convention because she "confused the messages". Ziobro took advantage of this*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F19K-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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54 [*Thousands of Hungarians demonstrated in solidarity with journalists. "Free country, free media".*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F192-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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55. [*near record of new COVID-19 cases. "Election rallies come out without masks, weddings"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F1B3-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: lug 25, 2020 Fino a lug 25, 2020 |

56th [*Poll: Poles do not want to denounce the Istanbul Convention. Most opponents in small towns*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F18Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: lug 25, 2020 Fino a lug 25, 2020 |

57 [*Ziobro: We file a motion to denounce the Istanbul Convention. "It contradicts axiology".*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F19F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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58th [*Biden at White House, headache at Nowogrodzka*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JD-KN51-JCVT-R4G4-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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59th [*Elections in Belarus. Protests in the cities. The Presidents of Poland and Lithuania have issued a statement*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R55N-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: ago 09, 2020 Fino a ago 09, 2020 |

60. [*Although Russia is pushing Belarus to the wall, Minsk does not have to grovel before Moscow*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R55C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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61 [*Europe tightens rules on wearing masks. Heavy fines for not wearing one*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R545-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: ago 09, 2020 Fino a ago 09, 2020 |

62 [*Lukashenko has ruled Belarus for more than 25 years. "Europe's last dictator"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R53M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: ago 09, 2020 Fino a ago 09, 2020 |

63. [*She stood up to the 'last dictator of Europe'. Who is Svetlana Tsichanouska?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R53P-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: ago 09, 2020 Fino a ago 09, 2020 |

64 [*Ziobro to the Commissioner of the Council of Europe, who called for the release of the activist: Be ashamed of your appeal*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R54H-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: ago 09, 2020 Fino a ago 09, 2020 |

65th [*Elections in Belarus. "Triumvirate" stands up to fight against Lukashenko. "Perhaps. Miracles do happen."*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R53B-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: ago 09, 2020 Fino a ago 09, 2020 |

66th [*Belarus. The presidential election has ended. Results of a government poll? Nearly 80 percent for Lukashenko*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R55D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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67 - [*Germany. The government has a problem with masks. "The purchasing policy is completely out of control".*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R54Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: ago 09, 2020 Fino a ago 09, 2020 |

68th [*Electionsin Belarus. "De facto, a state of emergency has been introduced in Minsk. Police and soldiers everywhere".*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R554-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Gazeta Wyborcza,Fakt Polska; Sequenza temporale: ago 09, 2020 Fino a ago 09, 2020 |

69th [*Belarus. "The majority is with us. We have already won." Lukashenko's counter-candidate issued a statement*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R55P-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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70th [*Elections in Belarus. Lukashenko's men detained Tikhanouskaya's staffers just before the vote*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R53W-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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[***Election 2020: Rafal Trzaskowski with the support of mayors of European cities***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R16C-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 241 words

**Byline:** NPK

**Highlight:** The Civic Coalition candidate has published a short film in which the mayors of ***European*** capitals assure him of their support. Rafał Trzaskowski can count on the support of mayors from London, Madrid, Paris and Reykjavik, among others.

**Body**

"Local government friends from all over ***Europe*** are keeping their fingers crossed for me. Thank you! And congratulations on your great Polish ;) Thank you for your support!" - wrote [*Rafał Trzaskowski*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=rafa%B3+trzaskowski) on his social networks[*.*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=rafa%B3+trzaskowski) Mayors of ***European*** cities such as Milan, Paris, Madrid or London decided to support the [*Civic Coalition*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=Koalicja+Obywatelska) candidate by saying a few words in Polish.

In the published video, the politicians send greetings to the Mayor of Warsaw and wish him good luck in the elections on 28 June. The mayors of 12 ***European*** cities also assure that they support the Civic Coalition candidate.

- Rafał, we are keeping our fingers crossed! - The mayors of Milan - Giuseppe Sala, [*Paris -*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=pary%BF) Anne Hidalgo, Prague - Zenek Hrib, Sofia - Yordanka Fandakova, Istanbul - Ekrem Imamoglu, Stockholm - Anna Konig Jerlmyr, Bratislava - Matus Vallo, Budapest - Gergely Karacsony, Helsinki - Jan Vapaavuori, London - Sadiq Khan, Madrid - Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida and Reykjavik - Dagur B. Eggertsson.

The [*latest poll conducted for OKO.Press*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,143907,26065604,pis-straci-prezydenta-nowy-sondaz-trzaskowski-wygrywa-w-ii.html) shows that in the second round of the presidential election Rafał Trzaskowski has a chance to win with Andrzej Duda. The Civic Coalition candidate would beat the PiS candidate by four percentage points.

The [*presidential election*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=wybory+prezydenckie+2020) will take place on Sunday 28 June. There will be 11 candidates in the first round. A possible second round will take place two weeks later, on Sunday 12 July.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Physics (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Law Courts + Tribunals (68%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (88%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Szymon Hołownia: Will not convey his support to Rafał Trzaskowski***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R15R-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 574 words

**Byline:** SeR

**Highlight:** - I will not give my support to anyone - this is how Szymon Hołownia referred to the information that he would give his support in the second round to Rafał Trzaskowski. - Whatever choice I would make in the second round, if I am not in it, it will be a choice between a fire at home and a broken arm," added Hołownia.

**Body**

Szymon Hołownia, an independent presidential candidate, was a guest of Bogdan Rymanowski in the [*'Gość Wydarzeń' programme*](https://www.polsatnews.pl/wiadomosc/2020-06-24/holownia-i-kosiniak-kamysz-w-programie-gosc-wydarzen-transmisja-od-1915/?ref=slider). Hołownia referred, among others, to the issue of transferring his support in the second round and to yesterday's visit of Andrzej Duda in the United States.

Szymon Hołownia criticised the actions of Rafał Trzaskowski, who did not publish his programme. According to the candidate, such behaviour is not serious treatment of voters. - I have the impression that by not participating in the debates, by not publishing the programme, they treat the voters with contempt (...) I cannot do politics in such a way.

- Many of my voters expect me to say for sure that I will not vote for Duda and they make their vote for me conditional on that," he said.

- I will not give my support to anyone. (...) I have said many times that there is no such thing in my vocabulary. People make their own decisions, I can say for whom I will vote, but there will be no call to support this or that candidate. Now I am working intensively to make sure that others, not me, have this problem," the presidential candidate noted.

Szymon Hołownia emphasised that decisions concerning an increase in the number of American soldiers in Poland should be agreed with NATO and should take place in the context of relations between Poland and the ***European*** Union.

-This visit is troublesome for two reasons. We become a bargaining chip that Donald Trump can play against Angela Merkel or ***the European*** Union. Saying "If you guys don't want it, Duda will take it all." This is not the way you treat partners," explained Holownia.

If we bring American soldiers to Poland, we should know in advance who will pay for it (...) whether they will be bound by American or Polish law, where they will be stationed

- adds Holownia.

Hołownia adds that when buying military equipment from the US, Poland should try to negotiate offsets, which was lacking e.g. in the purchase of F35 fighters.

This should not be done in middle-school emotions, where someone goes to show love, tenderness and care, hoping that it will pay him back in the election campaign that is being conducted in the country

- he said.

Asked whether Poland should pay for an increased US military presence in the country without hesitation, he replied that the problem lay elsewhere.

- Our security should be based on a permanent but rotating presence of various North Atlantic Treaty Organisation troops, so that we can harmonise with its various parts, which has already happened (...) The military alliance with the USA should be based on NATO structures," adds Hołownia.

The interviewer asked Szymon Holownia about the rumours that there were talks between him and PO about cooperation.

- These are complete lies put out by PO circles as part of psychological warfare and to demobilise my electorate - he said

Holowania explained that he had not received any proposals to join KO, nor had he been offered the post of Warsaw mayor in exchange for withdrawing from the race for mayor before the first round.

PO is fighting me, they declare love and that they are doves of peace, and under the skin they are trying to harm me, because I am also taking votes away from Trzaskowski. There are no talks with PO, selling independence for positions

- stressed the presidential candidate.

Hołownia concluded the interview by saying that after the elections the word "party" will definitely not come out of his mouth, although he does not rule out further activity in politics.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (93%); Terrorist Organizations (88%); Human Rights Violations (82%); Military Weapons (76%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Espionage (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (88%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (83%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A vaccine for Poland can be expected sooner from EU than from America***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R19X-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 606 words

**Byline:** Tomasz Bielecki, Brussels

**Highlight: *the European*** Commission wants to put up money for several vaccines to increase the likelihood of success.

**Body**

Following Wednesday's meeting at the White House, a declaration by Presidents Trump and Duda included a provision that Poland and the US will cooperate in researching a vaccine and drugs for COVID-19.

President Duda said at a press conference: - 'I naturally assume that by taking part in the research work and thus being co-developers of these drugs and vaccines, Poles will be able to count on them being available to Poles as early as possible.

And President Trump nodded that Poland would be involved "both from an aid standpoint and from a care standpoint for the Polish people once we have that vaccine".

The pharmaceutical industry and scientists around the world are working on more than a hundred vaccines for coronavirus, but only about ten of them have already entered phase II clinical trials (the US Moderna is the most advanced) involving several hundred people each.

When one of these trials is successful, the vaccine (or different vaccines) - if only for reasons of production capacity - may initially be a scarce commodity.

However, the US and ***Europe*** are now resorting to advance purchases of vaccines that are only at the research stage, although on average, clinical trials are successful in only 20-40% of cases. These advance purchase agreements, on the one hand, support research financially and, on the other, provide a guarantee of access to early production batches of a future vaccine.

"The vaccine alliance" of France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands had already in the first half of June concluded an agreement - open to the whole Union - with the British-Swedish company AstraZeneca (for 300-400 million doses) working on the vaccine with scientists from Oxford.

But when ***the European*** Commission announced its EU-wide vaccine programme in mid-June, this 'alliance' suspended independent action and the two initiatives are now merging into a single ***EU*** joint venture.

Brussels wants to put money into several vaccines to increase the likelihood of success. If a project fails, Brussels loses the 'assumed' money. But this sharing of risk with the pharmaceutical industry is a major incentive for private companies to speed up work or research on several parallel projects.

In the event of success, the vaccine would be divided between countries on the basis of their percentage share of the community's population, but individual governments would sign purchase agreements at a jointly negotiated price, which, thanks to economies of scale, strengthens the ***EU's*** position vis-à-vis the pharmaceutical industry.

According to last week's leaks, the Commission, assisted by negotiators from ***EU*** countries, has already held talks with representatives of Johnson & Johnson. The Americans already have advance agreements with this company.

The Commission is betting on contracts with companies from all over the world, but ones that have, or are able to develop fairly quickly, large production capacities within the ***EU***, which would dismiss the risk - justified on 'national security grounds' - to ban the export of scarce vaccines. It is unlikely that anyone is saying this out loud in Brussels, but not only the Chinese but also Donald Trump is suspected of being ready to impose such restrictions.

In addition to solidarity, the efforts of Brussels and individual ***EU*** countries to have the vaccine available for the whole Union as soon as possible are also an effort to bring the whole ***EU*** common market back to normality, which is achievable once the whole Union has been vaccinated.

According to ***European*** Commission figures, it takes an average of ten years to develop a vaccine - from the first research to the market launch - but the race is now on for a safe and effective vaccine 'within 12-18 months or sooner'.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (67%); Torture (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (76%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Lufthansa will be supported by nationalisation. It will receive 9 billion EUR 9 billion from the German government***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R18F-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 610 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** The German government will put up ***€9*** billion to rescue Lufthansa after the pandemic crisis and in return become the carrier's largest shareholder. This aid, approved by the EC, is expected to be approved by the company's shareholders on Thursday.

**Body**

Lufthansa shares were gaining as much as 20 per cent on the Frankfurt stock exchange on Thursday morning after reports that Germany's biggest airline had beaten the last reefs before securing ***€9*** billion in government aid. The support was essential as a coronavirus pandemic grounded Lufthansa planes for weeks. But at the same time, this state aid will involve the partial nationalisation of the carrier.

Back at the end of March, the ***European*** Commission agreed that the German government would grant Lufthansa a ***€3*** billion rescue loan. And [*on Thursday morning, the EC announced*](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1179) that it had also approved a direct recapitalisation of the airline by the German government.

Under the plan, the German government will acquire 20 percent of Lufthansa's shares for ***EUR*** 0.3 billion and will get seats on the company's supervisory board. In addition, the government's Economic Stabilisation Fund (WSF) will buy silent (non-voting) shares in the carrier for ***€5***.7 billion.

The aid to Lufthansa is to be repaid over six years and the German government will be required to submit a restructuring plan for the carrier if it is still a shareholder after that date.

Until the state aid is repaid, Lufthansa cannot pay dividends, organise share buy-backs or take over competitors. The carrier will also have to give up privileges in the use of Frankfurt and Munich airports, giving up 24 "windows" per day for take-offs and landings to competitors.

The EC's approval of the German government's recapitalisation of Lufthansa was announced just hours before the company's extraordinary general meeting of shareholders to approve the government's aid.

Until now, the decision of the general meeting was in doubt because the government's plan was questioned by German billionaire Heinz Hermann Thiele, who owns 15.5 percent of Lufthansa shares and is currently the carrier's largest shareholder. Thiele criticised the idea of a direct government takeover of Lufthansa shares. He preferred the German state development bank KfW to act as the carrier's new major shareholder.

Thiele may have torpedoed the idea of supporting Lufthansa linked to the partial nationalisation of the company, as shareholders with 38 per cent of the voting rights have been registered at Lufthansa's EGM. That means the billionaire will have the deciding vote at this general meeting.

But after talks with government representatives, Thiele said in an interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper on Wednesday: "I will vote for the [government's] proposal."

Lufthansa's managers assure that the German government will not get involved in the management of the company, and the injection of money from the state coffers is intended to support the carrier in its fight for global markets.

"Everyone is aware that we are in global competition. We need tools to compete with American and Chinese airlines" - Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spohr told the Bild daily.

The ***European*** Commission's approval of the German government's gigantic aid to Lufthansa is to be challenged by the airline Ryanair.

"Lufthansa needs it as a shield against competitors, it doesn't need it to survive," - Julius Gomorek, Ryanair's chief lawyer, told reporters on Thursday.

This carrier has already challenged before the ***EU*** General Court the decisions of the ***European*** Commission approving state aid from France, Denmark and Sweden for its airline.

The French government, with the approval of Brussels, has granted ***€7*** billion in loan guarantees to Air France, and in this airline 15% of the shares are owned by the state.

More than ***EUR*** 0.5 billion in aid from the German government was also received by Condor airlines, which LOT wanted to take over. The Polish carrier withdrew from the deal due to the crisis in the airline industry caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Resources + Personnel Management (76%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Military Weapons (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%); Electrical Component + Device Mfg (61%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Andrzej Duda's election promises of 2015. A lot of them are still waiting to be fulfilled [CHART OF THE DAY].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R14P-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 2208 words

**Byline:** mf

**Highlight:** During the current election campaign the candidates for President of Poland make new promises. For Andrzej Duda, who is running for re-election, it is additionally time to check how he went with the implementation of his declarations from five years ago. The summary for Duda is average.

**Body**

The campaign is a time for promises, more or less formalised - on the one hand included in the official election programme, on the other hand made in the fervour of pre-election rallies and meetings. What plans did President Andrzej Duda have in his campaign half a decade ago? What came out of it? We remind and account for them.

It is worth emphasising a key point at the outset - it is difficult to clearly distinguish Andrzej Duda's programme before the May 2015 presidential election from PiS's promises before the parliamentary election five months later. Law and Justice ran to them with a two-pronged approach - Duda's programme was PiS's programme and vice versa.

When PiS had already gained the Presidential Palace and the majority in both houses of parliament, and had formed the government, all these centres of power usually (though not always, as we will discuss later) worked closely together. Sometimes a bill came from the government, other times from the President's Chancellery or a group of MPs, and it is difficult to be sure that the real authors of these documents were always there.

This is exactly what happened, among others, with 500 plus. Formally, Duda's role in the legislative process of introducing this benefit in 2016 was negligible and limited to signing the draft proposed by the government (and also supported by some MPs from outside the Law and Justice party, including the PSL). However, it is of course difficult to reproach Duda for this - someone had to bring in the draft and it fell on the government. The president signed the bill, which means that he supported it. In the case of lowering the retirement age, the roles were reversed and the presidential project was then passed. In any case, 500 plus has been introduced, it has been signed off.

We will not decide here whether rolling back the reform raising the retirement age was the right thing to do or not. The Law and Justice Party and President Duda made such a promise and kept it. This time the bill came out of the President's Office. The retirement age of 60 for women and 65 for men was finally restored from 1 October 2017.

I am in favour of effective taxation of large financial institutions and retail chains

- wrote in a survey for TVN24 in 2015. Andrzej Duda. One of the first decisions of the PiS government in 2015 was to introduce a bank tax. Duda, of course, signed this project. The state budget got an extra few billion zlotys a year from the bank tax (e.g. 4.7 billion zlotys in 2019), although unfortunately the banks partly reflected the new burden on their customers, e.g. [*by raising the margins of mortgage loans.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,20626159,klienci-bankow-mieli-nie-zaplacic-za-podatek-bankowy-ten-wykres.html)

With the tax on retail chains, the matter is more complicated. The relevant law was already signed by Duda in 2016. However, there is still a dispute between the Polish government and the ***European*** Commission, which claims that the legislation constitutes unauthorised state aid (smaller retail chains would have lower rates). For now, tax collection is suspended until the end of 2020. In May 2019. Poland won against the ***European*** Commission before the General Court of the ***European*** Union, but the EC appealed the decision.

Currency conversion of franc loans - NOT APPLICABLE

We need to return to the gold settlement of these loans as if they had never been in Swiss francs. These loans should be repaid at the exchange rate at which they were taken

- We wouldn't be surprised if these words from the 2015 campaign are now dreamt of by President Ford at night. All that is left of the pre-election lion's roar is a quiet meow.

One thing to give to Duda - he tried. His law firm was extremely prolific in drafting franking bills. In January 2016, it proposed currency conversion of "franking" loans at the so-called fair rate. However, it withdrew from this idea after a few months, including when the Financial Supervision Authority calculated its costs for banks at PLN 67 billion. Then, there were already much less "radical" bills - on the return of a part of the so-called currency spreads, the creation of the so-called Conversion Fund (additional contributions to it and the possibility of recovering them after the conversion of credits were to motivate banks to talk to customers) and changes in the Borrowers Support Fund.

With each passing month, however, it became clear that the President was unable to push through his plans even among his colleagues from his home party. In the meantime, President Kaczyński advised frankovichs to go to court, while [*Jacek Sasin argued*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,23961418,sasin-szczerze-ws-frankowiczow-nie-mozemy-tego-tak-zrobic.html) that before the elections, the Law and Justice party did not know that the conversion of franking credits would have a negative impact on the situation of all Poles because it did not have "access to all state documents".

Of all Duda's plans, only one eventually came into effect - the Borrower Support Fund, i.e. (repayable!) aid for borrowers in financial difficulty.

I have not fulfilled this promise fully, I have not been able to carry it out. But I have partly fulfilled it

- [*Andrzej Duda*](https://tvn24.pl/wybory-prezydenckie-2020/wybory-2020-andrzej-duda-nie-zrealizowalem-zobowiazania-wobec-frankowiczow-w-pelni-wywiad-4619905) recently spoke frankly about the currency conversion of franking credits [*in an interview with TVN24.*](https://tvn24.pl/wybory-prezydenckie-2020/wybory-2020-andrzej-duda-nie-zrealizowalem-zobowiazania-wobec-frankowiczow-w-pelni-wywiad-4619905)

The tax-free amount should be raised from the current PLN 3091 to at least PLN 8 000 at the beginning, and then it should be gradually increased

- said in 2015 presidential candidate Andrzej Duda. In August that year, just before he was sworn in, he said he would step down if he did not present a relevant bill in his first year as president.

The draft was indeed presented by Duda, and well ahead of schedule, as early as the end of November 2015. Again, however - the president failed to find support for his project in PiS. The government made it clear that this reform was unrealistic and blocked its procedure in the Sejm.

Are we not judging Duda too harshly, considering that he has not fulfilled his promise concerning the free amount? After all, he did what he could - he submitted a bill. On the other hand, it would have been hard to imagine easier circumstances for Duda - he had to convince to his idea a government favourably inclined towards him and formed by his colleagues from his home party. And yet he failed in this task. It is hard to consider it a success - especially when in the current campaign we hear about very good cooperation between the government and the president.

Five years after the proposal to raise the tax-free amount, the situation is quite different from that proposed by Duda. The increase in the tax free amount is felt only by people earning up to PLN 13 thousand a year. Most people have not felt the change, and for some (those earning more than PLN 85.5 thousand), the free amount has even decreased or been eliminated (with incomes exceeding PLN 127 thousand).

Before the previous elections, Andrzej Duda concluded a programme agreement with NSZZ Solidarność, in which he declared, among other things, "to pursue a policy aimed at linking pension entitlements with seniority". So-called seniority pensions mean that some people, having worked for e.g. 35 or 40 years, would gain the right to a pension even if they have not yet reached the retirement age.

"The United Right lacked political will" - this is how the "S" summed up the promise after five years. The government cut off the topic of seniority pensions in 2016, stating that there was no money for them. In the current campaign (and the new agreement between Andrzej and Piotr Duda), the topic of seniority pensions has come up again.

If we are a member of ***the EU*** like other countries, then we are entitled to the same rights as others. Direct payments should be equalised as soon as possible

- said in May 2015. Andrzej Duda. Let the implementation of this announcement be summed up by the fact that after more than four years - just before the parliamentary elections in October 2019. - Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and Law and Justice (PiS) chairman Jarosław Kaczyński promised that after the elections the new government would deal with... a plan for equal subsidies for Polish farmers.

Of course, it is not easy to achieve equal subsidies. It seems that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture are lobbying for this in Brussels. It seems that the fact that the EU commissioner for agriculture is a Pole, Janusz Wojciechowski, is a good omen. On the other hand, the negotiations on the new EU budget did not give much hope for a rapid equalisation of subsidies, and they were made more difficult by the coronavirus pandemic.

One thing can be certain - the need to equalise subsidies will be articulated in every PiS programme in every subsequent election. In the current campaign, of course, President Duda is also keen to talk about it.

Non-taxation of the wealthiest - NOT APPLICABLE

I am not in favour of raising taxes on top earners

- wrote in a survey for TVN24 in 2015. Andrzej Duda. During his term in office, however, he was not always faithful to this statement. Although he signed, for example, a law lowering the lower PIT rate from 18 to 17 percent (which benefited the highest earners as well), he also supported, for example, a bill to lower the lower PIT rate from 18 to 17 percent. (which also benefited the highest earners), but he also supported, for example, the already mentioned reduction of the tax-free amount for the richest.

Duda's signature was also under the bill introducing the so-called solidarity levy, an additional 4 per cent tax on people earning more than 1 million zloty a year. It was also rather nasty that while originally the money went to the Disability Support Fund, at the end of 2019 it was renamed the Solidarity Fund and began to finance not only aid for the disabled, but also thirteenths for pensioners.

Duda also pledged in his 2015 programme agreement with Solidarity to push for the minimum wage to be 50 per cent of the average salary in the national economy. This has not happened. In 2019, this ratio was 45.75 per cent, the lowest in three years (although there are small differences, e.g. in 2017 the ratio of the minimum salary to the average salary was less than 47 per cent).

However, half-jokingly and half-seriously, it can be said that it may be possible for the Danish Government to fulfil this promise in 2020, thanks to the fact that wages are falling as a result of the economic crisis. The minimum wage in 2020 is PLN 2.6 thousand. If the average salary in the national economy is no more than PLN 5.2 thousand (in 2019 it was PLN 4918.17), we will have an unexpected fulfilment of the unionists' expectations.

On the other hand, the team of the United Right and Duda can be credited with, among other things, abolishing the rule that the minimum salary for people entering the labour market may constitute 80 percent of the "standard" minimum salary. On the other hand, the team of the United Right and Duda can be credited with abolishing the rule that the minimum salary for persons entering the labour market may constitute 80 percent of the "standard" minimum salary. It was also during this team that the minimum hourly wage was introduced.

In his programme contract with the Poles, Andrzej Duda included, apart from introducing 500 plus or reversing the raising of the retirement age, several demands which, after five years, he - or, more generally, the authorities of the United Right - can tick off. These include:

On the other hand, some points of Duda's agreement with the Poles are still pending. These include:

Some of the announcements made by Duda and PiS five years ago have come into effect, although not in the way that was announced. An example is a doctor's and dentist's office in every school. From September 2019, there should indeed be a dentist's office in every school. Otherwise, the school should make a contract with some nearby surgery, or alternatively provide dentobus visits. On the other hand, some local authorities complained that the cost of implementing this change fell largely on them.

Duda also proposed in 2015 to "introduce the principle that new companies start paying taxes and contributions only when they start generating income". Today, we do not exactly have such a situation, although some of the solutions introduced in recent years are moving towards it - e.g. "small ZUS plus" allows, under certain conditions, to pay lower contributions by making them dependent on the previous year's income.

The situation is similar with the programme of cheap flats for rent. It is hard to accuse the government and the Prime Minister that they have not done anything in this matter, because they have established the Mieszkanie Plus programme. The problem is that [*its effects so far fall short of the pompous announcements.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25155576,studio-biznes-mieszkanie-zderzylo-sie-ze-sciana-mialo.html)

We leave unclassified the promise to abolish the Bank Enforcement Order. Since the moment in March 2015 when. Duda declared it, much has changed. In April 2015. The Constitutional Tribunal ruled that the BTE provisions are inconsistent with the Polish Constitution. A bill abolishing BTEs still passed through the Sejm and Senate of the 7th term (with a PO-PSL majority). President Andrzej Duda signed the act.

Exactly the same situation occurred in the case of Duda's promise to appoint an ombudsman for bank customers. By virtue of a law tabled back in May 2015 by MPs of the then ruling PO, the Financial Ombudsman was brought into existence (to be specific - the competences of the Insurance Ombudsman were also extended to include activities for, among others, bank customers). It was one of the first laws signed by President Andrzej Duda.

Note - the above summary concerns the implementation of specific announcements made by Duda five years ago. Has the president during his term of office "remained faithful to the provisions of the Constitution" or "steadfastly guarded the dignity of the Nation" - as he swore on taking office? Did he fulfil his 2015 campaign pledges, i.e. was he "a president who listens and serves citizens", "who relates to every citizen with care and understanding", "who builds a fair and just state"? Was he "a president of dialogue, understanding and conversation"? These questions must be answered by each individual.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (89%); Human Rights Violations (82%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Employment Services (70%); Recruitment + Hiring (70%); Suits + Claims (70%); Arms Control + Disarmament (67%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Espionage (65%); Awards + Prizes (64%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (64%); Chemistry (64%); Medical Science (64%); Medicine + Health (64%); Physics (64%); Writers (64%); Law Courts + Tribunals (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (92%); Professional Services (76%); Market Research (70%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Poles and Hungarians do not want authoritarian governments - results of a large European survey***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606T-HMP1-F09W-F36P-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 898 words

**Byline:** Michał Kokot

**Highlight:** Poles and Hungarians are more likely to support democracy than authoritarian rule compared to citizens of other Central and Eastern ***European countries*** - these are the conclusions of research conducted by the GLOBSEC organisation in ten ***European*** countries.

**Body**

"The strong support for liberal democracy is a legacy of the communist era, but also of recent years in which the country has been led from the back seat by strongman leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski," - write the authors of the report "Voices from Central and Eastern ***Europe***" by GLOBSEC. This Slovakian organisation conducted in March research on representative samples of over a thousand respondents in ten Central and Eastern ***European*** countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Austria).

Asked by pollsters, Poles were more likely than citizens of the other countries surveyed to support the maintenance of liberal democracy, the role of parliament and the regular organization of elections. 66% think so, while 26% would like a "strong and decisive" leader who "would not have to bother with parliament or elections".

A greater aversion to authoritarianism than in Poland only exists in Hungary, which for a decade has been ruled with a firm hand by Viktor Orban - there, as many as 81% praise liberal democracy, while 12% are of the opposite opinion.

At the same time, however, as many as 47% of Poles are satisfied with their democracy. This is the highest indicator after Austria (however, there, satisfaction with the state of democracy was declared by as many as 86% of respondents). The authors of the report combine these responses with a high declaration of satisfaction with personal life. In Austria, it is 96%, while in Poland 90%.

The tendency to support authoritarian tendencies in politics, according to the authors of the report, is supposed to be the aftermath of a bad personal situation. Strong governments are most preferred by Bulgarians. As many as 48% of them want such a leader, while 35% believe in the role of parliament and regular elections. At the same time only 18% of Bulgarian respondents declared themselves satisfied in their lives.

Poles were least likely to say that it does not matter to them who is in power. Only 31% of respondents in Poland said so, followed by Austrians (43%) and Estonians in third place. The most apathetic were Bulgarians - 59% of respondents believe that it does not matter at all who will govern Bulgaria.

Poles also less frequently believe that certain social groups are favoured over others in their country. Slovaks were the most likely to say that not everyone in their country is treated equally (86% of respondents). The same is true in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria (84% each). In Poland 68% of respondents said so, with only Romania having a lower rate (62%).

34 percent of Poles believe in conspiracy theories, which puts Poland roughly in the middle of the list (the least susceptible are Lithuanians - 17 percent, and the most susceptible are Slovaks - 56 percent). How was this surveyed? The pollsters asked respondents in Poland specific questions (different in each country) about, among other things, whether they believe that during the Round Table talks in 1989 there was a secret agreement between the communists and the opposition, thanks to which the former are still in power. 48% of respondents believe in this theory. Fewer supporters - 22 percent. - less supporters - 22% - is the story that it was Donald Tusk who, together with the Russians, ordered the downing of the plane with President Lech Kaczyński on board near Smolensk.

Compared to other nations, Poles also appear to be the most trusting of the West. Only 23 percent of respondents in Poland consider the West to be a threat to their culture and identity; 17 percent said this about the ***European*** Union and barely 12 percent about the United States. - about the United States. At the other extreme are the Slovaks. The West is seen as a threat by 50 percent of those surveyed, ***the EU*** by 35 percent and the United States by as much as 53 percent.

The authors of the report write that this high percentage has to do with the history of the country, the circumstances of the creation of the Slovak state and the presence of nationalist parties on the Slovak political scene. Both Slovaks and Czechs are most afraid of immigrants in their countries. In both countries 72% of those surveyed are convinced that they can threaten their culture and identity. In Poland, 41 percent think so.

A much smaller proportion of Poles see the LGBT+ community as a threat to their culture. Only 25% of respondents are convinced that sexual minorities could threaten Polish culture and identity - less only in Latvia (23%), Romania (22%), the Czech Republic (12%) and Austria (4%).

The Responsible Politics Foundation, GLOBSEC's partner in the survey, did not hide its surprise at such a result. The foundation writes that, contrary to popular opinion, Polish society turns out to be much less homophobic. It suggests that the answer can be found "in low trust in media, which are strongly influenced by the Church and the government" (in the same survey, only 33 percent of Poles considered the media to be free, at the same time blaming the government, not the oligarchs and interest groups, for this).

"By not trusting the government, Poles also do not trust the narrative it is pushing," - writes the foundation. As a second conclusion, it draws that Poles traditionally "place emphasis on personal development, the well-being of their families and the success of small businesses". In this situation, they "oppose restricting the freedom of others, even in the name of preserving conservative values". "This position could be described by the words 'live and let others live'," - write the authors of the report.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (86%); Terrorist Organizations (76%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Nondurable Goods (74%); Banking Law (73%); Employment Services (71%); Suits + Claims (71%); Academic Testing (69%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Recruitment + Hiring (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Espionage (63%)

**Industry:** Paper Mfg (74%); Banking + Finance Regulation + Policy (73%); Meats (71%)

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Large increase in coronavirus infections in Europe. WHO director fears renewed overloading of hospitals***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1BJ-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 187 words

**Byline:** dbd

**Highlight:** WHO regional director for ***Europe*** warns that a further rise in infections in our region could again lead to overloaded hospitals. Last week was the first time in a long time that there had been an increase in infection cases in ***Europe,*** he said.

**Body**

WHO Director Hans Kluge shared his concern at a conference in Copenhagen. There have already been nine million cases of coronavirus infection worldwide, he said, and a total of 400 000 people have died. A record was set last Sunday, he said, with more than 183,000 cases in a 24-hour period. - 2.5 million cases have been reported in ***Europe***. Our region is still recording 20,000 cases and 700 deaths a day, he noted.

- Last week, ***Europe*** saw a week-long increase in cases for the first time in recent months, Kluge said. He had been talking for several weeks about the risk of an increase in infections due to relaxed restrictions in ***European*** countries, he stressed. The WHO director reported that in 11 ***European*** countries "accelerated transmission has led to a very significant resurgence (of coronavirus - ed.)". This could bring health systems in ***Europe*** to the brink again, he added.

In turn, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Thursday that the number of infected people worldwide is expected to exceed 10 million next week.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Weapons + Arms (71%); Espionage (68%); Medicine + Health (67%); Law Courts + Tribunals (61%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Trzaskowski published the election programme "New Solidarity 2020"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1C0-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 3052 words

**Byline:** Roman Imielski, Agata Kondzińska, Iwona Szpala

**Highlight:** The candidate of the Civic Coalition has published online his election programme under the slogan "New Solidarity 2020". "I believe that it is the duty of the president to abolish divisions and build a community of Polish women and men. We must rebuild trust," Rafał Trzaskowski writes.

**Body**

On Thursday evening, the Civic Coalition candidate published his full election programme. Under the slogan "New Solidarity" and with three pillars: Us and loved ones; Our environment; Our state, our community.

He promises: "I will often reach for the legislative initiative and convene the Cabinet Council, I will use the powers given by the Polish Constitution in the area of foreign and defence policy. I will reform the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, the National Development Council and the National Security Bureau so that they can play the role of a real expert base."

In the introduction, he writes that the pandemic has turned the world on its head: "It has given us a whole new perspective on life, on the values that guide us. It has exposed the transience of what we often took for granted - our lifestyle, comfort, work or health. It has also shed new light on previous political and social divisions."

Trzaskowski criticises the PiS government, believes it has failed to deal with the crisis and recovery from the epidemic: "The state abandoned us in our time of need and if it wasn't for local governments, NGOs or simply human empathy that told us to take care of our neighbours."

The Civic Coalition candidate expounds on his credo: "I believe that it is the duty of the president to abolish divisions and build a community of Polish people. We must rebuild trust".

Chapter one is work and entrepreneurship. Trzaskowski proposes the creation of a special fund for small towns and cities. It is supposed to boost the economy and be an impulse to create new jobs close to people. "As part of the fund, partly funded by the ***European*** Union, local governments, as they have the best knowledge of the needs of local communities and experience in implementing investment projects, will receive a pool of funds - at least PLN 30 million per county town," the Coalition candidate promises.

It also suggests what local governments will be able to spend the money on. These include, for example, a "bazaar around the corner", i.e. a covered municipal market with the necessary infrastructure, which will provide local food producers with a market and give residents access to healthy and cheap food.

The next fund is money for families - PLN 10,000 to modernise their house or flat, including replacing windows, insulating the building, installing photovoltaic panels.

Trzaskowski also proposes changes to taxes and raising the tax-free amount. He writes: "One should strive to ensure that people earning up to PLN 30 thousand a year do not pay PIT at all. For a person earning between 30 thousand zlotys and 65 thousand zlotys a year, the free amount would be 8 thousand zlotys.

He is betting on "support for the creative sector". Here, too, he promises a fund, this time for Polish production companies that focus on producing international films and series, but also those that operate in the games market.

Trzaskowski wants to be the guardian of legislative order. So that every law that goes to the President's signature is first consulted by the Social Dialogue Council.

For those most affected by the crisis, it has a proposal for industry shields.

The health care system 'has been on the brink of collapse for years', and the government now prefers 'to give money for propaganda on TVP. If not for the heroic attitude of doctors, nurses, paramedics and other staff, the COVID-19 pandemic could have brought much worse results in Poland".

He promises to increase funding by 6% of GDP by 2021. Because "only a real increase in spending on health care, including oncology, will translate into shorter queues and faster access to treatment. Calculating this per head of each Pole, expenditure will increase from the current PLN 2757 to PLN 3676".

Immediately, according to Trzaskowski, more money should be found for child psychiatry. However, right now "we need to prepare a strategy for the autumn fight against the pandemic, to know how many ventilators, medicines and hospital beds we need".

He also wants to find money for residents, but also for all medical staff.

Trzaskowski announces COVID-19 white paper to be drafted by presidential team of experts. It would examine "what mistakes were made during the fight against the epidemic and how to prepare for a possible next wave".

In education, he wants equal opportunities for all children because "we are losing outstanding individuals who were not born into supportive and affluent families".

Trzaskowski writes that he will demand money for teacher raises. And he will set up another fund. This time a system of scholarships of the President of Poland for 50 thousand of the most talented students, especially from smaller towns. "They will be awarded for academic results, as well as for civic and social involvement.

A council of experts, practitioners, students and parents is to work under the president to start a debate on the systemic change of education in Poland. "I would like everyone to be able to participate in the work of the council, so I will provide remote participation in its work and debates," he writes.

In schools, he wants English lessons that are not fiction, so he will propose more hours, but also entrepreneurship classes and student budgets - along the lines of civic budgets in cities, "giving students the chance to co-determine part of the school budget. "And each establishment should have one school psychologist for up to 300 children.

The second chapter is 'Our surroundings'. Trzaskowski begins with a message to the values of Solidarity. He writes that he dreams of a Poland that draws on them, that "will not be hidden under a layer of shouting, divisions and threats. For years there have been attempts to divide and divide us in order to make it easier to manipulate and rule us. Let us return to our roots. Let us return home. Let us return to a good, open and welcoming Poland."

He points out that in recent months we have shown that we know how to be together: "Locked in our homes, we have begun to help each other more often than we did before. This spirit of togetherness should stay with us and be reflected in our new policies."

Trzaskowski writes about equalising opportunities for women in the labour market or in politics. She promises: "As a guardian of the Polish Constitution, I will be an advocate of equal opportunities for women."

In access to health, it proposes "packages of free medical care for pregnant women and two years after childbirth, an early detection system for female cancers, a programme of universal breast ultrasound/mammography and cytological examinations, and preventive HPV vaccinations for boys and young men too".

It wants a "National Strategy and Programme against Violence against Women", an "equal pay for work of equal value law", a campaign "for fathers to actively use their right to paternity leave."

There is to be a Women's Council and a Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment of Women and Men attached to the President. And women in the President's Office are to be "properly represented".

Trzaskowski will veto any attempt to tighten "the current abortion law."

For the young, he proposes the "Mieszkanie dla młodych" (Apartment for young people) programme - the young will be able to count on the state covering their own contribution to a loan. He will expect the government to adopt a Green Deal for Poland, so that "young and future generations can enjoy a clean environment and better air". Following the example of the US, he will propose setting up a commission that will offer educational scholarships in exchange for military service.

Any attempt to violate the family 500 plus programme will be met with a veto. The model for other cities is to be Warsaw in social policy - "free crèche and nursery care throughout Poland".

And he will ask the government to restore funding for the in vitro programme. I will show the local governments how to solve their housing problems - this includes the Local Government Housing Fund run by the Bank Gospodarki Krajowej, which is also supplied with EU money. With a proposal to reduce the own contribution of local governments.

Trzaskowski wants to support seniors. For them he has a programme "for the silver economy". - supporting them professionally and socially, developing the service sector for seniors. He will not support "initiatives to raise the retirement age", he will propose to the government "a plan to expand the infrastructure of long-term services, including care and treatment, so that it meets the needs of the growing group of seniors".

The KO candidate criticises the government and President Duda for "failing to solve the main problems of Polish agriculture." He proposes a new policy, a new "solidarity with all inhabitants of rural areas." He notes that it is the government's duty to "negotiate at least ***€32*** billion for Polish agriculture - as much as the PO-PSL government negotiated." He will ensure that in the future "domestic spending on agriculture will rise to 3 percent of GDP," as it has now fallen to 1.2 percent. And "in cooperation with the government, I will take the initiative at the ***European*** Union to create a special disaster fund to help farmers in difficult situations, such as natural disasters."

He will propose that women insured in KRUS "will be able to include in their pensions also the period of their stay on parental leave. Thanks to this, their pensions will be higher by several hundred zlotys. Such a rule was introduced in 2015 in ZUS."

The KO candidate writes that "a law regulating civil partnerships would allow people also of the same sex to live together in a safe relationship." And that he will present such a bill. It is supposed to be in line with what PO has already proposed in the Sejm.

Trzaskowski also wants to clean up the NGO sector. A special fund will be created under the president to support them. It is important that the rules of employment change, less junk jobs, more employment contracts: "I will decide that the Office of the President should cooperate primarily with organisations that offer their employees such forms of employment."

He would like the Sejm to consider citizens' projects within a month.

In climate protection, he is setting his sights on moving away from coal - by 2030 at the latest in home heating and by 2040 in electricity: "I will veto any law that contradicts these goals. One of the primary sources of cheap energy should be large-scale RES installations, including offshore wind farms. Polish coal will remain in strategic reserve, needed for the country's energy security."

There is also the idea of another council to the president, which will work out recommendations for Poland's energy strategy until 2050.

In the waste management market, the KO candidate also has solutions: "transferring part of the costs of managing packaging waste to its producers." And an amendment to the Act on maintaining cleanliness and order in communes. - Local governments rightly point out that the erroneous provisions of this law have forced up waste management prices across Poland. The amendment would make it possible to reduce waste management costs by as much as a third, we read.

The entire Bialowieza Forest is to be a national park, and "the State Forests must forever remain a state enterprise, but should be brought under social control through the creation of a council". Trzaskowski also wants an animal protection ombudsman.

In the area of culture, the KO candidate also has specific proposals: for two years, a voucher for every child and young person up to the age of 21 for the purchase of a cultural service to the value of 100 PLN (a ticket to the cinema, theatre, museum, or to buy a book). He would like to see a swift conclusion to the law on the professional status of artists. He is in favour of restoring the possibility to deduct 50% of tax-deductible expenses, without an upper limit. He promises to guard freedom in culture.

The public media are in for a revolution. They are to be "financed from the public mission fund and - to a lesser extent than now - from the advertising market". "I will also propose the introduction of a so-called programme licence, which will set minimum outlays for education, programmes for children and young people, science, civic education, culture, etc." - it reads. And "the archaic subscription system is to be replaced by another". Trzaskowski will propose "building a new public media portal, where we can watch Polish content. The portal should meet all the conditions of the public media's mission, be a gigantic, accessible archive and a centre for online creative development."

Also changes in science if Trzaskowski wins: all degrees and titles are to be awarded by universities and institutes in a substantive and transparent manner: "The president, minister or other government official has no right to be a reviewer of scientific titles." The president will be the guardian of "transparent procedures for the allocation of science funds". "We cannot allow relatives of politicians to award themselves funds that were supposed to serve the development of Polish science and the implementation of scientific research," - he writes.

Trzaskowski writes of the five years of PiS rule: "the destruction of public institutions and trampling on the provisions of the Constitution. Violation of the principle of the tripartite division of power. A prosecutor's office subordinated to politicians, attempts to destroy the independent judiciary. Where "a whole new disciplinary system was built to intimidate judges disobedient to the authorities." The dismantling of the civil service. " The so-called reforms of public institutions had one aim - a staff purge and the control of these institutions by their own people."

On the work of the Sejm, in which the majority pushed through laws "without any procedure". This, he writes, "brutal appropriation of state institutions weakened their efficiency", and the state's condition was shown by the pandemic: "the lack of equipment in hospitals, the chaos in deciding to unfreeze the economy, the weakness of the chief sanitary inspector and the mistakes of the Ministry of Health".

He announces a new model of presidency, which with the citizens will rebuild a state that is "friendly, solidarity-based towards citizens, which does not exclude or humiliate" and respects the constitution. (...) I will not allow for the continuation of the system of 'spoils for the rich'. We are fed up with dividing Poles into better and worse and stirring us up against each other. The state and the authorities are supposed to be for the citizens.

Trzaskowski announces debates and citizens' hearings, together with provincial governments and marshal offices on how to restore the rule of law. He writes about the implementation of judgments of the Court of Justice of the ***European*** Union, the elections to the National Council of the Judiciary, which will be in accordance with the Constitution and ***European*** law. The abolition of the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court. Reforms of the justice system: computerisation, restoring the role of jurors in district courts, abolition of this institution in the Supreme Court. The candidate announces a bill giving the president the right to appoint a prosecutor general, who will no longer combine his office with that of minister of justice. He writes that the selection of candidates for attorney general is to be devoid of political influence. The term of office is to be six years, with no right of early dismissal.

He announces a legislative initiative he wants to appoint in the National Security Office an ombudsman with powers to control the secret services. Another project is a "modesty law", including a ban on severance pay for management boards of state-owned companies when resignations are the result of managerial errors; a two-year ban on employing former MPs in state companies.The next project to come out of the President's Office is legislation to protect whistleblowers.

State finances

Trzaskowski writes: . The deficit in the public finance sector may amount to as much as a dozen or so percent of GDP this year, and public debt will exceed the threshold of 55% of GDP and may come close to the constitutional threshold of 60% of GDP. The government is hiding the truth about the state of public finances from the citizens'.

As president, he intends to intervene in "controversial appointments in state-owned companies, ambiguities in asset declarations of senior government officials, cases of circumventing public procurement or hiding the way public funds are spent". He will demand a strengthening of local government finances: a greater share in PIT and CIT taxes.

Polish National Foundation to be wound up

Trzaskowski: "There is probably no greater task facing Poland in foreign policy than rebuilding its position in the ***European*** Union. The devastation in this area in recent years is enormous (...) the government violated fundamental principles enshrined in ***European*** treaties and entered into disputes with all ***European*** institutions and the majority of member states. Poland has become the first ***EU*** country against which infringement proceedings have been initiated. This is the measure of the government's failure in the ***EU***."

He writes that as president he will support the government in negotiations on the EU budget for 2021-2027, the minimum being the £441bn "negotiated by the PO-PSL government for 2014-2020."

In foreign policy, he promises to "rebuild Poland's importance in the world and repair the damaged image of our country". He wants a dialogue about the direction of ***European*** integration. Provides action for "strong Atlantic ties and a strong ***Europe*** as a partner of the United States." In the east, support for Ukraine, because Ukraine's stability and prosperity affect Poland's security and prosperity. He also wants "Belarus to make an effort at political and economic reform."

On Russia he writes: "Poland and Russia have learned to live side by side, but without each other. Poles and Russians have always been and still are close to each other. As president, I will declare that I will always be open to talk about how to improve our contacts with Russia, because two great nations can afford much more than to continue in a constant clinch."

He announces the liquidation of the Polish National Foundation. Because promotion is supposed to serve everyone, not one political party.

Trzaskowski promises to "rebuild the Polish Army and strengthen state defence". And in "response to changing times, the Polish Army must become a centre for the professional training of cadres".

The Chief of General Staff and key commanders must give the armed forces a guarantee of non-partisanship, professionalism and personnel stability. "Any soldier dismissed from service will have the right to appeal to the president against the personnel decision," - we read. The PO candidate will order an audit in the army immediately after the elections, and the National Security Council will be the forum for discussions with all political forces. It is also to be the president's strategic base.

The Territorial Defence Troops, appointed by Antoni Macierewicz, will remain subordinate to the Commander of the Land Forces. Scholarships are available for the best soldiers of WOT.

You can read the programme's key theses on Trzaskowski's official campaign website.

[*SEE THE NEW SOLIDARITY 2020 PROGRAMME*](https://trzaskowski2020.pl/program)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (93%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Investigations (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%); Destinations + Attractions (63%); Retail + Wholesale Trade (63%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***American media after Duda's US visit: "Photo opportunity", "Support before the election".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R16P-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 633 words

**Byline:** Maciej Czarnecki

**Highlight:** The media overseas have no doubt that the Polish president's visit served to increase his chances in the upcoming elections. They also focus on the issue of relocating American troops.

**Body**

Duda's visit - although it was the first foreign leader to visit the US since restrictions against the coronavirus pandemic were reduced - by no means became the number one topic of major US portals. It was, however, noted.

"Poland's right-wing president meets Trump and receives pre-election support," the [*New York Timestitlesits coverage.*](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/24/us/politics/trump-andrzej-duda-poland.html)

The daily recalls that inviting "an ally whose country leans toward autocracy, barely days before a fierce vote on re-election" was opposed by Democrats. "Duda, who has been Poland's president since 2015, has led political restrictions on Poland's judiciary, media and civil society while becoming one of Trump's favorite foreign partners," the NYT reads.

The newspaper admits that it is clear that Trump would love to see Duda still in office. It recalls their five meetings to date, including Duda's three visits to the White House and Trump's memorable visit to Poland in 2017. Quoting analysts, he writes that "the visit had no clear purpose and amounted to a photo opportunity for the populist leader". The former diplomat Molly Montgomery judges that it was in fact an advocacy rally disguised as a foreign visit, which Trump did not even particularly try to hide.

"NYT" also quotes former US ambassador to Poland Daniel Fried, who recalls Trump's - broken - rule of not inviting foreign leaders immediately before elections in their country.

The CNN station gives its coverage an even harsher title: "Trump's first foreign guest during pandemic is nationalist Polish president".

"Both Trump and Polish President Andrzej Duda have suggested that the coronavirus pandemic wreaking havoc in the United States is passing, while direct diplomacy is being revisited in the Oval Office," - [*reads the CNN portal.*](https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/24/politics/donald-trump-andrzej-duda-coronavirus/index.html) The station reminds that despite these words, the virus is still raging in the US and ***the EU***, and both delegations underwent tests before the meeting.

"The two men, nationalist leaders whose actions have raised concerns about human rights and democracy, have cultivated a close relationship since Trump's visit to Warsaw in 2017. Trump often recalled that trip and the large crowd that gathered in the capital's central square to hear his speech on US-European relations. Duda, in turn, tried to win him over with a promise to name a military base in Poland Fort Trump," CNN explained.

The station also notes the electoral context of the Polish president's visit, recalling that Trump had already made a similar effort to help another ally - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - win re-election (he met with him in January).

Other US news outlets, [*such as CBS News*](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-press-conference-white-house-polish-president-andrzej-duda-today-2020-06-24/czyABCNewshttps://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-move-troops-germany-poland-slams-berlin-owing/story?id=71434059) and ABC News, focus on military matters in the context of Trump's recent announcement to withdraw some troops from Germany. They note that the American president again took the opportunity to criticise Angela Merkel and announced that some troops would "probably" go to Poland.

"Duda's visit to the White House raises questions about whether the United States will increase its presence in Poland while Trump withdraws units from nearby Germany," ABC News reports, noting Duda's call for Americans to remain in ***Europe***.

Public broadcaster NPR also focuses on the military aspect, describing Duda as an "enthusiastic Trump supporter". [*The portal admits that the Polish president's visit was unusual due to the Polish elections taking place on Sunday.*](https://www.npr.org/2020/06/24/882746549/watch-live-trump-to-hold-press-conference)

For right-wing Fox News, [*the highlight of Trump and Duda's conference appeared to be... Trump's statements about the need to protect monuments in the US*](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-vows-protect-statues-us-presidents-jesus-christ), which are being toppled or damaged in a wave of recent protests.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (94%); Terrorist Organizations (75%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***CJEU: Hungarian law on 'foreign agents' incompatible with EU law***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1BM-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 357 words

**Byline:** Michał Kokot

**Highlight:** The Court of Justice of the ***European*** Union has ruled that a Hungarian law requiring NGOs to declare that they receive aid from abroad is incompatible with EU law, and ordered it to be amended.

**Body**

The Court's verdict was welcomed, among others, by the Hungarian Human Rights Union (TASZ). Stefania Kopronczay, the head of this organisation, wrote in a statement: "The NGO law concerns thousands of people whom we represent and whose voices can only be heard thanks to us. It is about those citizens who criticise those in power for the excessive use of their power".

TASZ has been under attack from the Hungarian authorities for several years. They claim that this organisation is financed by George Soros, who represents foreign interests and has a secret plan to bring one million immigrants to Hungary. The law passed three years ago was modelled on a similar law in force in Russia. According to this law, any organisation receiving donations from abroad must register in a special register and publicly announce the fact that it receives such funds. In Russia, this law was meant to discourage citizens from donating to NGOs that criticise the government. In Hungary, however, few organisations chose to comply with the new law, opting instead to challenge the law in the ***European*** courts.

The Hungarian authorities claim that the new law was necessary because the NGOs criticising the government for authoritarianism and human rights violations are in fact "political activists".

The ***European*** Court of Justice agreed with the organisations last week. It found the Hungarian law 'discriminatory and unfair' and ordered it to be amended. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban announced that the government would comply with the Court's ruling, but stressed that "the principles of transparency must still apply".

- It will not be difficult to comply with this judgment. But all Hungarians have the right to know about every forint that has been sent from abroad for political purposes, the prime minister said.

At the same time, he said that the verdict is "the result of liberal imperialism" in Western ***Europe,*** which aims to "impose a way of thinking about the family, a way of migrating that is different from Hungary".

Since 2017. Soros has become the main protagonist of government agitation and election campaigns in Hungary.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Awards + Prizes (69%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Medical Science (69%); Medicine + Health (69%); Physics (69%); Writers (69%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (76%); Mining + Extraction (64%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Declaration of Duda and Trump on 5G. How does it link to Microsoft's investment in Poland?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R180-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 565 words

**Byline:** Piotr Szostak

**Highlight:** Presidents Andrzej Duda and Donald Trump signed a declaration on 5G networks on Wednesday. - Poland is currently blazing a trail in ***Europe*** by using trusted suppliers and equipment, Trump said. The declaration is another step towards excluding China's Huawei from Poland's 5G.

**Body**

During a joint conference with President Duda, Donald Trump said, among other things, that the US and Poland were cooperating on issues of technical infrastructure protection and technology.

- We have signed a joint declaration on 5G. Poland is a leader when it comes to using trusted suppliers, equipment and the right supply chains, so we are working together. Poland also benefits from American companies," the US president said.

The Office of the President said that Duda and Trump's declaration is just a confirmation of the September 2019 agreement. At that time, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and US Vice President Mike Pence signed an agreement that Polish 5G would only be built using equipment from "trusted" manufacturers. "Protecting next-generation communications networks from interference or manipulation and ensuring privacy and individual freedoms for citizens of the United States, Poland and other countries is essential," - the declaration reads.

The document does not explicitly mention the blocking of China's Huawei, but in practice this is what it could mean. According to the declaration, "trusted" suppliers are companies that, among other things, "are not controlled by a foreign government without recourse to an independent court" and operate in "a legal order that enforces transparent rules of corporate conduct".

These general provisions concern Huawei most of all, which arouses the distrust of many governments around the world because it cannot guarantee 100% that - in an autocratic legal system - it will not be forced to cooperate with Chinese services and the military in the future.

Many analyses also overlook the fact that Huawei's equipment is the most cost-effective and competitive, as the company has been the beneficiary of a total of as much as USD 75 billion in subsidies, loans and tax breaks from the Chinese government. Thanks to these, Huawei's equipment has lower prices and is more technologically advanced than those of ***European*** 5G players Ericsson and Nokia. Thanks to state subsidies, the Chinese giant beats our competitors in the number of patents and the amount spent on research and development.

From the point of view of digital sovereignty, Ericsson and Nokia have an advantage over Huawei: they are based in NATO countries and in the ***European*** Union. They also invest a lot in Poland, they have production facilities and research and development centres here.

Americans don't count themselves among 5G antenna and equipment manufacturers for now, but Duda's meeting with Trump and Microsoft's investment in Poland show that they are trying to influence other components of the next-generation network.

In May, Microsoft signed a partnership with the state-owned National Cloud Operator and announced that it would build a billion-dollar data centre near Warsaw. As well as being a lever for its business in our region, the tech giant will also be able to plug it into 5G, which, to work, needs large server rooms.

Present at the partnership announcement, US ambassador Georgette Mosbacher mentioned Microsoft servers, cyber security and 5G in one breath. - The data centre will consist of state-of-the-art cloud technology that will certainly meet the highest cyber security standards and be ready for 5G, she said.

And a month earlier, in April, Microsoft acquired Affirmed Networks in the US, which is developing cloud-based technology that allows 5G operators to manage network capacity and dispense with some of its physical components.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Indictments (78%); Investigations (64%); Torture (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (88%); Harbors + Ports (65%); Mining + Extraction (64%); Retail + Wholesale Trade (61%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"News" TVP agitate without borders. "Life is better as Poland is long and wide".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R191-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 768 words

**Byline:** Agnieszka Kublik

**Highlight:** TVP no longer even pretends to be public television, it openly supports Duda in the presidential election. Evidence? Every day at 19.30 on TVP 1

**Body**

The international media freedom monitoring and advocacy organisation, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), in a post on 24 June strongly criticised TVP for extreme bias during the presidential campaign and for using hate speech.

- TVP openly betrayed its public service mission before the presidential election on Sunday, acting almost exclusively as a mouthpiece for the government and President Andrzej Duda. Instead of serving the public interest, TVP serves the government and [*instead of fighting disinformation, it disinforms,*](https://rsf.org/en/news/polish-public-broadcaster-peddles-government-hate-speech-presidential-election-run-1) comments RSF ***European*** Union and Balkans Region Director Pavol Szalai.

- If TVP is to be believed, the current president Andrzej Duda has no weaknesses, while the opposition's most popular candidate, Warsaw mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, is on the list of biggest enemies of conservative and patriotic Poland, the post reads.

RSF also mentions the [*so-called presidential debate on TVP*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26044713,debata-prezydencka-kto-stracil-a-kto-zyskal-na-starciu-w-tvp.html) - that it was biased and the questions were prepared for Andrzej Duda. - The presidential debate, which was broadcast by TVP on 17 June, gave a clear impression of direct political intervention in editorial decisions - assesses Reporters Without Borders - Most of the questions were prepared especially for the ultra-conservative and nationalist government candidate, focusing on topics such as gay marriage, religious education and refugee relocation.

Indeed, in this debate, the questions were worded like the problems shown for weeks on TVP Info and on "News", it was a list of accusations made by PiS against Trzaskowski.

Reporters Without Borders also accuse TVP of spreading hate speech in the presidential campaign - including that public television is supposed to portray the demands of the LGBT community as the "biggest threat".

"News" prepares materials about the election campaign every day. Journalists of "Wyborcza" watch and analyse them every day. The conclusions are horrifying. Only superlatives are given about the Duda, only negatively about Trzaskowski. The other candidates are basically non-existent.

Observers from the Society of Journalists came to the same conclusion.

In their analysis, they show that the main daily TVP 1 is covering the election campaign like a [*war between good and evil*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26054267,towarzystwo-dziennikarskie-wiadomosci-tvp-to-bardzo-dlugi.html). Duda always keeps his promises, acts in the interest of the Polish people. Trzaskowski - a dishonest, irresponsible and unreliable hypocrite who acts in the interests of foreigners.

On Wednesday, the "News" presented material that did not even pretend to be news material, in its entirety it looked like Duda's election spots. At the beginning of the daily and at the end. The material "Pre-election mobilisation" lasted over 4.5 minutes and presented Duda as a statesman in its entirety. Words such as 'pride', 'dignity', 'history and tradition', 'responsibility', 'credibility', 'keeping his word' were used, with sublime music in the background.

The lector read that "thanks to him, [*Poles live better all over Poland*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26066384,monitoring-wiadomosci-tvp-litania-do-andrzeja-dudy.html#S.main_topic-K.P-B.3-L.2.glowka), north, south, east and west, President Andrzej Duda defends the interests of ordinary Poles, no one is left out, he counts with the voice of every Pole...".

I ask media expert Prof. Maciej Mrozowski how he assesses Wednesday's main edition of the 'News'. - As bizarre,' he answers. - There was no journalistic material, only propaganda columns, as if they were prepared by Duda's electoral staff. It is coarse propaganda, pushy, primitive, the message is blatantly one-sided. "The news shows a world in which everything revolves around Duda and Trump. The material "Pre-election mobilization" has the form of an election video: it is all about the frames and the music background, and the purpose is purely agitational.

According to Pavol Szalai of Reporters Without Borders, "the systematic abuse of public television by the government shows that press freedom should be subject to the procedure under Article 7 of the Treaty on ***European*** Union and could lead to sanctions against Poland for violating ***European*** values ".

After 2016, the public media are in the hands of PiS. And the PiS government subsidises them with huge sums from the budget. For the past three years it has been giving the public media compensation for the licence fee concessions. First it was PLN 980 million, then PLN 1.25 billion, and recently as much as PLN 1.95 billion.

None of the institutions which by law supervise and control the public media react to the blatant bias of TVP. Both the National Media Council and the National Broadcasting Council have been taken over by the ruling camp. PiS has a majority here and [*does not agree to punish the public media*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,26046667,tvp-poza-kontrola-srodki-na-monitoring-byly-ale-nikt-nie-planowal.html) for blatant violations of journalistic ethics.

In this year's press freedom ranking by Reporters Without Borders, Poland was ranked 62nd (out of 180), three places lower than last year.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Indictments (67%); Chemistry (65%); Medical Science (65%); Medicine + Health (65%); Physics (65%); Investigations (64%); Human Rights Violations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (77%); Harbors + Ports (68%); Mining + Extraction (68%); Retail + Wholesale Trade (61%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Russian bank WTB lost in court EU. It is about sanctions imposed for the aggression in Ukraine***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R188-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 185 words

**Byline:** CeK

**Highlight:** WTB, one of Russia's leading universal banks, has lost its case at the EU Court of Justice. Russia's second largest bank was appealing against sanctions imposed on it as a result of Russian aggression in Ukraine.

**Body**

WTB Bank filed an official complaint in relation to the EU sanctions imposed on it. This was again rejected.

By decision of EU countries, the Russian bank was blacklisted in mid-2014 in connection with [*Russia's aggression in Ukraine*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=wojna+na+ukrainie). Like several other major banks, sanctions restricted its access to the ***European*** capital market.

WTB disagreed with the decision and, a few months after the sanctions were imposed, filed a formal complaint in order to be removed from the blacklist. In their arguments, representatives of the institution explained that the restrictions imposed were discriminatory.

Four years later, in September 2018, the EU court rejected the complaint and the request to lift the sanctions. WTB Bank again disagreed with the response and this time filed an appeal.

However, [*the Court of Justice*](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/court-justice_en) remained firm and upheld the ruling, thereby rejecting the bank's complaint. The reason was that EU countries were right to ask for WTB to be blacklisted. The bank's loss ends the entire legal battle - the [*Court'*](https://wyborcza.pl/0,128956.html?tag=Europejski+Trybuna%B3+Sprawiedliwo%B6ci)s ruling is final.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (90%); Suits + Claims (81%); Investigations (69%)

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

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***In Ukraine, a significant increase in the number of coronavirus infections***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R158-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 493 words

**Byline:** Piotr Andrusieczko, Kiev

**Highlight:** another (anti-)record has been recorded in Ukraine. Last 24 hours, 994 new cases of SARS-CoV-2 were diagnosed. The Ministry of Health Protection is considering allocating more hospitals to fight the coronavirus.

**Body**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 40 008 cases of coronavirus infection have been diagnosed in Ukraine, 1 067 people have died and 17 758 have recovered.

On Wednesday, Health Protection Minister Maxim Stepanov said that ignoring the ministry's recommendations had led to a significant increase in illnesses in some regions: - I want to emphasise that those whose condition is severe are sent to hospitals, not people without symptoms, he noted, and suggested that so-called second-line hospitals, hitherto receiving other patients, would have to be earmarked to fight the coronavirus.

The problem is so far only in individual regions. In Ukraine as a whole, out of 23,000 first-line beds, only 3895 were occupied on Wednesday, 350 patients were in intensive care units and 82 people were connected to ventilators. But in Transcarpathian region, for example, first-line hospitals are overcrowded and already 243 people have been hospitalized just in second-line hospitals.

According to health ministry indicators, Kiev and 13 regions were not ready to weaken quarantine on Wednesday. But just a day earlier, Kiev was among the regions meeting these conditions and the capital's mayor Volodymyr Klychko announced the weakening of the existing rigours.

In Kiev, restaurants, cafes (which until now served customers in gardens or takeaways) and, in certain cases, swimming pools may resume operations. Cultural and artistic events have also been allowed, with a drastic limitation on the number of participants. Cinemas and theatres were also allowed to open - with a limit on the number of spectators and a certain distance.

However, Klitschko noted that if the situation worsened, previous restrictions could be reinstated. On Wednesday, it was reported that 99 people had been infected in the capital over the past 24 hours.

The Lviv authorities also decided on Wednesday to weaken the quarantine, despite the fact that the Lviv region is among the regions with the highest increase in infected people - 203 new cases were reported there last night.

- Such a weakening is a necessary step to protect small and medium-sized business," said Lviv mayor Andriy Sadovyi.

The growing number of infected people in Ukraine means that Ukrainians are unlikely to be able to enter the ***EU as*** tourists in the near future. The official infection statistics do not fit the criteria enshrined in the ***European*** Commission's proposals to open borders for tourists to the Schengen area from 1 July. Ongoing discussions consider variants of rates between 16 and 20 new infections per 100,000 people. In Ukraine in the last 14 days the rate is 25.65 per 100 thousand.

Since the ***EU*** abolished visas in June 2017, the number of Ukrainians travelling to the Schengen area has increased significantly. A significant proportion of them are economic migrants, but the number of tourist travellers has also increased. More and more EU citizens were also visiting Ukraine. In 2019, 36.7 million people crossed Ukraine's border with the ***EU.***

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Espionage (64%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (75%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Why is PiS so scared of a Trzaskowski win and spreading money around in dumpsters?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1BH-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 1759 words

**Byline:** Piotr Miączyński, Leszek Kostrzewski

**Highlight:** For the past few days Andrzej Duda has not left the screens during the "News" on TVP. He clowns around and makes promises. The money is pouring in in whole heaps. This is the election campaign of the Law and Justice candidate using taxpayers' money. The party started to work hard for Duda.

**Body**

If anyone believes in the great changes forced on the Polish economy by the future president, they will be rather disappointed.

The President is no demiurge shaping the economic policy of our country. For this is not the function he occupies in our system either.

This is what the government is for, and this is what the Ministry of Finance used to be for. It used to be, because under Mateusz Morawiecki the ministry has been reduced to the role of a docile executor of the prime minister's ideas, with the head of the ministry playing the thankless role of an accountant. The prime minister rules, the president has a decorative function.

The opposition rightly points out that not much has come of Duda's big projects announced before his term began.

What was not there:

The result? The only thing that has come out of the assistance for the francophobes is a miserable scrap.

In fairness, however, it must be said that only a little could come out of these projects.

The government treated Duda's more than 30 projects with a kind of pity, and for most of his term the president was reduced to the role of a person who is supposed to support PiS politics, not create his own.

The weight of these presidential ideas varied. Duda proposed, for example, a bill concerning protection of health against the consequences of solarium use (including a ban on the use of solariums by people under 18, which is by the way correct). But why was this not done by the relevant ministry?

This low effectiveness is partly a feature of the office. Presidents of Poland after 1989 were not particularly active in terms of legislative initiative. Lech Wałęsa submitted 33 bills, Aleksander Kwaśniewski 20 (1st term) and 27 (2nd term), Lech Kaczyński 4.4 and Bronisław Komorowski 29.

Duda from 12 June 2019 to 3 June 2020 did not submit any to the Sejm. This has changed because PiS is afraid of failure. The party has started ticking off Duda.

For the past few days, the current president has not left the screens of TVP's "News". He gloats and promises. Money is pouring in in whole heaps. One day Duda arranges a bill on a travel voucher, i.e. 500 zł for each child - at a cost of 4 billion zł. On another day - the so-called solidarity allowance - PLN 1400, which can be collected for a maximum of three months if after 15 March 2020 you have lost your job due to the coronavirus. This. approx. 1.5 billion PLN this year.

The Medical Fund, a bill on benefits for people affected by rare diseases, primarily children, is waiting in line. Treatment is to receive 4 billion zloty a year.

The President has just tabled a proposal for a monetary allowance - an average of PLN 13 200 - for people deported or deported to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics between 1939 and 1956. This idea will cost the budget just under 300 million.

This is a PiS candidate's election campaign using taxpayers' money.

We live in a new political reality. No one looks at the public debt or the long-term effects of decisions - the 500 plus programme was supposed to be a demographic programme, and in the last 12 months 368,800 children have been born, the fewest since January 2016.

Voters are now being bought. Stanisław Żółtek, the candidate of the New Right Congress and ***the eurosceptic*** Polexit party, summed it up brutally during the presidential debate on TVP:

- Some 500 plus, another 1000 plus, 5000 plus, some tourist vouchers. It scares me to suggest to the government that there are beer stalls. That maybe menel plus would still be thrown in, because these are also electoral votes," he said

Paradoxically, the social programmes of Duda and Trzaskowski are somewhat similar.

Yes, Trzaskowski announces the construction of "new modular nurseries and kindergartens, where we will provide free care for toddlers".

Yes, Trzaskowski talks about the creation of local development centres - places that will focus the life of the local community. Residents are to decide for themselves what will be in these centres: cheap offices for local companies, a clinic, or maybe a cinema and a café.

Only that such ideas require government support, and there will be no such support from the Law and Justice government.

These are rather ideas to be implemented in a few years. Or never.

And the similarities mentioned?

Duda: - We will absolutely not withdraw. I will never allow, as the President of the Republic of Poland, for the Polish state to withdraw from the 500 plus programme.

Trzaskowski: - Where did the PiS government show its effectiveness? Only and exclusively in the 500 plus programme. It diagnosed well the needs of citizens, introduced this mechanism to the satisfaction of the majority of our citizens. I admit that this is their success, 500 plus has become part of social policy, it must remain its pillar - he said in a recent interview for 'Wyborcza'.

Trzaskowski also has no intention of dying for raising the retirement age - which cost PO plenty of political capital, even though the change was introduced in a mild version. So he is clearly in favour of keeping the current reduced retirement age to 60/65 introduced by PIS in 2017.

He also supports the payment of the 13th pension (this was, by the way, a PO idea later seized upon by PiS).

A few days ago he put forward a new idea. - A five per cent pension allowance for firefighters with ten years' seniority in the Voluntary Fire Service - Rafał Trzaskowski promised during a visit to Urszulin in the Lublin region.

What would be the cost? - Several tens of millions a year, says Dr Łukasz Wacławik, a specialist in social insurance.

In May 2020, Andrzej Duda signed a programme agreement with NSZZ Solidarność.

The President pledged to "continue the reform of the pension system, taking into account the interests of workers with the longest service". This would mean the introduction of so-called seniority pensions. Several options are possible here.

One of them assumes the right to a pension for everyone after 35 (women) or 40 (men) years of work. Thus: if a woman starts working at the age of 20, she will be able to retire when she is 55! This is 12 years earlier than the "67" reform envisaged, and five years earlier than now, after the changes introduced by PiS in 2017.

ZUS admits that if everyone could retire after 35 or 40 years of work, it would mean an increase in state spending by PLN 9 billion a year

However, this is not all. At the same time, revenues from contributions to the Social Security Fund would decrease by PLN 4 billion annually (if someone retires early, they stop paying contributions earlier).

ZUS has also prepared calculations for the more economical variant. And so: if everyone could retire after 45 years of service, this would mean an increase in costs by PLN 900 million annually and a reduction in revenue from contributions by PLN 300 million annually. The total costs would thus amount to PLN 1.2 billion.

In addition, Duda asserts that he is a "guarantor" of the payment of the 13th pension every year (costing about PLN 11 billion annually) and the 14th pension in 2021 (another about PLN 10 billion).

In the clash between Duda and Trzaskowski, the former is trying to present himself as Polish and national, in contrast to his opponent, who is being branded as cosmopolitan and suspicious.

As president, Duda will therefore support the controversial programmes of the current government, i.e. the Vistula Spit cross-section and the construction of the Central Transport Port - which, given the situation in which our national carrier LOT is now, is becoming a massive extravagance.

Trzaskowski replies that PLN 70 billion should be spent on protecting jobs instead of building CPK.

The current president also wants, at the end of his second term, every receipt to state which products were made in Poland.

- Large retail chains in Poland will be obliged to source state-determined agri-food assortments from our country and even the county in which they operate, so that money circulates in the local economy and generates jobs, Duda told Polish Radio in May.

For the Polish economy, which lives from food exports - last year we sent ***EUR*** 31.4 billion worth of food abroad, with a surplus of ***EUR*** 10.4 billion - this protectionism could prove to be a double-edged sword.

Half of ***Europe*** is gnashing its teeth at cheap food from Poland and looking for an excuse not to let it in

If the presidency is largely reduced to a decorative function, what is PiS afraid of?

The future president holds an atomic option in his hands: the veto. With it, he can be a very ruthless reviewer of government policy. Of course, when the same political force is in office as the president and dominates the Sejm, this weapon is illusory.

Duda vetoed only five laws created by "his" government. By comparison, Bronisław Komorowski vetoed three times in a similar situation.

At the same time, however, the veto takes on great significance when two hostile political camps are fighting each other.

Yes, the President cannot veto a draft budget. He can only create problems here. The Basic Law regulates it as follows: "In case of doubts about the constitutionality of a budget law or a law on a budgetary provision, he may refer this law to the Constitutional Court".

Such 'doubts' will be there in the near future, and there will be plenty of them.

The government cannot put us in debt indefinitely. The Constitution forbids the debt to be higher than 60 percent of GDP.

However, everything depends on how it is counted. And Mateusz Morawiecki is a specialist when it comes to twisting the debt meter - this was pointed out to him by the Supreme Chamber of Control last year. He pushes it so that it is not visible in the (national) statistics.

The most radical and closest to reality SNA methodology used by the OECD says that public sector debt already exceeded the 60 per cent level several years ago.

The more liberal ***EU*** methodology (ESA 2010) warns that our debt is expected to reach 58.5 per cent of GDP by the end of 2020.

So we are already on the border.

What would the Constitutional Court say to such allegations? The answer is predictable - probably not much.

The constitution is clear: it has to be 3/5 of the votes in the presence of half the legal number of Members.

That is 276 votes. As many as 276 votes.

For PiS it is possible, but very difficult. Jarosław Kaczyński's party has 235 seats (so it needs 41 more). KO has 134 seats.

PiS would therefore have to seek the votes of the Confederation - 11 seats; PSL - 30 seats, and the Left - 49 seats. For the sake of clarity, let us add that the last single seat is the German Minority.

Trzaskowski's victory therefore means stopping PiS's political project, and therefore its economic project.

The government in such a scenario is reduced to duration. Losing the presidential election would rock PiS, which is already crackling between Kaczyński, Jarosław Gowin and Zbigniew Ziobra.

So PiS, along with losing the presidency, is also in danger of losing power.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (82%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Torture (63%); Espionage (62%)

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

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***According to a new study, Poles and Hungarians do not want authoritarian governments***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R18S-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 1035 words

**Byline:** Michał Kokot

**Highlight:** Compared to citizens of other Central and Eastern ***European*** states, Poles and Hungarians are more in favour of democracy than authoritarian governments - such are the conclusions of a study conducted by GLOBSEC in ten ***European*** countries.

**Body**

"The strong support for liberal democracy is a legacy of the communist era, but also of recent years in which the country is led from the back seat by a strong leader Jarosław Kaczyński", write the authors of the report "Voices from Central and Eastern ***Europe***" prepared by GLOBSEC. This Slovakian organization conducted surveys in March on representative samples of more than one thousand respondents in ten CEE countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Austria).

When asked by the interviewers, Poles more often than citizens of other surveyed countries spoke out in favour of maintaining liberal democracy, the role of parliament and regular organisation of elections. This is the opinion of 66% of respondents, while 26% would like a "strong and decisive" leader who "would not have to worry about the parliament or elections".

A greater aversion to authoritarianism than Poland exists only in Hungary, which has been ruled by Viktor Orban for a decade - there as much as 81% praise liberal democracy, while 12% are of the opposite opinion.

At the same time, however, as many as 47 percent of Poles are satisfied with their democracy. This is the highest figure after Austria (where 86 percent of those surveyed declared themselves satisfied with the state of democracy). The authors of the report combine these answers with a high declaration of satisfaction with personal life. In Austria, it amounts to 96 percent, in Poland to 90 percent.

According to the authors of the report, the willingness to support authoritarian tendencies in politics can result from a bad personal situation. Strong government is the most popular among the Bulgarians. As many as 48% Bulgarian citizens want such a leader, while 35% believe in the role of parliament and regular elections. At the same time, only 18% Bulgarian respondents declared they were satisfied with their lives.

Poles generally state that it matters to them who is in power. Only 31% of respondents in Poland stated the opposite, followed by Austrians (43%) and Estonians in third place. Bulgarians turned out to be the most apathetic - as much as 59% of the respondents believe that it does not matter who is in power in Bulgaria.

Poles also less often believe that in their country certain social groups are favoured over others. In the survey, it was the Slovaks who most often indicated that not everyone in their country is treated equally (86% of respondents indicated this). A similar indicator is also found in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria (84% each). In Poland, however, 68% of the respondents said so, a lower level of indications was recorded only in Romania (62%).

34% of Poles believe in conspiracy theories, which places Poland more or less in the middle of the list (Lithuanians are least susceptible to them - 17% and Slovaks the most at 56%). How was it studied? The pollsters asked the respondents specific questions (different in each country). In the case of Poland, the questions concerned, among others, whether they believe that in 1989, during the Round Table talks, a secret agreement was reached between the communists and the opposition, thanks to which the former are still in power. 48% of respondents believe in this theory. Fewer supporters (22%) are convinced that Donald Tusk together with the Russians ordered to shoot down a plane with President Lech Kaczynski on board near Smolensk.

Poles in comparison with other nations also turn out to be the most trusting towards the West. Only 23% of those surveyed in Poland consider the West as a threat to their culture and identity; 17% said so about the ***European Union***, and barely 12% about the United States. At the other extreme are the Slovaks. The 50 percent of respondents sees the Western world as a threat, the ***EU*** 35 percent and the United States 53 percent.

The authors of the report write that such a high percentage should be combined with the history of the country, the circumstances surrounding the creation of the Slovak state and the presence of nationalist parties on the Slovak political scene. Both Slovaks and Czechs are most afraid of immigrants in their countries. The fear that they may threaten their culture and identity is shared by 72 per cent of respondents in both countries. In Poland this is the opinion of 41 percent of those surveyed.

A much smaller proportion of Poles see the LGBT+ community as a threat to their culture. Only 25 percent of respondents are convinced that sexual minorities can threaten Polish culture and identity - lower share was recorded only in Latvia (23 percent), Romania (22 percent), the Czech Republic (12 percent) and Austria (4 percent).

The Odpowiedzialna Polityka (Responsible Politics) Foundation, GLOBSEC's Polish partner in the survey, did not hide its astonishment with such a result. The Foundation writes that contrary to popular opinion, Polish society turns out to be much less homophobic. It suggests that the answers should be sought 'in a low level of trust in the media strongly influenced by the Church and the government' (in the same survey only 33% of Poles considered the media to be free, at the same time blaming the government and not the oligarchs and interest groups for this).

"Neither do Poles trust the government, nor do they trust the narrative it is pushing through". - the foundation wrote in its comment about the survey. The second conclusion is that Poles traditionally "place emphasis on personal development, the welfare of their families and the success of small businesses". In this situation, they "oppose restricting the freedom of others, even in the name of preserving conservative values". "This position could be described in the words 'live and let others live'". - conclude the authors of the report.

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The access to information should be equal for all.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Insider Trading (77%); Journalism (70%); Cardiology (64%); Criminal Law (61%); Torture (61%)

**Industry:** Newspaper Publishing (93%); Destinations + Attractions (73%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Germany: primo collapses, Wirecard declares insolvency. The result of a major financial scandal***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R19M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 425 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** This is the biggest financial scandal in Germany in years. The billions of ***euros*** that were listed in Wirecard's financial statements probably do not exist. The company is on the verge of collapse.

**Body**

Wirecard, listed on the main index of the Frankfurt stock exchange, announced on Thursday (25.06.2020) that it will file for insolvency with the court in Munich. All indications are that the billions of ***euros*** that the company has allegedly generated in recent years exist only on paper. This is one of the biggest financial scandals in Germany in recent history.

At the beginning of June, the company was still arguing that external auditors would finally dispel the doubts that had been hanging around the company's financial statements for months. However, this was not the case. On 18 June, the auditors Ernst&Young refused to approve the company's annual financial report, explaining that it was unable to reliably document the whereabouts of the €1.9 billion that appeared in last year's financial report.

The funds were supposed to be deposited in the accounts of two banks in Asia. They informed us, however, that Wirecard was not even a client of these banks and that the documents proving the establishment of the deposits were forgeries.

[*We wrote about the whole complicated and surprising affair here: Big scandal in Germany. Wirecard company "lost" 2 billion* ***euro****and then acknowledged that they never existed*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26058497,wielki-skandal-w-niemczech-firma-wirecard-zgubila-2-mld-euro.html)

On the same day, Wirecard's long-time CEO Markus Braun resigned from his position and the Munich public prosecutor's office issued a warrant for his arrest. The man is accused of market manipulation. On Monday evening Braun turned himself in to investigators. After interrogation and the payment of ***€5*** million bail, he was released.

Wirecard was one of the brightest stars on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The company, regarded as the crown jewel of the German FinTech industry, aspired to play in the world's premier league of financial technology providers. As recently as last Thursday, Wirecard's share price reached 100 ***euros***. Today, shortly after the insolvency announcement, their value dropped to 2.5 ***euros***.

German commentators stress that the Wirecard case has done great damage to confidence in financial institutions in Germany and the stock market itself. The weekly magazine Der Spiegel wrote of the "disgrace for Germany" and for financial supervision as a whole. Many people are asking themselves how it is possible that a company listed among the thirty largest companies on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange used false financial data and no one has discovered it for years.

The Wirecard Group, based in Ascheim near Munich, is a global provider of payment processing and risk management services. The company supports 25,000 customers worldwide in the automation of payment processes.

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 (74%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Medicine + Health (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (62%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Italy: how to kick-start the economy and save jobs? The crisis is worse than in 2008***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R182-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 957 words

**Byline:** Bartosz Hlebowicz, Florence

**Highlight:** According to the International Monetary Fund, because of the pandemic the whole world - with the exception of China - is facing a crisis worse than that of the 1930s. In Italy, the situation is expected to be worse than after the 2008 crisis, after which the country took all the time to recover.

**Body**

The Italian government is becoming increasingly nervous about the pessimistic forecasts. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte is trying to take matters into his own hands.

The IMF forecasts that Italian national income will fall by 12.8 per cent this year, which is two and a half times more than the expected global decline (4.9 per cent) and 2.5 percentage points more than the average for ***Europe***. And in Germany, for example, it would fall by "only" 7.8 per cent. Italian debt, meanwhile, would reach 166 per cent of GDP, while in 2019 it was 135 per cent.

As a result of the lockdown, as many as 8.5 million Italians who were working before the epidemic are still in cassa integrazione, that is, they remain at home, forced to suspend their work or work for limited periods of time and draw a salary from the State that is significantly less than the regular wage. The average Italian worker lost a net ***€2***,500 during the epidemic. Cassa integrazione obviously means increased state expenditure.

An existing government decree prohibits sacking until 17 August.

- Once the blockade on redundancies is lifted, a blow will come - [*Francesco Seghezzi*](https://www.fanpage.it/economia/due-milioni-di-disoccupati-in-piu-entro-fine-anno-ecco-i-numeri-che-nessuno-vuol-vedere/), director of the ADAPT Foundation for market and labour law research, has [*no doubt. -*](https://www.fanpage.it/economia/due-milioni-di-disoccupati-in-piu-entro-fine-anno-ecco-i-numeri-che-nessuno-vuol-vedere/) There will be mass layoffs and the government will face another problem: where to find the money for unemployment benefits.

The Italian statistics office predicts that two million Italians will lose their jobs this year (13 million Italians are currently unemployed, 3 million of whom are not looking for work at all) and more than half of them will remain unemployed in 2021. This will mean less employment than after the 2008 crisis. In other words, three months of lockdown have wiped out 12 years of slow recovery from the previous crisis.

Economy Minister Roberto Gualtieri (PD) in the first weeks of the lockdown assured that the government would not allow a single job to be lost. In reality, this was not possible. An extreme example, but one that concerns several million Italians, is that of the black economy: in their case, no government decree could prevent the loss of their only source of income.

This year, mainly because of lockdown, already 37,500 young mothers have had to quit their jobs - and 14,000 young fathers have done the same.

It is also worrying that fewer and fewer unemployed people are looking for work at all. There were 700,000 such people in May alone, and 1 million since January.

- No one is looking for work during the shutdown, but in Italy this indicator is worse than in other countries, comments Seghezzi.

Perhaps the minimum basic income, the so-called reddito di cittadinanza, introduced at the beginning of 2019, is partly responsible for the lack of initiative in looking for work. This was the flagship project of the 5 Star Movement, intended to provide a living for the poorest but also to encourage them to seek employment. Now it turns out, according to the daily Sole 24 Ore, that only 2% of those receiving the benefit have found work.

A few days ago, the government organised a conference on the state of the economy over several days, which was even attended by the head of the ***European*** Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, via the Internet. Among the various ideas for saving the Italian economy is the reduction of the Value Added Tax (IVA) called for by business associations.

Conte at first thought it was a good idea, only to caveat shortly afterwards, after criticism from the coalition Democratic Party: 'We don't have a ready-made recipe, we are in a situation of uncertainty. The IVA reduction is just one of the proposals. Maybe it will be introduced for a short period".

A day later he returned to the idea, this time resolutely and without listening to the Minister of Economy and Finance, Roberto Gualtiere, who pointed out the high cost of such an operation: "Nothing will stop me, I will glide like a train".

In theory, a reduction in tax, and therefore in the prices of the products Italians buy, would encourage them to buy more, which in turn would stimulate the economy. However, as Pietro Garibaldi from "La Stampa" points out, the tax cut does not mean a single real ***euro*** more in the pockets of taxpayers, and the main concern of Italians today is not "how to spend the money", but "how to survive the next months and not lose their jobs in the autumn". And reducing the IVA by even 1 percent would mean a loss of ***€18*** billion for the national budget.

Maurizio Landini, head of the CGIL, Italy's largest trade union, says in an interview with "La Stampa" that it is high time for the government to stop making new declarations every day ("we will reduce the tax", "we will not reduce the tax") and to take action.

- This is the time for bold and radical reform. The tax on earnings must be reduced. Thanks to ***European*** funds, we have a unique opportunity to make such a reform.

According to Landini, redundancies should be blocked until the end of the year and a system of social shock absorbers should be developed for those who would lose their jobs in the future. Money from ***Europe*** should be used to eradicate the precariat.State bonds should also be introduced for investors in areas such as infrastructure, research, universities, culture and tourism.

Meanwhile, Min. Gualtieri is trying to remain calm: - IMF predictions are too pessimistic. In our view, GDP will fall by 8-9 percent.

The Minister gave examples of the already visible boost to the economy in the form of increased electricity consumption, increased motorway and rail traffic. And today he outlined the third government decree to help the economy.

In March, the government launched 25 billion ***euros*** with the Cura Italia (Cure Italy) decree, and in May (Rilancio decree - New Start) 55 billion. In the new one, investment spending is to be increased from 2.3 to 3 percent of GDP. There is no word in the draft about reducing VAT, but there is talk of reducing, as Landini and the PD want, taxes on earnings. The new decree is to come into force in July.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Film (63%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Medicine + Health (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (83%); Harbors + Ports (63%); Mining + Extraction (63%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Foreign media on withdrawal of US troops from Germany. "Afront", "Duda a favourite partner of Trump".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R169-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 569 words

**Byline:** MLZ

**Highlight:** During his meeting with Andrzej Duda, the American president did not rule out that some of the American soldiers withdrawn from Germany would be deployed in Poland. Meanwhile, relations between Washington and Berlin have long remained cool. Therefore, it is not surprising that on the occasion of Duda's visit, Donald Trump decided to criticise the German authorities once again, which was reported by foreign media. According to Radosław Sikorski, the former head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the American leader "is using our president to play his games with Angela Merkel".

**Body**

President Andrzej Duda's visit to the White House on Wednesday was mainly covered by foreign news agencies in the context of a possible transfer of some US troops from Germany to Poland. During a joint conference between the two leaders, Donald Trump said that the reduction was indeed planned and that some of the troops withdrawn from Germany could return home or go elsewhere, including Poland.

[*After the meeting at the White House, Duda said in an interview with TVN24*](https://tvn24.pl/wybory-prezydenckie-2020/spotkanie-andrzej-duda-donald-trump-prezydent-tym-razem-rzeczywiscie-zadnych-umow-nie-bylo-4619894) that it is the US that decides where its soldiers are stationed, and if the president wants to relocate them, "no one will stop him from doing so". He also reported that before his visit to the United States, he consulted with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who like him wants American soldiers to stay in ***Europe***.

- That is why I said to President Donald Trump: 'Mr President, my request is that these soldiers stay in ***Europe*** [...]. And if you want to move them somewhere, I can declare, as a Pole, that you are welcome to us, and if you want to relocate some of the soldiers to Poland, we will receive them on our territory. President Donald Trump said that it should be assumed that the number of American soldiers in Poland will increase," Andrzej Duda said.

It is no secret that relations between Washington and Berlin are very chilly. A few weeks ago Angela Merkel refused to come to the USA for the G7 meeting. According to the former head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Polish president was drawn into this conflict by going to the USA. - If I were him, I would not make this visit. President Trump is clearly using our president to play his games with Angela Merkel, and it is not good to be played," said the Civic Platform ***MEP*** [*in"Kropka nad i"*](https://tvn24.pl/polska/radoslaw-sikorski-o-wizycie-prezydenta-andrzeja-dudy-w-usa-prezydent-trump-ewidentnie-uzywa-naszego-prezydenta-do-swoich-rozgrywek-z-angela-merkel-4619755) before the conference.

Reuters suggests that moving troops from Germany to Poland would "strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries and be another counterweight to Russian aggression". Journalists at the Politico website, on the other hand, argue that weakening the US presence in Germany would be "an affront to the German government". It is also a potential advantage for Russia, as it is still unclear whether the withdrawn soldiers will remain in ***Europe***.

The military newspaper Stars & Stripes claims that opponents of reducing the number of US troops in ***Europe include*** both Democratic and Republican congressmen. Moreover, up until a certain point, the Pentagon was unaware of the plans to withdraw troops from Germany and is now silent on the matter.

The DPA and Associated Press also pointed out that during his meeting with Duda, Trump once again criticised the German government, reproaching one of the NATO members for its restraint in spending 2 percent of GDP on the army and its cooperation with Russia on Nord Stream 2. - Germany buys billions of dollars worth of energy from Russia. This is also to flow via the gas pipeline. So what is this all about? You pay billions of dollars to the Russians and we are supposed to protect you from them? - Trump said on Wednesday.

"Poland has long had a special relationship with the US, but under Trump it has become the White House's favourite partner. With no one else in ***Europe*** is Trump as aligned as with the Polish president. Be it on the rejection of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline or his critical stance on migration". - we read in "Die Welt".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (94%); Torture (94%); Military Weapons (77%); Law Courts + Tribunals (70%); Human Rights Violations (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (62%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Wirecard goes bankrupt. Collapse of Germany's technology pet***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R17M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 567 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** German technology giant Wirecard has asked a court to declare insolvency after a ***€1***.9bn manoeuvre was discovered in the group's finances.

**Body**

On Thursday, German technology company Wirecard, which processes electronic payments and credit cards, asked a court in Munich to declare it insolvent "due to near insolvency and excessive debt".

The company has not ruled out also declaring its subsidiaries insolvent.

Wirecard is the first company from the prestigious DAX 30 index of the most valuable German listed companies to fall while still being included in this index. Wirecard was included in the DAX 30 index two years ago, when the company's stock market value exceeded ***EUR*** 24 billion. At midday on Thursday, Wirecard's capitalisation was already less than ***EUR*** 0.5 billion.

Wirecard was lauded in Germany as the only German company that could compete with the American technology giants. And in the market for electronic payments it successfully competed with the US companies PayPal and Western Union, providing services for the credit card operators Visa and Mastercard, among others. Wirecard also handled electronic payments for tickets of the German airline OLT Express, which belonged to Amber Gold - a well-known Polish financial pyramid.

Wirecard collapsed because a week ago the auditing firm EY, which has been verifying the German company's accounts for years, refused to sign off its financial statements for last year. The EY auditors pointed out that EY's assets lacked ***EUR*** 1.9 billion in cash, a quarter of Wirecard's balance sheet total. The company maintained that it had deposited this money with two banks in the Philippines. But these banks said that the certificate confirming the deposit was forged.

Previously, the German company postponed the approval of last year's balance sheet three times since March. It has also hired auditing firm KPMG to refute allegations by The Financial Times. The British newspaper last year reported on whistleblower claims that Wirecard owed its success to creative accounting and money laundering in Asia. The German company threatened The Financial Times in response, and the German public prosecutor's office opened an investigation against the journalist who had written about Wirecard in the British daily.

The harassment of Wirecard critics by hackers last year also reverberated loudly. There was even speculation that someone had hired a group of hackers from India specialising in such contract-based cyber harassment for this purpose.

On Monday, the Munich public prosecutor's office announced that it would investigate all suspicions of wrongdoing at Wirecard. On the same day, Marcus Braun, who resigned from his position as CEO of Wirecard last Friday, reported to the German police. He had held the position for almost two decades.

Braun was detained by police as a suspect in stock market manipulation and abuse of the right to manage Wirecard accounts. The very next day, however, Marcus Braun was released from custody after posting ***€5*** million bail. According to the police, however, he still has the status of a suspect in the case.

According to the German press, the police also wanted to detain Jan Marsalek, a former Wirecard board member for operations and a close associate of Marcus (both are of Austrian origin). However, Marsalek is not in Germany and according to unofficial reports is in the Philippines. The authorities there, according to Reuters, have also opened an investigation into the forged Wirecard certificate.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Weapons + Arms (74%); Human Rights Violations (71%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Espionage (68%); Medicine + Health (63%); Arms Control + Disarmament (62%); Law Courts + Tribunals (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (65%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Andrzej Duda on meeting with Donald Trump: There were really no deals this time***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R15T-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 551 words

**Byline:** UZ

**Highlight:** - We are used to you with Donald Trump that we signed agreements, while this time there were really no agreements - said Andrzej Duda after a meeting with the US president. The politicians adopted a joint statement instead of an agreement.

**Body**

President Andrzej Duda met with US President [*Donald Trump*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=donald+trump) during his visit to Washington on Wednesday. The politicians discussed, among other things, cooperation concerning a vaccine for coronavirus and the presence of American soldiers in ***Europe***. However, no agreements were signed. Instead, [*two heads of state adopted a joint statement on such issues as defence and the development of nuclear energy in Poland.*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26066744,andrzej-duda-i-donald-trump-podpisali-deklaracje-co-sie-w-niej.html)

- This was the first visit after the coronavirus. This is, in a way, a new opening of various relations. There were various announcements, also by the American administration and President Donald Trump, when it comes to American politics and we have such a situation as always in life - whoever is first, the better - said President Andrzej Duda in an [*interview with the correspondent of "Facts" TVN*](https://tvn24.pl/wybory-prezydenckie-2020/spotkanie-andrzej-duda-donald-trump-prezydent-tym-razem-rzeczywiscie-zadnych-umow-nie-bylo-4619894?fbclid=IwAR3-5ixtpEVPcRjOkDR4UuGY011aLR7RjEQLMnNOMpYc-xJY4b10Iujqty8https://tvn24.pl/wybory-prezydenckie-2020/andrzej-duda-niedlugo-mozemy-sie-spodziewac-pierwszych-efektow-ws-szczepionki-na-koronawirusa-wywiad-po-spotkaniu-z-donaldem-trumpem-wybory-2020-4619923) in the United States Marcin Wrona.

The Polish President stressed that he was happy to be the first to talk to the American President. He also pointed out that political action is always conducted in such a way that first there is an "introductory word", and only the next step is its implementation.

- 'We are used to you with Donald Trump that we signed agreements, whereas this time there were really no agreements,' Andrzej Duda admitted.

Even before [*Andrzej Duda'*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=andrzej+duda)s trip to the US, it was reported that he would talk to Donald Trump about security issues and the presence of American troops in Poland. There was also speculation that the US would move its military from Germany to Poland. During an interview with Marcin Wrona, the Polish president said that it [*the US to*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=USA) decide where its soldiers are stationed, and if President Donald Trump wants to relocate them, "nobody will stop him from doing so". He also reported that before his visit to the United States, he consulted with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who, like him, wants American soldiers to stay in ***Europe***.

- Therefore, I said to President Donald Trump: Mr President, my request is that these soldiers stay in ***Europe***, because they are building the architecture of ***European*** security, and their presence is important. However, if you want to move them somewhere, I can declare, as a Pole, that you are welcome to us, and if you want to relocate some of the soldiers to Poland, we will receive them on our territory. President Donald Trump said that it should be assumed that the number of American soldiers in Poland will increase," Andrzej Duda said.

Marcin Wrona asked Andrzej Duda about a list of unfulfilled promises from the previous election campaign, which are pointed out by the opposition. The list includes, among others, assistance for francophiles and a tax-free amount for everyone.

- I want to laugh when this is said by people who increased VAT, who increased the retirement age, who took money from the Open Pension Fund during the PO government, when [*Donald Tusk*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=donald+tusk) was prime minister," said Andrzej Duda, saying that he created a law that helps all borrowers in difficult situations, not just the frankovichs.

Asked about allegations of his subservience to PiS president Jarosław Kaczyński, he said that during his term in office he had vetoed nine bills that parliament wanted to pass, five of which were bills created by the United Right camp.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (94%); Terrorist Organizations (77%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Trump-Duda meeting in the US. US media on "nationalist president of Poland"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R15D-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 665 words

**Byline:** MLZ

**Highlight: The** lack of clear declarations on military issues and the opportunity to take a photo together just before the elections in Poland - this is how Andrzej Duda's visit to the United States is described in brief by the American media, including CNN, the "New York Times" and Politico.

**Body**

President Andrzej Duda was in Washington on Wednesday, where he met with US President Donald Trump. The talks between the two leaders did not bring any great breakthrough. They mainly mentioned the already signed declarations and agreements and rather vaguely announced further ones concerning, among others, nuclear energy or cooperation in the invention of a vaccine for the coronavirus. There was a declaration on the 'possibility of increasing the presence of US troops in Poland'. The presidents did not spare their praise for each other.

- We have never had a better relationship than now. It is an honour to have you here," President Donald Trump said as he welcomed Andrzej Duda to the White House.

[*Even during the conference of the two leaders, there were comments on social media saying that Duda's visit to the US did not bringany concrete*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26066559,komentarze-po-spotkaniu-trumpa-z-duda-zadnego-konkretu-dla.html). Some American journalists also spoke in a similar tone. An article describing the meeting at the White House on CNN was entitled "Trump's first post-pandemic guest is a nationalist Polish president". In it, Kevin Liptak suggests that through his first meeting with the leader of another country in three months, Trump wanted to prove that the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic is waning, although reality contradicts this.

- We have never had a better relationship than now. It is an honour to have you here,' President Donald Trump said as he welcomed Andrzej Duda to the White House. - 'It is an honor and a privilege to be here with you and I am the first president to visit the White House after the lockdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic,' Duda replied.

Liptak also stressed that Duda and Trump have shared a fair amount of affection for each other from the very beginning: "The relationship between the two presidents - but also between nationalist leaders whose actions have raised quite a few concerns about human rights or the state of democracy - has strengthened especially after Trump's visit to Warsaw in 2017."

CNN reminded the audience that in just a few days Duda will face a presidential election in which he is seeking re-election. It also suggested that Trump likes to invite his allies to the White House just before the pending election, thus giving them support. Trump has also done the same with Binjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli elections.

Michael Crowley of the New York Times also writes that the timing of the meeting between the US and Polish presidents is no coincidence. "Four days before the election in Poland, Trump wanted in a rather indecent way to support the campaign of a close ally whose country is slowly tilting toward authoritarianism," - Crowley writes. In this context, he also recalled Trump's words from Thursday's conference: - There is an election coming up in Poland and I believe he will be successful.

"This visit had no clear official purpose, and it's hard not to get the impression that it served as an opportunity for the Polish president to take a picture together with Trump," - Crowley adds.

The Politico portal assesses that Duda's visit to Washington can be treated as a "disappointment", as it was not possible to sign a final agreement on increasing the number of US troops in Poland.

The British newspaper "The Independent" also suggested that the issue of the US military presence in Germany was supposed to divide Trump and Duda. This is because the Polish president does not want the soldiers withdrawn from Germany to be deployed outside ***Europe***, a solution that the Wall Street Journal recently wrote about. - I asked President Trump not to withdraw American forces from ***Europe,*** because the security of the ***European*** continent is important to me," Duda said in Washington.

The military newspaper Stars & Stripes stresses that although Trump suggested on Wednesday that some of the troops withdrawn from Germany could go to Poland, among others, there was still no concrete commitment that the number of US troops in ***Europe would not*** be reduced. Moreover, until a certain point, even the Pentagon did not know that Trump intended to reduce the US military presence in Germany. According to Stars & Stripes, both Democratic and Republican congressmen oppose this solution.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (94%); Terrorist Organizations (76%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Foundation encourages entrepreneurs to vote for Duda. "President of Polish affairs".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R178-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 511 words

**Byline:** MLZ

**Highlight:** Lower Silesian entrepreneurs received a letter from the local Regional Development Foundation, in which they are encouraged to vote for Andrzej Duda - informs "Gazeta Wyborcza". The content of the letter was made public by the head of one of the companies.

**Body**

"This is simply GRANDA!!!!! I got this letter sent today from the Lower Silesian Foundation for Regional Development. The aims of this foundation are included in their KRS. Does the content of this letter fulfil any of them? No! This is a crude political activity, incompatible with the objectives. - wrote the president of one of the Lower Silesian companies in social media. The [*case was reported by the Wrocław edition of Gazeta Wyborcza*](https://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/7,35771,26065555,prezesi-wykorzystali-fundacje-do-agitacji-za-duda-ordynarna.html#S.main_topic-K.C-B.3-L.2.maly).

The letter was signed by: Janisław Muszyński (as President of the Foundation and Governor of Wrocław in 1990-91) and Jan Waszkiewicz (Vice-President of the Foundation and Marshal of the Lower Silesian Voivodship in 1998-2001).

After the addressee of the letter asked for her data to be deleted from the Foundation's database, she received an e-mail from the address: [*polski.moment.prawdy@forum.pl.*](mailto:polski.moment.prawdy@forum.pl) "This is a domain belonging to the Lower Silesian Foundation for Regional Development, which uses the address biuro@forum.pl, but for the purposes of the campaign the address was changed". - "Gazeta Wyborcza" explains.

The Foundation's office is located in Wrocław at Konopnicka street. On its website, the DFRR boasts, among other things, the organisation of the "Polish-German Energy Forum" or the development of a "warning scenario for the socio-economic situation of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship". Until 2016, it also awarded the Lower Silesian Economic Awards.

The letter, entitled "Polish Moment of Truth Election of the President of the Republic of Poland - 28 June 2020", states that "President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda is the only credible candidate who can ensure that Poles continue to build a Poland in which we will live safer and better". DFRR representatives also argue that since 2015. Duda is "charting a path for Poland in the ***European*** Union and in the Atlantic community that allows us to avoid peripheralisation on the ***European*** and global stage" (original spelling).

"President Duda is a candidate acting in accordance with the virtues of 'prudence, justice, temperance and prudence', who seeks to replace political struggle with dialogue seeking the common good." - write Muszyński and Waszkiewicz. There was also criticism aimed at Duda's opponents, who were accused of "not hiding their intentions to de-Christianize Poland" and aiming to "limit sovereignty and freedom through unlimited tolerance for evil.

The final sentence stressed that this year's presidential election would be a "moment of truth" for Poland. "We count on you to cast your vote in this election for Andrzej Duda - the president of Polish affairs" - concludes the heads of the DFRR.

Experts interviewed by Gazeta Wyborcza emphasise that conducting election campaigning by entities other than electoral committees is a violation of the Electoral Code. - The electoral law does not allow foundations to engage in electoral campaigning. Dissemination by a foundation of materials of such character, encouraging to vote for a particular candidate, is not in compliance with the principle of financing the election campaign exclusively from the election committee's own sources - explains Anna Frydrych-Depka, PhD, an expert on electoral law at the Responsible Politics Foundation.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (75%); Suits + Claims (75%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (74%); Employment Services (63%); Recruitment + Hiring (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Market Research (63%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Kosovo president accused of war crimes. He flew to meet Trump but had to turn back***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1BB-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 765 words

**Byline:** Michał Kokot

**Highlight:** An EU prosecutor has charged Hashim Thaci with crimes against humanity. As a former commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army in the late 1990s, Thaci allegedly knew about the murders and torture of his soldiers.

**Body**

This is another and so far the most spectacular attempt to bring Thaci to justice. The Kosovo president flew to Washington on Wednesday, where he was due to meet US President Donald Trump and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on Saturday. Together they were to negotiate an agreement normalising relations between Kosovo and Serbia.

In the end, however, the meeting did not take place. While still on board the plane, Thaci learned of the charges which the Office of the Special Prosecutor (SPO) wants to bring against him for his role in the 1998-99 war in Kosovo. Together with nine Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) commanders, he was allegedly responsible for the murder and torture of 100 people: Kosovo Serbs, but also Roma and Albanians who were political opponents of the UCK and Thaci. On Wednesday, Richard Grenell, the American ambassador to Germany, reported that the Kosovo president himself had decided to stop his visit due to the allegations against Thaci.

Assurances that Thaci himself, unpressured, resigned from the meeting are hardly believable given the powerful role the United States plays in Kosovo. The American ambassador in Pristina enjoys enormous power. This is evidenced by the story that Thaci's predecessor as president, Atifete Jahjaga, was nominated precisely by the then American ambassador Christopher Dell, and the parliament obediently voted her in.

In Kosovo, the Americans are considered to be the founding fathers of this state (which is not recognised by many countries and is not represented in international organisations such as the UN). The reason for this is the role the United States played in the 1998-99 war in Kosovo: it was American pressure and Nato intervention that ended the bloody conflict unleashed by the then Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

At the time, Thaci led the guerrilla Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK). After the conflict, its members were suspected of crimes against humanity. But the current president, who in 2008 announced Kosovo's declaration of independence, has never been brought to justice, despite several attempts. He found himself in the most serious trouble in 2011, when the Council of ***Europe*** passed a resolution to investigate the crimes on the basis of a report by Swiss prosecutor Dick Marty. Marty found highly credible the allegations against Thaci that he not only knew about the crimes committed against Serbian prisoners of war, but was also involved in the black market trade in their organs.

Thaci to this day denies these allegations, as well as others that have been made against him. The mildest of these relate to the fact that he knew about the crimes his soldiers were committing and did nothing to prevent them.

Investigators never managed to bring him to trial due to the flimsy evidence in the case. Carla Del Ponte, a former prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, who accused Milosevic of crimes against humanity, wrote in her memoirs that there were no more difficult investigations at the time than those involving Kosovo. Due to the traditional tribal structures of the population, witnesses hid the perpetrators of the crimes and often changed their testimony at the last minute under pressure from the local community. The guerrilla structure of the UCK meant that it was difficult to document the orders given, which were usually formulated verbally.

The public indictment of Thaci on Wednesday by the Office of the Special Prosecutor in The Hague is unusual. This is because it has never before happened that information about the charges was made public before they were confirmed by the court. Why the rush?

According to the Guardian's interlocutors, the prosecutor most likely feared that this would be very difficult after Thaci's meeting with Trump in Washington. Trump, who is weakening in the polls, would find it convenient to reach a diplomatic agreement between the eternal rivals - Kosovo and Serbia. And it is certain that in return for concessions, Thaci would demand criminal immunity, as he has done before. He agreed very reluctantly to the creation of the Office of the Special Prosecutor three years ago (Kosovo had to amend its constitution to recognise the office). He maintained that, although all the allegations against the UCK were made up, he agreed to establish the office out of "respect for the United States and ***the European*** Union", which had pushed for its creation.

And now it seems that the past from the bloody war is still pursuing Thaci and complicating the situation in the whole region once again.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Medicine + Health (68%); Torture (68%); Law Courts + Tribunals (64%)

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

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Sikorski on Duda's US visit: An expensive photo op and a flop. Democrats will remember it for us***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R18X-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 1268 words

**Byline:** Dorota Wysocka-Schnepf

**Highlight:** President Duda stood by as Trump very brutally attacked his Democratic rivals. And I already know, straight from Washington, that this has been noticed and goes on Duda's and Poland's account. If the Democrats win the presidential election, we will unfortunately remember this. This augurs very badly for the relations between the Law and Justice government and the US authorities," says former Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski.

**Body**

Video available to subscribers.

Dorota Wysocka-Schnepf: - Is it good news for Poland that President Duda failed to bring Donald Trump's assurance from America that some of the American troops will go to Poland after the withdrawal from Germany?

Radosław Sikorski, PO ***MEP***, former Minister of Foreign Affairs: - Probably not, because it was announced that this is what the visit was supposed to be about, but in the meantime it was a flop. And it is difficult to determine what the visit was about, apart from the fact that four days before the election the American president anointed one of the Polish candidates. As far as I remember, colleagues from the governing party tended to warn against foreign pats on the back. This time, however, they themselves have been pushing for this pat on the back. I don't know whether this will help candidate Duda.

Many commentators have said that Andrzej Duda is flying to Washington mainly for a nice photo with the American President at the White House - the photo is there, meaning President Duda can declare success because he has what he wanted?

- It is quite an expensive picture. And also, what is in these declarations - they are, of course, non-binding, because they cannot be otherwise - but it seems that Poland has pledged not to buy Chinese communications technology. It has also decided in advance to hold a possible tender on who we will buy nuclear technology from. I have just been to the marketplace in Więcbork, and here they know that if you want to buy something, you do not say much in advance. They do not say that we will not buy nuclear reactors from the Koreans or the French, because this eliminates price competition. This seems to me to be unwise.

Donald Trump said bluntly: "I know that there is an election coming up in Poland and I count on you to be successful". - this was even more than breaking that hard rule of not inviting presidents on the campaign trail, he clearly endorsed President Duda.

- Yes, that's the solidarity of the far right. I'm a bit surprised that Andrzej Duda didn't retaliate, because he could have said that he also supports Donald Trump. And I think that would have been just as effective.

Although no declaration regarding the presence of American troops in Poland was signed, there were such snippets of information from Donald Trump, who said: "they would pay for those additional troops; we would probably send them from Germany to Poland; we will be downsizing in Germany, some will go home, others will go to other places, Poland will be one of those other places". - so the matter can still develop?

- Poland could be one of those other places - which means nothing. But there are a couple of problems with this - first of all, I am surprised that President Trump did not declare more, because, after all, these will be decisions made for months and years, and he is fighting for the votes of Polonia in the perspective of weeks and months. So he can promise almost everything, because there will be plenty of time for his own execution, or even that of his successor. And secondly, I do not believe that it is possible to bribe the United States with the help of a superpower so that they would want to defend Poland. That is not how it works. The United States will defend Poland or not on the basis of its global interests. And in the light of what will happen in other parts of the world - how Russia will behave and, above all, what the temperature of the American-Chinese rivalry will be. We have very limited influence on this, and it is certainly not in Poland's interest to be played by anyone here in the ***European*** Union. For by what President Trump said about Germany, he confirmed that he is using Andrzej Duda to annoy Angela Merkel. This is not a good role for us.

At the conference, the question was asked whether Poland can count on the US in its relations with Russia and President Trump replied that the US has a great relationship with Russia and that this is good for Poland. Is it?

- This does not reassure us that President Trump is prepared to defend us from Russia if need be. And the fact that he thinks this way about President Putin, after all, we have known since the famous press conference in Helsinki, where he said that he trusts Vladimir Putin more than the FBI when it comes to interfering in the American elections. That is an absolutely incredible statement. So I am surprised, colleagues on the right, that they want to rely on Donald Trump when it comes to Russia. He is the last person I would trust in this matter.

Even before the two presidents met, Fort Trump had already ceased to be a fort, it had become a collection of activities - how do you read that?

- It was simply a flop. Such a PR trick to play on the vanity of the US president, which simply failed. And this visit yesterday was also very risky, because President Duda stood while Trump very brutally attacked his Democratic rivals. And I already know, I have it straight from Washington, that this has been noticed and it goes to the account of President Duda and Poland. And if the Democrats win the presidential election, we will remember this, unfortunately.

Let's state the point - Donald Trump said that Obama and, as he expressed himself, "sleeper Biden" were in power in 2014 when Russia invaded Ukraine. And this also coincides with Andrzej Duda's statement before flying to the US that under the PO Russia invaded Ukraine, don't you find the coincidence of these statements strange?

- And under President Kaczyński, Russia invaded Georgia, and under President Duda, Notre-Dame Cathedral burned down. These are nonsense. But the fact that President Trump called his rival a "sleeper" is also to remember that here he may not be referring to when Vice President Biden gets out of bed. "Sleeper" is said of agents of influence, so one interpretation of those words is that Trump is doing in American politics what PiS regularly does in Polish politics, which is to say he considers Biden a "traitorous murder".

During such visits it is important not only what happened, but also what did not happen - and here there was no meeting with a representative of the Democratic Party, whose candidate is leading in the polls and may replace Donald Trump in the White House in a few months. What future do you foresee for the relations between the Law and Justice government and the American administration?

- This is very unwise, because, after all, the Democrats already control the House of Representatives, in the autumn elections they have a certain chance of winning the Senate, and in the presidential elections they even lead by a dozen points. So next year, the United States may be ruled by Democrats for the first time in many years. And then it will bode very badly for the relations of the PiS government with the American authorities. That's not the way to do it. It is putting Polish interests at stake for the ideological alliance of the extreme right, which seems to be in retreat both in the US and in Poland.

There were critical statements about President Duda's visit to the US even before his arrival, by Madeleine Albright and Eliot Engel, among others. And this meeting, which did not take place, with representatives of the Democrats, was this a result of the fact that Andrzej Duda did not want, or that the Democrats did not want, to meet with him, do you think?

- Never before has a visit by the Polish President to Washington caused such controversy. Both in Congress and in the American media. So this, too, is on the downside. And the fact that contacts with representatives of the opposition were not taken care of is simply an error in art. Or it is simply political bias. Or the Democrats simply refused, which would also bode ill.

Coming back to Poland - elections on Sunday, who will win, what are your feelings?

- First round Duda - Trzaskowski, and then I think it will be a very fierce competition.

Which one will win?

- I am agitating for Rafal Trzaskowski and betting on him to lead. He is starting to have the first polls pointing to his victory. So he has good momentum.

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Video production: Editing Bartosz Kłys

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (94%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (65%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Trzaskowski: Macierewicz should stand before the State Tribunal. PiS has paralysed control institutions***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6071-GP81-JCVT-R1C2-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 25, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 495 words

**Byline:** kn

**Highlight:** - Control institutions paralysed by PiS. Today, one government minister gives a certificate of morality to another minister of this government, this is absolute paranoia - said Rafał Trzaskowski, presidential candidate of the Civic Coalition, in "Kropka nad i" TVN 24. He added that there is a need for accountability, including for the management of the military. - In my opinion, Antoni Macierewicz should stand in front of the Tribunal of State," he said.

**Body**

- PiS is trying to make Poland less and less democratic, violating the rule of law and the constitution - this is how a candidate from the Civic Coalition scored the ruling party's actions in "Kropka nad i" on TVN 24. As he pointed out, the upcoming presidential election is one of the most important in recent times. - Such elections happen once in a generation - he said.

Trzaskowski added that after winning the election, he would be ready to cooperate with the government, and his victory would not mean "paralysis of the state", which Jarosław Kaczyński, among others, threatens. - This is complete nonsense (...) I am also ready to cooperate with Mr Morawiecki, if he makes rational decisions which will help us get out of the crisis. I will cooperate, among others, when it comes to the possibility of obtaining money from the ***European*** Union - he pointed out.

However, where PiS wants to violate the constitution, where it wants to usurp the state and where it wants to make independent institutions dependent on it, I will be firm and I will veto. Today we need a strong president who is not dependent on one political option, who is independent and who respects his signature, because he signs it on behalf of the citizens

- he added.

The KO presidential candidate also commented on Andrzej Duda's visit to the US and his meeting with Donald Trump and criticised the incumbent president for failing to react to the words of the US president, who used the visit to pursue his foreign policy. - I do not understand, if Donald Trump in a sense attacks NATO, I would expect tough words from Andrzej Duda, because really our security is based mainly on a strong NATO and a strong ***European*** Union," he said.

In the context of defence, he also pointed out that there had been negligence in the army during the PiS government - he accused, among others, the former head of the Ministry of Defence, Antoni Macierewicz, of this.

There were promises of helicopters, there were promises of ships. Everyone is agreed that the purges carried out by Minister Antoni Macierewicz, sacking people and bringing in those who are completely incompetent, taking a kind of personal revenge on senior officers of the Polish....our country's defence capabilities. Therefore, I believe that Minister Macierewicz should stand before the Tribunal of State

- said the KO candidate.

When asked if we have freedom in Poland, Trzaskowski replied:

Unfortunately, PiS is trying to make Poland less and less democratic by violating the rule of law and the constitution. The very fact that control institutions have been paralysed by PiS. Today, one government minister is giving a certificate of morality to another minister of this government, after all, this is absolute paranoia. The fact that the Law and Justice government is trying to interfere with the independence of the judiciary and violate the constitution is something that should not happen in a truly democratic country. That is why we need an independent president, from a different option than today's one, who will be independent, who will lay down his party cards and who will look at the authorities in their hands

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (93%); Torture (81%); Film (74%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Harbors + Ports (88%); Mining + Extraction (88%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EC warns: inflation 4.5 percent Economists divided: "PiS can" versus "not worth scaring"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R04B-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 346 words

**Byline:** RK

**Highlight: *the European*** Commission forecasts a significant jump in inflation in Poland in 2021. According to EC experts, it may even reach 4.5%, which would be three times higher than the ***EU*** average. Not all economists agree with the vision of ***European*** analysts.

**Body**

[***The European*** *Commission*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=komisja+europejska) has published new inflation forecasts. According to EC experts, who are quoted on Twitter by Dr Sławomir Dudek, an economist until recently associated with the Ministry of Finance, the indicator, which is important for finances, may reach a high level.

- According to the latest EC forecast, [*inflation*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=inflacja) in Poland in 2021 will be three times higher than in the ***EU***. The crisis only "put to sleep" structural problems and inflationary pressure for a while - he said.

Comments on the EC's predictions vary. Leszek Balcerowicz commented briefly on the inflation forecasts: 'PiS can do it,' he wrote.

Dr Marcin Piątkowski, an economist, is of a different opinion. - There will be no such inflation. And if there was, it would only help accelerate nominal GDP growth and help maintain/reduce the share of pubic debt in GDP. It is not worth scaring with such forecasts - he said in a comment published on Twitter.

Today, the level of inflation is significantly lower than the 4.5% forecast by the EC. The June reading of the index indicated, however, that the loss of value of money may be an increasingly serious problem for Poland.

[*In June, inflation rose to 3.3%,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26084671,zaskakujace-dane-gus-inflacja-wyraznie-wzrosla-festiwal-przerzucania.html) which is not only a clear acceleration compared to May, but also a surprisingly higher reading than the average of experts' expectations. According to them, the main "culprit" is the coronavirus pandemic.

Read also: [*Piątkowski: Poland will lose less than others on the crisis. We will catch up with the West at a cosmic pace*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25953116,piatkowski-polska-na-kryzysie-straci-mniej-niz-inni-dogonimy.html)

"After the lockdown in many industries, the costs of the sanitation regime were passed on to consumers" - announced Pekao SA economists shortly after the CSO presented the data. "A festival of passing on 'covid' safety costs to the consumer. And the consumer is happy to pay". - mBank experts commented on the rise in inflation.

Negative inflation forecasts are not the only ones recently published by the ***European*** Commission. EU analysts predict, [*have changed their forecasts for GDP.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26105116,ke-obniza-prognoze-dla-polski-pkb-w-dol-inflacja-w-gore-drugi.html)

Gross Domestic Product is expected to fall by 4.6 per cent this year, which is worse than previously anticipated. In the spring, the EC expected a fall of 4.3 per cent.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (68%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***New budget compromise proposal EU. "Polish" 16 billion euro in doubt***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R04G-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1000 words

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

**Highlight:** Charles Michel's budget proposal makes a strong link to climate neutrality and postpones for two years the decision on how to distribute some of the money. Michel persists with the watered-down "money for rule of law" principle.

**Body**

A week before the ***EU's*** budget summit, the head of the ***European*** Council Charles Michel - after consultations with the 27 EU countries - has today presented his proposal for a compromise on the EU's common budget for 2021-27 (including the Reconstruction Fund). Michel's draft does not contain any revolutionary changes in relation to the ***European*** Commission's ideas from May, but it is only the beginning of the hottest phase of negotiations between EU countries. - If a settlement is not reached in July, EU Brussels will not have a holiday. We may have to fight for a compromise in August - argues one Western diplomat.

Michel on cohesion and agricultural policy made no significant changes to his draft already discussed at the February ***EU*** summit, which gave Poland a total of around ***€94*** billion (at 2018 prices) in these two policies, nearly 18 percent less than in the current seven-year period 2014-2020.

In contrast, the ***European*** Council chief has proposed that 30 percent of the money from the "resilience and reconstruction programmes", the main part of the Reconstruction Fund, be divided not now but only in two years' time, after taking into account the fall in GDP due to the coronacrisis. In such a variant, some €8 billion would be subtracted from the ***€37***.7 billion in Reconstruction Fund grants the ***European*** Commission had envisaged for Poland, whose fate would not be decided until mid-2022 at the earliest.

The extended distribution of money is Michel's response to criticism from a large number of EU countries that the ***European*** Commission's original proposal is too weakly linked to the actual effects of the coronation of the crisis in individual countries. [*And thus it is very generous towards Poland, even though it has the weakest recession in the entire EU this year - and if it remains so, according to Michel's proposal, Poland would not regain a large part of "its" 8 billion* ***euros*** *frozen until 2022.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26105732,bruksela-tnie-prognozy-pkb-dla-unii-bedzie-mniej-pomocy-dla.html)

In addition to grants from the Reconstruction Fund, the ***European*** Commission in May also proposed cheap loans, including ***€26***.1 billion for Poland. Michel made no changes on this issue.

According to the ***European*** Commission's proposal, Poland is hoping for as much as ***EUR*** 8 billion from the Fair Transformation Fund (which draws its money from the Reconstruction Fund and the "ordinary" part of the EU budget) to support energy transformation in the EU. But Charles Michel has today proposed that only those EU countries that commit to national climate neutrality targets by 2050 will have access to the money. This is a much stricter condition than in February, when Michel wanted to make "only" half of the Just Transition Fund conditional on the adoption of a neutrality target. The only EU member that still rejects this is Poland, which is why the "money for neutrality" provision is tailor-made for Warsaw.

Some EU countries want Poland's agreement on neutrality to become part of the EU budget settlement as early as this month.

- If Poland will not agree to neutrality for so much money, what more would it agree to it for? She won't get a better offer on the whole globe," a diplomat from one of the EU's largest countries tells us.

In addition, Michel wants 30% of any funding from the EU's common purse to be spent on projects linked to the EU's climate goals - a 50-55% reduction in EU carbon emissions in 2030 (the exact figure is to be set this autumn) and climate neutrality in 2050. (The exact figure is to be set this autumn) and climate neutrality in 2050.

The head of the ***European*** Council wrote into his proposal the rule of "funds for the rule of law", but in the diluted form already known since February, which at the February ***EU*** summit was - according to our EU interlocutors - acceptable to Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki. - The rule of law is a fundamental issue for us. We will not close our eyes on this issue," Michel argued today.

The original proposal of the ***European*** Commission assumed that the suspension or even the reduction of funds in case of systemic violations of the rule of law would in fact be decided by the Commission. To overturn its decision, Poland would have to find the votes of at least 15 out of 27 EU countries (covering at least 65% of the ***EU*** population). Michel, on the other hand, has proposed that it would be up to the Commission to find the votes of 15 countries (covering at least 65% of the Union's population) to suspend or cut payments to countries that violate the rule of law.

In addition to this hindered decision-making, Michel specified that this would only apply to "sufficiently direct" threats to the proper spending of ***EU*** funds and to the "financial interests of the Union". So it would be more severe for Budapest, where corruption allegations have been raised, and not for Poland, where Brussels sees no such big problems so far. Many members of the ***European*** Parliament, which will have to approve the entire ***EU*** financial package, are agitating against such a weakening of the "funds for rule of law" rule. But a compromise requires unanimity from all countries, including Poland and Hungary. And Chancellor Angela Merkel explained ***to MEPs*** in Brussels this week that a settlement is not possible without their concessions.

Today's Michel proposal is based on the "ordinary part" of the budget worth ***€1074*** billion (in February, especially for the Dutch, this was tens of billions of ***euros*** too much) and the ***€750*** billion of ***the*** Reconstruction Fund (including €0.5 trillion in grants), which the Dutch are again protesting most strongly against, along with the rest of the "austerity club", namely Austria, Sweden and Denmark.

However, the top of the agenda negotiations - apart from trying to knock down the overall pot and consequently slimming down the "national envelopes" for individual countries - will also be how to approve national "resilience and recovery programmes" in line with, among other things, the EU's climate and digital priorities. The Dutch want unanimous agreement from all EU countries, while Michel has today proposed a majority voting system. Poland will strive for the lowest possible burden of charges on plastics and carbon emissions (ETS system), which are to finance the budget.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (88%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (67%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%); Espionage (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (73%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Timmermans and Roth on the plan for the Union: "Many players have recognised where the weak point is Europe"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R042-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1547 words

**Byline:** Tobias Kaiser i Caroline Turzer, Die Welt

**Highlight:** Taking a firm stance against the governments of Hungary and Poland, which violate ***European*** values - Berlin and Brussels are in agreement on this point. Germany and ***the EU*** also want to take a tougher line on China; they know that they have made a big mistake here so far.

**Body**

Dutchman Frans Timmermans, one of the three vice-presidents of the ***European*** Commission, and Michael Roth, the German minister for ***European*** affairs, are both Social Democrats but represent countries of the frugal North, so we ask them about the chances of success of the anti-crisis plans of the German presidency of the ***EU*** Council, which began on 1 July.

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The President of the ***European*** Commission is German, the EU Presidency is currently held by the government in Berlin. Does Germany now have the ***EU*** completely under control?

Michael Roth: No, ***Europe*** was, is and will remain a team game. We will make every effort to emerge from this serious crisis together and in solidarity.

Mr Timmermans, you held key positions in the previous and the current Commission. How has it changed under the leadership of von der Leyen?

Frans Timmermans: The circumstances have changed a lot. Also in the previous Commission we had problems, first the Greek case, then the migrant crisis... But ***Europe*** has never experienced something like a pandemic. In the beginning, each country tried to react on its own, which was a big disappointment. But especially in the last few weeks, the Union has shown that we are able to act together.

Negotiations on the future seven-year ***EU*** budget are expected in mid-July. Will the federal government, despite its role as moderator, insist on retaining the existing discount on membership fees?

Roth: Some countries that contribute a large part of the ***EU*** budget expect that no one will be overburdened anymore. This applies to Germany, but also to the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and others. That is what the citizens of these countries expect. Ultimately, however, it must be clear to all decision makers that solidarity does not only work in one direction. Solidarity is not just a generous gesture of the supposedly stronger towards the supposedly weaker. Solidarity is ultimately good for everyone.

The Netherlands and other Member States demand that money only flows if recipients promise reforms.

Timmermans: We cannot treat this crisis as a debt crisis. No one can accuse the affected countries of making bad decisions and bearing responsibility for this crisis. Nor can we play the game of lecturing and demand that the severely affected countries make revolutionary reforms because of this crisis. As regards the conditions for new aid, we must not focus on the past. With money, we must transform our economy, make it more digital and sustainable, accelerate climate protection and the circular economy.

And I know that countries - such as Italy and Spain - are prepared to be clear about what they are going to spend that money on and to come up with understandable plans that will lead us to a so-called sustainable future. And these are conditions that everyone, including in the North, can live with.

Roth:

Still, after so many years of togetherness, we live in a culture of stereotypes and prejudices. Here are the good ones who handle money responsibly, and there are others who can't and, worse, don't want to... We need to trust each other more again. Without this we will fall.

Timmermans: The fact that member states do not trust each other enough is a sad legacy of the financial crisis and the migration crisis.

Roth: Nationalists and populists are just waiting for us to stumble. For too long, we have been naively convinced that ***European*** values will ultimately prevail around the world. Only in recent years has it become clear to us that anything can be said about this process of convincing the world of our vision, except that it is a self-propelled enterprise. At a global level, we are being watched very, very closely, and not everyone wants the ***European*** model - that is, the combination of peace, security, prosperity on the one hand, and democracy, the rule of law and freedom on the other - to ultimately prevail.

This also applies to ***Europe*** itself. In countries such as Hungary and Poland, fundamental civil rights are under threat. Can ***the EU*** protect its values by cutting off funding to these countries in the multiannual financial framework and the budgetary stimulus package if fundamental rights and freedoms are violated there?

Roth: If we want to live our values, we have to defend them. We want to introduce two instruments. One is the control of the rule of law, whereby all Member States will allow themselves to be scrutinised by the ***EU*** Council. The Commission is now preparing, for the first time, a detailed report on the state of the rule of law in the ***EU***. This will form the basis of our deliberations. We also want to link the rule of law and money more closely. Countries that systematically violate the rule of law face less money coming from Brussels. We will insist on this as the Presidency of the ***European*** Council in the negotiations on the fiscal stimulus package.

The Union made the fight against climate change a top priority. Then came the coronavirus - and now the steel mills and the car industry are being resuscitated again. Apparently, it will be a 'dirty recovery' again, just as it was after the last financial crisis.

Timmermans: If we follow the logic of our Next Generation programme, then this will not happen to us. But if we panic again and drop money from a helicopter wherever and however we can, then the programme will cease to exist.

We have only one chance to mobilise and spend this huge amount of money wisely. Our children will have more debt because we are borrowing money for this programme. So we must use it to organise our economy in a sustainable way. The principle must be 'do no harm'.

This means that all expenditure must go in that direction. They do not all have to go towards fighting climate change, but they must not lead to us speeding up climate change instead of stopping it. And I believe that we can do that. The truth is that there is a huge need to restructure economies. So we need to talk to the social partners about how to protect jobs and create new ones. Because if the green shift were to lead to social injustice, it won't happen. We know this.

Roth: It is also about keeping societies together. We have a duty to free people from worrying about their jobs. Otherwise nationalist and populist movements will continue to strengthen. They want to destroy a common ***Europe***. They ignore climate change and now deny the existence of the coronavirus, believing it to be a conspiracy. We are the only ones in the world who can show that climate protection, a strong welfare state, a liberal social order and a modern economy go together. Internationally, many are watching ***Europe*** closely and with some tension. More than ever depends on our success.

You say: international cooperation is important in the fight against coronavirus and climate change. Without China, in particular, it will be difficult, as it is a country with a lot to answer for: the sluggish flow of information on the coronavirus or the ruthless tightening of the screw on Hong Kong. So why is ***the EU***, and Germany in particular, handling China like an egg?

Roth: Pandemic was a wake-up call. Not only are we dealing with partners here, we are also competing ruthlessly for values. Attempts were made to destroy ***Europe's*** reputation as a hotbed of democracy. One had the impression that liberal democracies were incapable of protecting their citizens. This is nonsense, of course: we were in solidarity, we should just have announced it better.

Timmermans: Today most Italians believe that China helped more during the pandemic than ***Europe***. Many do not even know how many Italians were in German hospitals and what level of solidarity this reflects. It was much more than China did, and yet a different impression is created here. We help each other, but if we do not talk about it, if we do not show it, then people do not know. As ***Europeans, we*** should clearly show what we have for each other and what we do for each other.

Roth: Serbian President Aleksandar Vucić did not praise China too loudly, but we were too quiet. Of course, ***the EU*** is more demanding than others: we are concerned with democracy, the rule of law and the fight against corruption, freedom and diversity of the media, respect for minorities and an independent judiciary. This we will not be able to spare anyone, neither in the Western Balkans nor in Eastern ***Europe.*** Many actors on the global stage have noticed where our weak point is. We are losing in terms of image. This must be changed.

The planned special ***EU*** summit with China is an attempt to change the view of China as a trading partner only. We need China in the area of climate protection too. Without China we will not be able to save this world.

Is that why you do not bang your fist on the table when it comes to talking about Hong Kong?

Roth: When I think of the recent video conference between ***the Europeans*** and the Chinese leadership, I don't recall any asceticism. There was a blunt but constructive conversation. One can always argue about rhetoric and loudness in diplomacy. What matters in the end, however, is whether we are understood by the other side. And we must send a clear signal of unity. If we do not, we will never be able to enforce our economic and political weight in the global world. And it is great.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (88%); Film (78%); Medical Devices + Equipment (64%); Investigations (62%)

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (94%); Mining + Extraction (94%); Organic Chemicals (87%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (78%)

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

**End of Document**

[***It will be more difficult for Polish carriers in the EU. Controversial changes approved***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R011-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 824 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight: The** Polish government has failed to stop changes to legislation on lorry drivers in international transport. They have already been finally approved by the ***European*** Parliament and should come into force in a year and a half.

**Body**

Poland, along with Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania and four other EU countries, made an appeal to ***MEPs*** at the end of June to block carrier reform on the grounds of the Green Deal and the need to reduce CO2 emissions. But ***the European*** Parliament rejected all amendments (by an average of more than 500 votes out of 689 voters) to the preliminary compromise already concluded at the end of 2019 between ***the Europarliament*** and the EU countries in the Council of the ***EU***. And this means that the doorknob has fallen. Only that in the ***Europarliament*** there was basically no chance of stopping this reform from the beginning and the main opportunity to block it was given by the ***EU*** Council. But Warsaw did not manage to build a large enough coalition there against the changes pushed through most strongly by Paris, but with, among others, quite silent but at the same time very firm support from Berlin.

- It is regrettable that a package of legislation has been approved which was strongly opposed by nine EU countries. This decision will not benefit the citizens of the Union and will hinder the recovery from the coronakrisis, the head of Lithuanian diplomacy Linas Linkeviczius warned today.

The agreed reform is still softer than many of the ideas that have emerged in recent years in the ***European*** Parliament and the ***EU*** Council. The most fierce disputes concerned, for example, how long Polish drivers can work abroad as posted workers, i.e. not subject to local - for example French - rules on remuneration and social security contributions, which increases the costs of Polish carriers (although it may also be beneficial to the drivers themselves) and, as carriers argue, they are afraid of the additional burden of completing detailed documentation for the new rules.

Ultimately, the reform has saved hauliers in bilateral transport (e.g. Poland-Germany-Poland) and transit transport (for journeys between Poland and France, drivers in Germany will be treated as posted, i.e. on Polish wages). The trouble is that Polish hauliers earn most from cabotage (a Polish lorry carrying goods within Germany, e.g. Berlin-Munich, Munich-Hamburg). And under the new rules, Polish drivers, for example, are allowed three cabotage operations per week, but then - this is new - they will be forced to take up to four days' grace without carrying out any more operations. - This will lead to a spontaneous extinction of cabotage abuses, argued ***MEP*** Ismail Ertug, the German SPD member piloting the rules adopted today.

The second of the most controversial innovations is the requirement for a lorry to return from abroad to the haulage company's country of registration at least once every eight weeks (hauliers usually swap drivers during such long expeditions). Polish hauliers, among others, fear that this will lead to costly "empty trips" and therefore unnecessary CO2 emissions, hence the argument of the nine Green Deal countries. However, for the French, among others, this requirement is a form of pressure to register hauliers in the countries where they make the most journeys. For Bulgarians and Poles, however, it is a cost increase.

Critics of the reform stress that its main effect will be to worsen the wage competitiveness of, among others, Polish hauliers in the ***EU***, which, according to the authorities in Poland and several other Central and Eastern ***European*** countries, is a blow to the common EU market. In France, in particular, the current rules have been criticised as "social dumping", or unfair wage competition from workers from the younger part of the ***EU***. However, criticism from Polish hauliers supported by the government and - a rare example of such cross-party cooperation - Law and Justice and Civic Platform ***MEPs***, is not necessarily shared by all drivers.

Kosma Złotowski (Law and Justice) accused the Platform of failing to convince the ***European*** People's Party (EPP) faction to reject the reform, but Elżbieta Łukacijewska (PO) pointed out that "if the Polish government does not act professionally in the ***EU*** Council and lacks diplomacy skills in the ***European*** environment, even the best efforts of ***MEPs*** could be in vain". - She added: "Although we have managed to convince Austrian and Maltese MEPs not to vote for protectionism but for the free market, we have not managed to stop the offensive of German and French trade unions, supported by the Polish Solidarity movement.

This is Poland's second defeat on the issue of posted workers. The reformed - and also unsuccessfully fought by Warsaw - rules on posted workers other than drivers will come into force from August this year. Until now, posted workers (e.g. Poles sent by a Polish company to a construction site in France) only had to be paid the local [*minimum wage*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=p%B3aca+minimalna), but the reform voted through requires them to be paid on the usual local terms and conditions, meaning also any allowances and bonuses that local workers receive.

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:** Film (76%); Securities + Other Investments (75%); Medical Devices + Equipment (67%); Medical Devices (64%); Human Rights Violations (63%); Insider Trading (62%); Torture (62%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (94%); Organic Chemicals (86%); Harbors + Ports (76%); Mining + Extraction (76%); Chemicals Mfg (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Germany leads the Union - Merkel's last chance***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R03W-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1510 words

**Byline:** Thomas Vitzthum, Die Welt

**Highlight:** Berlin has just taken over the presidency of the ***EU*** Council. Expectations are high for Chancellor Angela Merkel, not least because she has disappointed many in the past.

**Body**

Emmanuel Macron is doing better. At least in terms of communication, the French president is more skilful than the German chancellor. Even though he has only been in office for four years, not 15 like Merkel. In his brief statement after a recent meeting with the Chancellor in the Brandenburg town of Meseberg, Macron - unlike the cautious Merkel - mentioned 18 May, and did so three times. Meanwhile, 18 May was and is a key day for Merkel as a ***European*** politician. On that day, the French president and the German chancellor proposed their massive ***€500*** billion programme to combat the coronavirus crisis.

This proposal could be the basis for turning the next six months into a success for Germany and the ***EU*** as a whole. On 1 July, Germany took over the presidency of the Council of the ***EU***. In accordance with the rotation system, they replaced Croatia. The largest country in the ***EU*** comes after a very small one, which through no fault of its own, as it depends heavily on tourism, found itself in a lost position in the drama of the coronavirus crisis.

It is now up to Germany, to Merkel, to deal with the consequences of this crisis for Croatia as well.

At the start of the crisis, Germany disregarded many other countries with its national interest-oriented behaviour. The unilateral closure of the border with France and the freezing of medical supplies to Italy seriously damaged Germany's reputation. It is true that Germany later accepted patients from heavily burdened countries, but as Daniel Caspary, chairman of the CDU/CSU group in the ***European*** Parliament, judges, "we did not communicate this at all - we failed completely here". It was not until Merkel and Macron's plan that it became a breakthrough. The proposal was well-calculated, but it was nevertheless a surprise. - It surprised everyone in Brussels and led to an unexpected change of mood towards Germany," says Caspary.

Apart from Merkel's many years of experience and her reputation as an outstanding politician, the plan is the most important argument to convince ***Europeans of the*** huge agenda of the German Presidency. It provides a psychological basis for the start of numerous negotiations in the coming months. This is because the package sends a signal to ***Europeans*** that this Chancellor is prepared to abandon her old principles - in this case, a clear 'no' to the communitised debt of EU countries - if the situation demands it. - She has shown that she is prepared to deal with anything, that she is flexible and reacts in proportion to the situation," says Caspary. This has impressed many. Now it is not without reason that the same is expected to happen in the coming months.

The Chancellery in Berlin always tries to portray Merkel as an ardent ***European***, but not only for the German opposition, but also from the perspective of Rome, Brussels, Madrid, Warsaw or Vienna, this reputation has not been so impeccable for a long time. Merkel is seen there as a politician who, when in doubt, will act rather like many others, that is, first in the interests of the nation state. As a politician who always tries to force ***Europe*** to follow the German course. And who, in the end, forges painstaking compromises during long night sessions that are not at all the result of Germany'***s Euro-enthusiasm,*** but rather a symbol of its lack of enthusiasm.

The financial crisis after 2008 and the 'German austerity diktat' laid the foundations for this assessment of Merkel. The subsequent migration crisis in 2015 was an example where Merkel acted at the expense of her partners. The onset of the coronavirus pandemic only confirmed these opinions. It is no coincidence that Merkel had to endure the comparison with Helmut Kohl for many years. He was able to pull the small states in particular along, inspire their confidence and build consensus. Merkel operates differently. Kohl sacrificed the German mark for the ***euro***, never doubting Berlin's alliance with Paris. He is undoubtedly regarded as a great ***European***. Merkel is already considered a very important figure in recent ***European*** history. But this presidency is perhaps her last chance to attach the epithet 'great' to her name.

Merkel and Macron's plan forms the basis of a recovery programme for economic recovery in and after the coronavirus crisis. This plan must be developed in close cooperation with the ***European*** Commission. This is due in July, its enactment could be possible in August, but it will then have to be ratified by all member states, a process that will drag on perhaps until the end of the year.

- There must be a fund that helps effectively, Merkel said in Meseberg. It must ensure the functioning of the internal market. "It must be substantial. The problem is that everyone wants more money than they are receiving so far.

Meanwhile, the German political class is clearly demanding that the countries less affected by the coronavirus receive less money from the pot to which they are entitled according to the established keys for the distribution of funds. - 'We expect a conclusive proposal from the ***European*** Commission,' presses Alexander Dobrindt, chairman of the CSU group, the Bavarian sister group of Merkel's Christian Democrats. Some in the union are also demanding that a deadline for the repayment of the loans - some of which are likely to be given in the form of grants - be agreed now. In contrast, others want this phase to start only after 2028. - No current head of state or government will be in office by then - neither Macron nor Merkel. This should not be put off until the holy never," argues Caspary, however.

Many observers doubt whether Merkel, who has already announced her retirement in 2021, will manage to prevail in this struggle.

Germany has ambitions to do more than just distribute big money. The German government wants to increase ***Europe's*** overall resilience to future crises, which are only a matter of time. This is, by the way, a certain admission of guilt on Berlin's part, because it was Merkel's behaviour at the beginning of the coronavirus crisis, overtly oriented towards national interests, that showed how much changes were needed in the functioning of the Union.

The second gigantic package to be divided up is the ***European*** budget. Here we have an example of how the Chancellor sometimes likes to push ***European*** topics aside. The budget for 2021-27 could, and even more: should have been approved before the ***European*** elections in 2019. But France put the brakes on these decisions - and Merkel did not insist. Then came the pandemic. Croatia was not strong enough to make more progress on the budget. Besides, the Croats knew that a much more powerful player would take over the baton after them. But in doing so, the Union has lost a lot of time - even if the seven-year budget is adopted in the next few weeks, its effects may be visible too late and will no longer provide sufficient impetus to combat the current slowdown in the economies. The long procedures typical of the ***EU*** will also be an obstacle.

Furthermore, Merkel will have to negotiate with the British on the terms of their exit from the ***EU*** internal market from day one. In the public discourse, the topic of brexit has been pushed to the background by the pandemic. And already on 31 December, with the end of the German presidency and the end of the post-Brexit transition period, the UK will leave the internal market. Berlin intends to close the process as soon as possible in an orderly manner. But the outlook now looks bleak: signals from London indicate that Prime Minister Boris Johnson is simply planning a hard exit.

Hence two scenarios are being prepared in Berlin and Brussels. The first, in case the UK enters into a free trade agreement with the ***EU***, but of course leaves the internal market. And the second, in which there is not even such an agreement, but there is an end to the common market. - So far London only wants to talk about... fisheries, reveals an insider and frustrated diplomat involved in the negotiations.

Negotiations on climate policy are by no means the easiest of matters. So far, countries such as Poland have not committed at all to achieving their climate targets. Others have promised a lot so far, but are actually reducing their declared emission reductions. Berlin is facing tough bargaining over isolated but key figures.

In the near future, ***Europe'***s leaders want to move away from the virtual meetings that have taken place in recent months. The long Brussels negotiating nights will return. There is talk from the federal government that physical meetings are even necessary. For it will also be necessary to talk about the strained transatlantic relations - after all, the US presidential election falls on the period of the ***EU*** Council presidency - but also about the ***EU's*** relations with China and with Africa. At the very least the ***Germans*** want to get the ***Europeans***, who have temporarily shut themselves away in their own selfishness because of the coronavirus, to establish a common position towards the outside world.

The challenges now facing Germany and Angela Merkel are therefore truly Herculean. Not all of them will be successful in the German sense.

**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%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (67%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Orlen will take over Lotos and rob it***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-3771-F09W-F4VC-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1208 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** Lotos is to sell most of its petrol stations and key companies, a competitor to the state-owned company PERN will be created in the oil fields and facilities for fuel imports will be created. This is the salty price to be paid by Orlen for taking control of Lotos.

**Body**

Within ten days of the second round of the presidential election, ***the European*** Commission is expected to announce under what conditions it will allow Orlen to buy a controlling stake in Lotos, the owner of a rival refinery in Gdansk, from the state.

In the spring, the EC officially raised objections to the project, pushed through by Orlen CEO Daniel Obajtek, a protege of Deputy Prime Minister Jacek Sasin. However, at the end of June Reuters wrote that the EC changed its mind and will give the green light to the plans of Obajtek and the PiS government. This is because Orlen has agreed with the EC on commitments to override Brussels' reservations. A week ago, these commitments were communicated to antitrust authorities in the ***EU***.

We have managed to familiarise ourselves with this scenario from unofficial sources. It shows that the company created after the acquisition of Lotos by Orlen will be much smaller than both of these now independent Polish fuel companies. And the biggest reductions are to affect Lotos.

According to our information, Orlen will be obliged to sell 376 Lotos petrol stations and 14 contracts for the construction of petrol stations at points of traveller service (MOPs) on motorways and expressways to a rival fuel company. This is about three quarters of all the petrol stations and all of the lucrative petrol stations at MOPs that Lotos now has. In addition, Orlen is to sell Lotos Paliwa, the company that now operates Lotos petrol stations and sells fuel in bulk. It is also to undertake to supply the new owner of Lotos petrol stations for up to eight years with almost 1 million tonnes of diesel and petrol per year.

As a result of the sale of most of Lotos' stations, the company created after Orlen's takeover of its competitor from Gdansk will have less than 40 percent of the fuel retail market in Poland. And currently Orlen and Lotos, which are independent of each other, have a combined share of over 50 percent in the fuel retail market.

Orlen is also to help create a competitor in the wholesale fuel market. It will sell it about 3.5 million tonnes of fuels a year for up to 14 years so that this new rival has enough time to organise its own supplies of imported fuels. In addition, Orlen and Lotos will withdraw from agreements on the use of the port terminal in Debogórz by the Gdansk Bay, which will allow the competition to import up to 3.5 million tonnes of fuels a year.

Lotos Biopaliwa, a company producing bio-components that are mandatorily added to engine fuels, is also to be sold. A competitor buying these wholesale businesses will also be able to buy Orlen Koltrans, a company engaged in rail transport of fuels.

There is also the question of ceding about 30 percent of the production capacity of the Gdansk refinery to a competitor.

At the end of June, Reuters wrote that Orlen would also have to sell Lotos's shares in Lotos's partnership with British concern BP, now operating under the name Lotos Air BP Polska. This company sells aviation fuel at six airports in Poland (in Gdańsk, Katowice, Lublin, Poznań, Szymany and Warsaw) and has about 20-25 percent share in the lucrative aviation fuel market in Poland. After the sale of Lotos' shares, the company will have its fuel supplies guaranteed by Orlen for up to 15 years.

According to our information, Orlen will additionally undertake to build a new terminal in Szczecin that will allow the import of up to 200,000 tonnes of aviation fuel per year (last year 35,000 tonnes were imported to Poland). And it will additionally allow a competitor to use the terminal in Olszanica in southern Poland, which allows the import of aviation fuel from Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine.

In exchange for agreeing to take control over Lotos, Orlen is also to undertake to sell Lotos Terminals and Lotos Infrastruktura, which own five fuel depots of the Gdansk-based company. The buyer of Lotos' fuel warehouses will also buy Orlen's naphtha depots in Gdansk, Gutkowo, Szczecin and Boleslawiec. Lotos will also withdraw from agreements to store its obligatory and commercial fuel stocks in warehouses of the state-owned company PERN. Orlen, in turn, will undertake not to lease new capacity in fuel storage facilities built by PERN. It will, however, have the right to use some of the new capacity in the warehouses of the company that will take over Lotos' oil depots.

In practice, this means striking at PERN's interests and supporting the creation of a competitor to this Polish state-owned company - which is supposed to favour fuel imports to Poland. The German company TanQuid, which is currently owned by the Macquarie investment fund, could play the role of PERN's new competitor. This company already has a fuel terminal in Radzionków in southern Poland.

Orlen is also to sell Lotos' bitumen plants in Czechowice-Dziedzice and Jasło. In addition, it will undertake to supply the company, for up to 20 years, with raw materials for the production of bituminous masses. Demand for them is high due to the government's long-term national and local road construction programmes.

We asked Orlen why it should make such commitments in return for agreeing to take control of Lotos. The corporation's press office replied: "PKN ORLEN is in negotiations with the ***European*** Commission. At this stage, we do not provide information on the details of the talks. We also do not comment on false information and speculation appearing in the public space regarding the conditions".

"We support Poland" - Orlen advertises itself today. But Orlen's takeover of Lotos at the price of amputating that company's key interests only supports foreign oilmen.

The acquisition of control over rival Lotos was Daniel Obajtek's first goal when he unexpectedly became Orlen's new CEO two and a half years ago. Immediately after his appointment, Obajtek signed a letter of intent with Tchórzewski regarding Orlen's purchase of a controlling stake of 53% in Lotos from the state.

It was known in advance that such a transaction must raise the objections of ***the European*** Commission. Because Orlen and Lotos, operating independently today, have a combined share of nearly 90% in the sale of motor fuels in Poland and over 50% in their retail sales.

As expected, the EC raised objections to Orlen's plans. It changed its mind only after the company headed by Daniel Obajtek had agreed a programme for demonopolisation of the Polish fuel market. As a result, the company created after Orlen took over Lotos is to have a much smaller market share than the two concerns have now combined. In addition, Orlen is to undertake to help create a new, this time foreign, competitor created from the majority of Lotos's existing petrol stations and focused on fuel imports.

Is this a price worth paying so that Orlen can declare a Pyrrhic victory in the battle for Lotos? Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki's government, which for now has a controlling stake in Lotos and is Orlen's largest shareholder, will decide.

Agreeing to take control of Lotos in exchange for amputating most of the key businesses of the Gdańsk-based company is also crucial for Poland's energy security - if only because of the company's coastal location. It is fulfilling the ambition of being a Polish champion at any price, even if at that price the transaction does not pay off.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (89%); Terrorist Organizations (76%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Arms Control + Disarmament (63%); Espionage (63%); Weapons + Arms (63%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (62%); Chemistry (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Amusements + Gambling (86%)

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***When to move away from coal, what about new national parks? Here are the candidates' eco-postulates***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R00F-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1109 words

**Byline:** Patryk Strzałkowski

**Highlight:** Andrzej Duda previously said that "we have coal for 200 years", but in the election campaign he presented his Eco-Card and postulates, among other things, a greater share of RES than the PiS government. Rafał Trzaskowski has included a date to move away from coal in his programme, but writes only in general terms about how he sees the energy mix. We look at the postulates of the candidates in the elections on climate and environmental issues.

**Body**

The phrase "climate" appeared only a few times each on the official campaign accounts of Andrzej Duda and Rafał Trzaskowski. The climate crisis - despite extreme weather, drought and temperature records - was mentioned very little in the campaign. Activists from the Youth Climate Strike tried to change this, but it was difficult for them to get specifics from the candidates, and at President Duda's rallies they were met with challenges and violence instead, [*they said in an interview with Gazeta.pl.*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,174372,26070645,w-kampanii-pytali-o-kryzys-klimatyczny-spotkala-ich-przemoc.html)

However, although the topic did not resonate in the campaign, the candidates referred to climate and environmental issues in their programmes. Rafał Trzaskowski in his programme [*devoted*](https://trzaskowski2020.pl/program#Mod199) chapter 2 to [*climate andenvironment protection*](https://trzaskowski2020.pl/program#Mod199). Andrzej Duda published an [*Eco-card*](https://www.teraz-srodowisko.pl/aktualnosci/andrzej-duda-eko-karta-8925.html) with declarations of support for initiatives in this field. We took a look at the postulates and declarations of both candidates. You can find them briefly in the table below, and we describe them in more detail later in this article [*(click to enlarge the graphic):*](https://static.im-g.pl/im/4/26113/m26113634,TABELKAA.png)

President Duda published his Eco-card with climate and environmental demands before the second round. The term "climate crisis" does not appear in it, nor does it mention the ***European*** Green Deal and climate neutrality by 2050. It supports the use of renewable energy sources in the energy sector and sets the goal that "after 2035 there should be at least as much energy from renewable sources as from conventional sources". If this can be understood as a demand for 50% RES after 2035, it would mean that this target is more stringent than the one set by the Law and Justice government. In the draft Energy Policy of Poland until 2040 50 percent of RES is not achieved until the 2040s. Duda does not detail how he sees the future energy mix. The charter also does not mention a nuclear power plant, but this is a project that the PiS government wants to pursue, and Duda himself was said to have talked to Donald Trump about building a power plant. The charter does not mention a just transition, but this is a postulate theoretically supported by PiS.

With regard to the fight against smog, Duda writes in his charter above all about support for government programmes such as "Clean air" and "My electricity", as well as for the thermal modernisation programme. He also makes a declaration: there are currently 36 cities from Poland on the list of the 50 most polluted ***European*** cities. By the end of his possible second term, this number is to be halved. Duda's Eco-card touches on the adaptation of municipalities to climate change, electrification of public transport and ecological houses with state support.

As part of caring for water resources - he again declares support for the government programme ("My Water"), expresses support for water retention and for subsidising "efficient irrigation systems". He declares an increase in funding for National Parks, but no longer writes about creating new ones. Instead, he promises a "national tree planting programme". In several demands, it draws attention to the problem of illegal landfills and writes about the responsibility of packaging manufacturers for rubbish. The charter does not mention animal protection or climate education, or support for the ***European*** Green Deal.

Rafał Trzaskowski included his climate and environmental demands in the second chapter of his programme. "The new policy I propose must provide an answer to the greatest threat to civilisation - climate change". - he writes. He declares his support for the ***European*** Green Deal and a date to move away from coal: "by 2030 at the latest in home heating and by 2040 in electricity. In 2050, in line with the commitment taken by other ***EU*** countries, the Polish economy will achieve neutrality". It does not present a specific energy mix, writing only that its part should be "large-scale RES installations, including offshore wind farms". He does not refer to the construction of a nuclear power plant in the programme, and in his campaign statements he said that its construction should be preceded by a public debate. Trzaskowski writes about a just transition and transfer of resources in regions linked to the coal industry. He declares the establishment of an Energy Security Council, green investments in every municipality and pushing for climate education in the core curriculum.

Regarding the fight against smog, Trzaskowski declares: "I will lead to an increase in state spending on the replacement of old cookers, the so-called 'kopciuchów', thermal modernisation of buildings, renewable energy installations, and to an increase in support for the energy poor - from PLN 103 billion (currently planned) to PLN 120 billion by 2030." On the issue of drought, he supports - similarly to Duda - betting on retention. Similarly to the President, he also supports the idea that producers should cover part of the costs of waste, and announces, among other things, a deposit system.

Trzaskowski declares that as president he will lead consultations on increasing the number of national parks and supports the protection of the entire Białowieża Forest. He also wants to increase control over tree felling and limit it. He announces a draft law to establish the institution of an ombudsman for animal protection.

Campaign predictions are one thing, reality is often quite another. Therefore, in order to determine to what extent we can trust the campaign promises, it is worth taking a look at the achievements of the candidates. Towards the end of his presidency, Andrzej Duda began to talk more about ecology and climate protection, but his demands were never more ambitious than those of the PiS government - and they are in turn negatively evaluated by ecologists. Duda also has a history of statements denying climate change and the need to move away from fossil fuels. While still ***an MEP,*** he tweeted that the cool weather in spring is supposed to prove that there is no climate change and we are "paying for it". During the Climate Summit [*in KatowiceDuda - to the astonishment of some attendees - said*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,24238116,duda-mowil-ze-mozna-korzystac-z-wegla-i-chronic-klimat-ekolodzy.html) that Poland has "coal reserves for 200 years" and does not intend to give it up any time soon, and that he will not "murder the Polish mining industry".

Rafał Trzaskowski was not famous for his statements doubting climate change. He belonged to the PO government, which on the one hand adopted the EU energy and climate pact, but on the other hand was by no means a champion of climate policy ([*as Donald Tusk himself admitted*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/14,166794,24748205.html#s=BoxOpMT)). Trzaskowski himself spoke more about climate and environmental issues before he became mayor of Warsaw. Here his term of office is not yet halfway through and it is difficult to assess it completely. Among other things, Warsaw is planting trees, has adopted a climate change adaptation strategy and is electrifying transport. Trzaskowski met with activists from the Youth Climate Strike and promised them a Citizens' Climate Panel, but the realisation of this demand is delayed.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (90%); Terrorist Organizations (83%); Human Rights Violations (82%); Torture (69%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%); Film (62%); Arms Control + Disarmament (61%); Weapons + Arms (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Harbors + Ports (62%); Mining + Extraction (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Rafal Trzaskowski stresses that citizens are his boss, not the party leader***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R041-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1148 words

**Byline:** Tomasz Matkowski

**Highlight:** This election will decide whether we want to be free citizens in a society based on equality, or whether we prefer to be slaves in a state based on the tyranny of chiefs and shamans. The choice is ours, and let us be glad that we still have it. And let us take advantage of it. This is our last chance," writes a reader.

**Body**

Rafał Trzaskowski insists at every meeting with voters that elections like this one happen once in a generation. Of course he is right. But what does that mean in concrete terms? Why is this election so special and what is really at stake?

These choices are part of a war of the worlds that has been going on for millennia. A war between extremely contradictory concepts of society - on the one hand, a concept based on the omnipotence of the chief, who in primitive tribes was both a secular leader and the chief priest, the representative of a deity, or even the deity himself. There was no one above such a chief. On the other hand there is the democratic concept, in which the members of the tribe decide on important matters in assemblies, and their decision is binding on the leader. The state based on the first concept was Persia, the Athenian republic on the second. Today dictatorial traditions live on in Iran, Turkey, China, Russia and many other countries. The second vision of the world - democratic - has developed mainly in the countries of ***Europe***, North America, Australia.

In this age-old war, the turning points are battles. Bloodthirsty or bloodless, open or subversive. The Battle of Salamins, the relief of Vienna, the Battle of Radzymin, the parliamentary elections of '89 - these were battles won for the democratic concept. The battle lost was the parliamentary elections of 2015.

Why is the battle that we will fight in a few days' time, on 12 July 2020, so important? Why is it part of a series of events that may change the world? Because it is our last chance.

The recapture of the Senate in the last parliamentary elections was the point for a free Poland and an unthreatened ***Europe***. Now what remains is to take back the presidency. A possible future retake of the Sejm is also in the offing, but it is highly uncertain, if only because when the time comes, there may no longer be free parliamentary elections. Therefore, Rafał Trzaskowski's return to the presidency is probably the last card in the game for a free Poland. A chance that without bloodshed we can save the concept of a society in which there is no shaman leader and his subjects, but there is an administration and there are citizens. Put simply, we can save not only a free Poland, but also a free ***Europe***.

Why ***Europe***? Because what has been happening in Poland for the last five years is opening the door to ***Europe***. And it is being done by those who should be guarding that gate like the back of their hand.

In their eyes, Poland is supposed to be a bridgehead for the East. It is enough to read the well-documented books by the writer and journalist Tomasz Piątek on Anton Macierewicz's connections with Kremlin agents and on Andrzej Duda's connections with representatives of the Chinese dictator Xi Jinping in order to understand whose interests are really represented by the party with the pathetic 'P' and 'S' words in its name, which law professor Wojciech Sadurski has called an organised crime group.

The so-called Confucius Institutes, which were closed down in ***Europe*** as propaganda and espionage centres for the Chinese dictatorship, are now being established in Poland, and this is taking place in academic centres, under the patronage of the President. The idea of reactivating the Silk Road is to facilitate the flooding of ***Europe*** with Chinese goods, and thus to take jobs away from Poles and residents of ***European*** countries, whose products will never be able to compete with those produced by Chinese slaves.

The rapprochement between China and Russia is making the thrust of the civilisation of slavery ever more pronounced. This onslaught is to shift the border between East and West. Move it as far west as possible.

We are to be the ones to open the gate and let the wolves into the fold.

For ***Europe,*** this threat is comparable to the rush of Budionny's cavalry. With the siege of Vienna by the Turks.

And for Poland? Poland will be the first to go to the stake. Not right away. It will be a gradual descent. Poland is already sinking, has been for years, but half of the Polish people do not see it.

There is a book by Edward Ligocki, published in 1927, entitled 'If Under Radzymin'. There is a book by Edward Ligocki, published in 1927, entitled "If at Radzymin...". In it, we find a vision of an alternative history, of what would have happened if Poland had not repulsed the Soviet invasion of 1920.

So let us try to sketch out what might be, "if on the twelfth of July..." - and let us hope that it remains just a nightmare vision.

If, on 12 July, the people of Poland had not spoken out in favour of change, Poland would have sunk, for decades or perhaps forever, into obscurantism and obscurantism. What does this mean in concrete terms?

Poverty, of course. Financial poverty and intellectual poverty.

Closure of borders.

Receipt of passports.

Lead to expulsion from the ***European*** Union.

Giving all power to the Church. The Church is wrongly identified with democratic, ***European*** values. The Church has absolutely nothing in common with them. It is a despotic, totalitarian institution, based on the ruthless obedience of its functionaries and the so-called faithful.

Reducing women to the role of incubators.

Forcing women to give birth to headless foetuses.

All-pervasive pansexualism, taking on the hypocritical mask of fighting sexuality.

Banning contraception and sex education.

The suppression of a scientific world view, the promotion of superstition. Already now we see on the streets of our cities incredible processions of various rosary bachelors, knights of Jesus, consecrated virgins and all sorts of disguised persons. Their shrieks, roars and howls are meant to terrify the inhabitants. These masqueraders are the sorcerer's helpers who banged drums to fill the members of the original tribal community with superstitious fear, and today they set up sound equipment in the centre of town and roar at passers-by: "Jesus loves you!" - in a tone that is rather indicative of pathological hatred.

Police aggressiveness.

Aggressiveness and impunity of criminals instigated by state propaganda.

For the whole concept of Eastern society is based on fear. On aggressiveness. Cruelty. A lack of respect both for human beings and for other species of living beings. A ruthless and cruel destruction of nature, a complete lack of long-range, planetary thinking.

Of course, the terms 'Eastern society' or 'Western civilisation' are certain simplifications. The most terrible dictatorships were born in Germany, the land of the Reformation and modernity. Also the term "Athenian democracy" is misleading, after all in Athens there was a layer of slaves and only full citizens participated in government. Probably the most sensible terms would be "civilisation of serfdom" and "civilisation of freedom".

Rafal Trzaskowski emphasises that the citizens are his boss, not the party leader. He thus places himself on the side of the civilisation of freedom.

This election will decide whether we want to be free citizens in a society based on equality, or whether we prefer to be slaves in a state based on the tyranny of chiefs and shamans. The choice is ours, and let us be glad that we still have it. And let us take advantage of it. It is our last chance.

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

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (71%); Securities + Other Investments (70%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Film (67%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (69%); Harbors + Ports (67%); Mining + Extraction (67%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Finland is opening up to travellers from more countries. Poland still missing from the list***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R02K-00000-00&context=)

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July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 349 words

**Byline:** CeK

**Highlight: The** Finnish government has updated the list of countries whose citizens will not be subject to necessary border control when entering the country. Poland is missing among the countries listed during a special conference.

**Body**

The Finnish authorities have concluded that several ***European*** countries have a sufficiently good epidemiological situation that their citizens can already freely cross borders. In the government's opinion, Poland is not one of these countries.

In line with the [*updated policy on internal border controls*](https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/10616/government-updates-policies-on-internal-border-control-and-travel-restrictions) and travel restrictions, Finland has lifted the rules against 12 countries. Travellers from the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Greece, Malta, Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Liechtenstein and Switzerland can enter the country without problems.

Not so long ago, [*Finland*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=finlandia) lifted restrictions on passenger traffic with the Nordic countries. These are Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Sweden is not yet on the list.

Restrictions will remain in place to the extent that they are still necessary due to the serious risk related to the epidemiological situation. Based on the current epidemiological assessment, internal border controls and entry restrictions will continue at the land border between Finland and Sweden and for travel between Finland and the Czech Republic, France, Luxembourg, [*Poland*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114883.html#TRNavSST), Portugal and Spain.

If the epidemiological situation permits, the government will review its decisions on border traffic restrictions in a fortnight' time and, if necessary, take new decisions. Further changes to border traffic are due to come into force on 27 July.

At that point, the decision on internal border controls will be reviewed with a view to lifting internal border controls and restrictions on border traffic between Finland and ***EU*** and Schengen countries with infection rates at most equal to the current or revised limit on 13 July.

Maria Ohisalo, Finland's interior minister at [*a government conference*](https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/10616/government-updates-policies-on-internal-border-control-and-travel-restrictions) explained the criteria for lifting restrictions on cross-border traffic. The authorities analysed the number of new cases of [*coronavirus*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,173952.html#TRNavSST) infection reported in the past two weeks. The limit was set at a maximum of eight new cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

**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 (67%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (86%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Let's vote for a democrat, not an avatar***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-3771-F09W-F51C-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 372 words

**Byline:** Jarosław Kurski

**Highlight:** on 12 July, we will make a choice for generations: between democracy and monopoly power, self-government and centralism, the West and the East, the citizens' state and the mafia state. Between hope and disaster

**Body**

When five years ago we wrote before the parliamentary elections that democracy itself was at stake, there was no end to the derision, and sympathetic voices repeated: "Don't scare PiS". Today there is no need to scare PiS. Today PiS is doing it on its own.

Five years of destroying democracy and the state should disillusion the last naive people. Andrzej Duda, a tool of the Law and Justice party, was supposed to uphold the constitution, but he is breaking it. He was supposed to unite Poles, but he incites hatred and contempt for minorities. He was supposed to embody the dignity of the state, but his decisions, gestures and tirades are not in keeping with the dignity of the office.

As head of the armed forces, he led the Polish army to collapse. He says of the ***European*** Union: "Bai, baju for suckers". Thanks to him, Poland's position in the world is dwindling.

In fact, he is not the one facing Rafał Trzaskowski's vision of a Poland that is open, democratic and ***European***. Duda is an avatar. His views belong to his master, Jarosław Kaczyński. The anachronistic obsessions, the imaginary wrongs, the views of a man who does not understand the modern world and who instils fear in it in order to manage it.

Local governments and free media are at stake in this election. Independent courts and an Ombudsman. Autonomy of culture and universities. Poland's membership and importance in the ***EU***. Civil rights and freedoms, including LGBT.

At stake is a secular state without the imposition of Catholic orthodoxy. Women's rights are at stake, including not allowing a total ban on abortion. Education and the right to in vitro are at stake.

When, on 4 June 1989, it was possible to say goodbye to communism without bloodshed, only 62.7% of citizens went to the polls. Today, there must be many more of us. We must control the electoral commissions. We must talk to people in a friendly manner, listen to them and convince them to support the democratic candidate.

There are also 'elections' in Hungary and Belarus and even 'referendums' in Russia. It is always clear who will win. A repeat of Duda means that this could also happen in Poland.

We are standing on the edge. If 'you can count, count on yourself'. There is no longer anyone to blame. There is no haggling, no partitioners, no Russian or German occupiers, and no communist regime. There is only us, with our independence. We will make our own destiny.

Dictatorships derive their strength from the passivity of their citizens. Let us not allow ourselves to be deprived of freedom. So choose, Poles!

Let us vote for a Democrat.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Investigations (75%)

**Industry:** Amusements + Gambling (74%); Mining + Extraction (74%); Harbors + Ports (73%); Traveler Safety + Security (69%); Organic Chemicals (65%); Professional Services (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Foreign media on elections in Poland: "A key choice for democracy", "A test for populism"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R03C-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 939 words

**Byline:** Maciej Czarnecki

**Highlight: The** world media present the Polish elections as a clash of two different visions of the country, a fight for democratic standards and a test for populists during a coronavirus pandemic.

**Body**

The Polish elections are covered by the most important newspapers from around the world.

"Poland is faced with choosing its place in the world" - [*assesses the Financial Times in an editorial commentary.*](https://www.ft.com/content/f0860c6c-c0fe-11ea-9b66-39ae33ea12cb) The British daily describes the Polish elections in the context of "the intense struggle between conservative nationalism and liberal centrism that has shaped Polish politics over the past two decades". It adds that the dividing line between the two camps is drawn not only on economic issues, but also on identity, culture and personal morality. In such a landscape, only a few change their minds.

The outcome of the vote, says the Financial Times, will be crucial for Polish democracy and Poland's position on the global stage.

"Who will occupy the Presidential Palace in Warsaw matters because the winner will be able to promote, block or encourage change in the Law and Justice government," the newspaper explains.

In her view, another five years of Duda's rule risks supporting even more radical attacks on the rule of law by PiS. That, in turn, would damage Poland's relations with its partners in the ***European*** Union and possibly with Washington if Donald Trump loses to Democratic candidate Joe Biden in November's presidential election overseas.

[*The Guardian*](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/09/future-of-third-republic-defines-run-off-vote-poland) also [*portrays Sunday's clash between Andrzej Duda and Rafal Trzaskowski as a continuation of "30 years of political division after the fall of communism".*](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/09/future-of-third-republic-defines-run-off-vote-poland)

Christian Davies points out in his text that both candidates are 48 years old and were born barely a few months apart. They both attended prestigious schools in large cities and can both boast doctorates from two leading universities. But that is where the similarities end.

Davies describes Trzaskowski as an open-minded son of a famous jazzman, Duda as a traditionalist brought up according to Catholic values. He quotes Adam Szostkiewicz's words from Polityka that "Duda and Trzaskowski are the two faces of two Poles".

The daily notes the role of the church in Polish public life and writes about the support of the church hierarchy for Duda, but also the condemnation from abroad after the president's attacks on LGBT. Davies explains that Trzaskowski tried above all not to alienate anyone, as he needs a complex coalition of left-wing voters, moderate conservatives and far-right libertarians to win.

According to commentators quoted by the Guardian, however, the candidate's otherwise understandable lack of commitment to the culture war may prove to be his weakness.

***Euronews*** quotes polls in which the candidates go head to head. "A minimal victory by either candidate is likely to further emphasize the polarization of Polish society and could fuel growing discontent with the political establishment," [*- reads a text on the station's website.*](https://www.euronews.com/2020/07/09/poland-presidential-election-pro-eu-hopeful-rafal-trzaskowski-neck-and-neck-with-incumbent)

It quotes Pawel Zerka of the ***European*** Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) think tank, who warns that PiS may not allow Trzaskowski to win if the early results are any indication.

- Their control over Poland's political institutions and public media is already so broad and their resolve so strong that they can find ways to tilt the results in their favour while maintaining any semblance of legitimacy, says Zerka.

In his view, regardless of who wins on Sunday, Poles will wake up to an even more polarised society than before.

[*Bloomberg agency encourages US readers to read about the Polish election with the title "Why Trump may want to follow the Polish election".*](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-07-10/why-trump-may-want-to-watch-poland-s-election)

He provides the answer in the very first sentence: "Populists took power in Poland a year before the US election. Now the country is a litmus test for what this year may bring'. This is, of course, about the already mentioned November presidential elections in the USA.

"A month before Donald Trump launched his campaign in June 2015. Poland held its own presidential election. They began a series of events that brought Law and Justice Party to power by relying on slogans of 'getting rid of the elites' and 'Poland First'. This weekend, President Andrzej Duda will try to secure a second term in an election that only a few months ago looked like a formality. But the coronavirus pandemic and its economic consequences are changing political calculations, a warning sign for populists across the Atlantic and elsewhere." - explains Bloomberg, drawing further parallels with the situation in the United States.

The agency recalls that Trump is a strong supporter of PiS: he was warmly received in Warsaw and Duda visited him in Washington in the last straight before the first round of elections.

According to Bloomberg, a Trzaskowski win would "send a strong signal to Brussels and Berlin that Poland still has one foot in the ***European*** mainstream at a crucial time for the continent".

Another US agency, the [*Associated Press, whose dispatch is quoted by many media across the ocean,*](https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/deeply-divided-poland-chooses-president-runoff-vote-71664929) also [*describes the Polish elections as "an important test for populism in* ***Europe****".*](https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/deeply-divided-poland-chooses-president-runoff-vote-71664929)

AP notes that there have been "themes of homophobia and anti-Semitism" in the campaign. It also recalls the recent meeting between Trump and Duda, quoting the American president's words that his Polish partner is doing a "great job". He also writes about a conversation between Trzaskowski and former President Barack Obama, which is supposed to show American readers what political current both candidates represent.

"Sunday's vote will determine whether Law and Justice maintains control over almost all institutions of power in Poland or will have to reckon with Trzaskowski, who belongs to the pro-European Civic Platform and has called for the restoration of constitutional norms," AP concludes.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (93%); Military Weapons (88%); Torture (87%); Human Rights Violations (80%); Law Courts + Tribunals (75%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (62%); Chemistry (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%); Arms Control + Disarmament (61%); Securities + Other Investments (61%); Weapons + Arms (61%)

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

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

**End of Document**

[***"'Confederate deer'. Gliński bribes the far right, Żaryn gathers support from radicals for PiS***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R04M-00000-00&context=)

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**Length:** 1805 words

**Byline:** Witold Mrozek

**Highlight:** Former Law and Justice (PiS) senator Jan Żaryn is stealing supporters from the Confederation, attracting to the camp of power respected on the far right nationalists, anti-Semites, Catholic radicals and traducers of Jewish conspiracies. The government uses the Dmowski Institute for this purpose.

**Body**

Operation Confederation" is underway. PiS does not like competition from the right - it needs these votes to maintain a stable parliamentary majority or to win the second round of the presidential election. To this end, it is also trying to take over the support of national radicals from the Confederation.

The Roman Dmowski and Ignacy Jan Paderewski Institute for the Heritage of National Thought, established in February, has an important role to play in this process. The Institute is headed by former senator Prof. Jan Żaryn, who lost his seat in the last elections.

- He is an extremely important politician for PiS, he needed to be managed," comments Dr Przemysław Witkowski of Collegium Civitas, a political scientist and expert on the extreme right.

Witkowski explains: - 'Żaryn is, in practice, the creator of the Pisowski's historical policy, which allows the party to play the card of "traitors" or "historical traitors" against its political opponents, which builds the cult of the "hatchet men" and helps construct a nationalist vision of Polish identity. He is also a co-founder of the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), which he does not work for now, but in which there are many of his pupils and students, extreme right-wing historians.

Żaryn is not only creating a historical institution, but he is also integrating the extreme right circles around the new institute. [*At a conference with the Minister of Culture Piotr Gliński in February,*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75410,25659857,glinski-zaklada-instytut-dmowskiego-i-paderewskiego-stworzy.html) he openly invited associations that refer directly to the All-Polish Youth to co-found the Institute.

Dr Witkowski: "From what I hear from representatives of the extreme right and what I observe myself, Żaryn is on a tour of nationalist circles. He meets, holds discussions. The Law and Justice party says to them: look, this is where the real Endec flank is and the possibility of implementing the programme through state institutions. Recently, he participated in a debate organised by Rafał Mossakowski from the Powiśle Educational Centre. This is one of the most important places of the extreme right.

Indeed, Żaryn is a regular guest of the Centre, it also hosts politicians from the Confederation - Janusz Korwin-Mikke, Grzegorz Braun or Magdalena Ziętek-Wielomska. And also, among others, [*Mateusz Piskorski, leader of the Zmiana party, who is*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,24787888,po-blisko-trzech-latach-mateusz-piskorski-wychodzi-z-aresztu.html) accused of spying for the Russian intelligence service and has been in custody for three years as a result.

- This case also has a comical aspect," adds Witkowski. - Jan Żaryn is the father of Stanisław Żaryn, spokesman for the minister coordinating the secret services. And it is the Internal Security Agency, which is subordinate to the minister, that is conducting an investigation into the potential promotion of fascism by Mossakowski.

Building support is to be followed by money. The Institute already has a budget of around PLN 2 million, and Żaryn recently announced that it will be the Dmowski Institute that will manage the money from the Patriotic Fund promised by Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki. As Morawiecki announced, the Patriotic Fund is to be used to "build patriotic attitudes", support "history enthusiasts" and foundations and associations with a "patriotic profile".

How did Prof. Żaryn himself justify the creation of the Patriotic Fund? For example, as follows: "[About] the soldiers of the Świętokrzyska Brigade it is still allowed to say with impunity that they were German servants. And precisely for this reason, so that there is less of such boorishness and lies in the public space, it must be covered by the right of people of good will (not only those associated in non-governmental organisations) to carry out various activities for the benefit of restoring respect for our national and Christian heritage". - wrote the director at Karnowski brothers on the [*wPolityce.pl*](https://wpolityce.pl/polityka/508162-fundusz-patriotyczny-warto-zdjac-partyjno-cyniczne-okulary) portal.

The PiS's action causes distaste on the Conservatism.pl website, which is close to the Confederation. "The Law and Justice party has managed to attach a few former active national activists, who are now resonance boxes for neo-sanators, to its crutch". - Maciej Eckardt, a former member of the LPR, former president of the Endecja association and former deputy Marshall of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, dismissed by the Law and Justice party in 2009 for criticising Lech Kaczyński, writes in a [*text*](https://konserwatyzm.pl/eckardt-dmowski-na-kasztance/) published there.

What purpose does Eckardt see in these actions? "To scan the interest of the sympathisers of national thought in the undertakings whose animator is the present authorities, and thus to set positively to the 'good change' those voters whose hearts beat faster at the sound of the words - National Democracy, national thought or Roman Dmowski".

And Conservatism.pl's editor-in-chief Adam Wielomski, whose wife ran in the Confederation's presidential primary, calls the entire PiS operation a "hunt for Confederate deer".

At the end of June, Gliński [*appointed a programme council for the*](https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura/powolanie-rady-programowej-instytutu-dziedzictwa-mysli-narodowej) Roman Dmowski and Ignacy Jan Paderewski Institute for the Heritage of National Thought. It includes figures from the extreme right.

The most valuable acquisition of Gliński and Żaryn is Marian Barański, one of the doyens of the nationalists, presented as "the founder of the first pro-life movement".

The Polish Self-Defence Committee, founded by Barański, actually fought against the right to abortion already in 1978, collecting signatures under a petition to the Minister of Health and the Sejm of the People's Republic of Poland. It also fought against the Workers' Defence Committee - as "not guided by Polish interests". He considered the alliance with the Soviet Union as the geopolitical interest of Poland. He spoke from openly anti-Semitic positions. His "Polish Self-Defense" wrote in 1980: "Jewish chauvinism in the world has clearly strengthened its positions. According to foreign publications it controls min. According to foreign publications it controls at least 80 percent of western industry and finances, dominates propaganda, science and culture and controls the so-called public opinion. Therefore, the governments of Western countries represent, because they have to under the threat of being overthrown, the Jewish interests'.

After 1989, Barański became the head of the "Szczerbiec" National Party, which was supported by far-right skinheads. Today he is president of the Roman Dmowski National Association. He was also a co-founder of the National Front of Poland - among its leaders was the [*neo-fascist Piotr Rybak*](https://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/7,35771,24955592,piotr-rybak-w-sadzie-przeciwko-miastu-bo-rozwiazalo-marsz-narodowcow.html), known for burning a Jewish puppet in the Wrocław Main Square.

Barański - who spread anti-Semitic views - was monitored by the services of the People's Republic of Poland, because his early organisation was described as "an illegal group with fascist overtones". In 1961, he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for two years - which is why he is now presented as a "political prisoner". The sentence was amnestied - as we can read on the [*IPN website*](https://katalog.bip.ipn.gov.pl/informacje/64030). Barański's subsequent activity in the Polish Self-Defence Committee was open. The Polish Self-Defence Committee suspended its activity after the introduction of martial law.

Another member of the council, Zbigniew Krysiak, PhD, is a professor at the Warsaw School of Economics and founder of the right-wing Schuman Thought Institute. His goals include breaking up the current Christian Democrat faction in the ***Europarliament*** and creating a new right-wing formation under the aegis of Viktor Orban's party. For the Polish embassy in Berlin, he was to organise a [*debate*](https://oko.press/ambasada-polska-w-berlinie-zaprasza-niemiecka-faszyzujaca-prawica-i-polski-ksiadz-antysemita/) on "Christianity as the foundation of the ***European*** Union" in September 2019. He invited to it, among others, the anti-Semitic priest Tadeusz Guz and three politicians of the fascist AfD, which relativises German guilt for World War II crimes.

Let us recall: AfD representatives criticised the existence of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin, they also called for the decriminalisation of the promotion of national hatred and the denial of the Holocaust. Even the ambassador Andrzej Przyłębski euphemistically decided that the debate should have a "more representative group of participants". - so it was cancelled. Krysiak's organisation also carries out missionary activity within the framework of the so-called Schuman groups - it calls it the "Formation of Saints in Suits".

Fr Robert Skrzypczak, a columnist for, among others, "Fronda" and a PhD in theology, was also invited to join the council.

How did Fr Skrzypczak comment on Archbishop Jędraszewski's statements targeting environmentalists? "The beast is furious, because the little archbishop from Krakow can skilfully sting it in the tail". - the clergyman told the wPolityce.pl portal. He called criticism of the archbishop's homophobic sermons "the arrogance of neo-pagan circles".

Pope Francis' actions, in turn, he described in the pages of "Fronda" as "crypto-schisms". In his opinion, the reforms of the Second Vatican Council were misunderstood in the Western Church by many clergy adhering to "ideas of Marx and Nietzsche mixed with the ideals of the Gospel," and he described the progressive trends in Catholicism as "the stench of Satan in the Church. Skrzypczak is the author of numerous books, including "Wiara i seks. John Paul II on Marriage and the Family".

The former Speaker of the Sejm Marek Jurek and Dr Mieczysław Ryba from the Catholic University of Lublin, also a lecturer at Tadeusz Rydzyk's university, will also be on the council. Ryba is a vice-marshal of the Lublin Voivodeship on behalf of Law and Justice (PiS), while in 'Wiadomości' TVP he appears as a 'neutral' expert - a lecturer and publicist, praising PiS politics and rebuking the opposition.

Żaryn's activity brings political effects. On Wednesday, the "Appeal of independence, national and Christian circles" was published with the postulate: "The patriotic camp must unite forces around the president". Among the arguments for Duda are these words: "Thanks to the cooperation of the President and the government, after decades of reluctance on the part of successive authorities of the Third Republic, we are finally returning to the rich heritage of the national camp. Endetian and Christian-Democratic traditions will be promoted by the Roman Dmowski and Ignacy Jan Paderewski Institute of National Thought Heritage - the first such state cultural institution'.

The appeal was signed by politicians from the right wing of the Law and Justice party, Prof. Marek Chodakiewicz, as well as, among others, Marian Barański, Marek Jakubiak or two successive presidents of Marek Jurek's Right Sector - Krzysztof Kawęcki and Bogusław Kiernicki - or activists of the so-called borderland circles.

- This list is the result of several months of work by Jan Żaryn," comments Dr Witkowski. - He is building a nationalist leg for PiS, an environment which is to be a competition for Konfederacja. PiS, threatened by competition from the right, decided to slow down its growth. Therefore, it attracts to its ranks people who represent such an ideology. One can see there mainly members of the Right Republic of Poland, as well as the organisation which Marek Jakubiak tried to create. There are also renegades from the National Movement such as Sylwester Chruszcz.

He is a former activist of the All-Polish Youth and the LPR, until 2016 he belonged to the National Movement. He entered the Sejm from the Kukiz'15 list, then co-founded Kornel Morawiecki's Sejm circle Wolni i Solidarni, and finally went to the Law and Justice party. He failed to get into the Sejm again in 2019.

However, there are always state-owned companies. A fortnight ago Sylwester Chruszcz [*became the acting director of*](https://szczecin.wyborcza.pl/szczecin/7,34939,26074672,narodowiec-byly-posel-pis-sylwester-chruszcz-zostal-dyrektorem.html) Zespół Elektrowni "Dolna Odra". Chruszcz has never had anything to do with the power industry.

A United Right politician who wishes to remain anonymous told the Szczecin daily 'Wyborcza': - Sylwek may have to repay this debt in some way, e.g. by helping before the second round of elections to pull the electorate of the Confederation to Andrzej Duda's side. He still has great contacts there, after all he grew out of them.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (69%); Military Weapons (69%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Securities + Other Investments (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Professional Services (73%)

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

**End of Document**

[***The Speaker of the Senate delivered the address. "We will stand eye to eye with history. This will be no ordinary election."***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R067-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 343 words

**Byline:** WB, IAR

**Highlight:** Senate Speaker Tomasz Grodzki said in his pre-election address that "power is for the citizens, not the citizens for the power" and that the President must serve all Poles. As he stressed, on 12th July we will elect a president who should uphold the Constitution, be a true head of the armed forces and bind the nation together.

**Body**

Senate Speaker Tomasz Grodzki also said that the President will have to face the difficult task of rebuilding the national community, which in his opinion has been painfully experienced in recent years by "divisions, hateful words and deeds". The election of the head of state is, as the Senate Speaker said, above all a choice of the way forward, although many things, such as social and welfare programmes, have become part of our reality.

This Sunday we will come face to face with history. This will be no ordinary election, but a moment that will determine the fate of our great nation for years to come. We will decide what vision of Poland we want. Do we want a free, democratic, self-governing and solidarity-based Poland, a civic and open Poland, a strong Poland in the ***European*** Union, a Poland without hatred and division, or do we want to follow a different path?

- Grodzki said.

The Speaker also pointed out that the authorities are constitutionally obliged to work together for the benefit of the people and the country. "The elected president - whoever he may be - must not only work with the government and parliament; he must set an example of building harmony and inspire others to work together," - he said in the address.

Grodzki also said in the message that the strength of our nation "is diversity, respect for inherent human dignity and the understanding that we are all equal and deserve the same respect".

According to the Marshal of the Senate, Sunday's elections will determine the fate of Poland and Poles and the vision according to which our country will develop in the coming years. As he said, "it is we who will decide ... whether we want a free, democratic, self-governing and solidary Poland, a civic and open Poland, a strong Poland in the ***European*** Union; a Poland without hatred and divisions, or whether we will follow a different path".

Senate Speaker Tomasz Grodzki also said that the high turnout in the first round of the elections and the expected record turnout in the second round was proof of the responsibility of the Poles for the fate of the country and the nation. He also encouraged people to take part in the elections while taking precautions and respecting the sanitary regime caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (75%); Mining + Extraction (75%); Traveler Safety + Security (71%); Organic Chemicals (69%); Amusements + Gambling (63%); Destinations + Attractions (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***PiS president on media as 'nervous system'. They are supposed to control bodies and minds***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R020-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1061 words

**Byline:** Agnieszka Kublik

**Highlight:** Without counter, comment, difficult questions - this is how Jarosław Kaczyński frightened and deceived viewers of TV Trwam. And he showed exactly what kind of media system he wants

**Body**

Having shown up more than 30 hours before the election silence, Jaroslaw Kaczynski messed up again. He spoke in prepared words, some were old, some were new, many outrageous.

He wanted to help, he can hurt. Messages targeted at the oldest people, who stayed at home in the first round, reach everyone. And so also those whom Kaczyński would prefer not to see at the ballot box on 12 July.

How much this Kaczyński has talked! He threatened and deluded. And all this in the media - TV Trwam, Radio Maryja - where journalists do not look at the authorities. And in the case of Kaczyński they do not look, listen or comment at all. Here Kaczyński can say anything he wants and he will not get any question he does not want.

Thus, Kaczyński said, among other things, that "our political opponents do not want Poland to be a great ***European*** nation";

that "Poland is at the moment largely an exporter of capital. (...) The most important thing is that external forces usurp the right to decide who will govern Poland. And this is taking away Poles' independence and sovereignty;

that "under the Civic Platform and PSL governments, we have had a policy that was geared towards the pursuit of personal interest, the advancement of Donald Tusk. Also this policy towards the East. (...) Exposing oneself in Moscow could jeopardise promotion in Brussels. That is why they went there without any purpose or success. We all know what happened next. (...) It was a privatised policy;

that 'Poland is in some ways an island, an island of freedom. This is worth defending. We have freedom in Poland. Although vigorous attempts are being made to allow various minorities in Poland to terrorise the rest of society. But this has not yet happened';

that 'animals must be protected, I am a great friend of animals and not just cats, as some people claim. However, I make a distinction between animals and people. That is the whole point, not to overstep the mark. We need to protect the environment, but we must not fall into the madness that nothing can be built in Poland. We have to keep our common sense. We need to know where we come from, where the culture that my brother called the most humane of all cultures in the history of mankind comes from. This culture comes from the teachings of Christ;

That 'culture, which is the culture of our opponents, and they even want to force it on the Poles, has no respect for human life, not only for the unborn, but also for the lives of the elderly. Euthanasia, which in some places in ***Europe has*** already become virtually compulsory, is the best proof of this. We should not be moving in this direction, but if we do not want to move in this direction, we should go ahead and vote. Let us vote for Andrzej Duda, because he is the guarantee that Poland will not move in this direction;

That "there is no doubt about where TVN came from. But if anyone thinks that nationalisation can be carried out because of this, they are wrong. We are not interested in that anyway. We do not want to control the media. What we don't want is that somewhere outside Poland's borders a decision is made that we support this presidential candidate, and we destroy the one who is bad even by the most shameful methods."

that "external forces have usurped the right to decide who will rule in Poland":

That "President Duda is a man who has contributed immensely to our successes. He contributed to our winning the election because he made the breakthroughs. And despite the attacks, he supported us. He has been successful on the international stage. (...) He is worthy of becoming president for the second time and continuing his mission. He has great contact with people, he can talk. (...) He is simply one of us - ordinary Poles - who at some point became extraordinary. He is also a great speaker. (...) Having such a president is something very good for the nation. To have a president who is the antithesis of the current president would be something very painful for the Poles;

that "candidate Trzaskowski is using evasive tactics, trying not to inform the public about his views or to mislead them. He represents left-wing liberalism, far-reaching permitivism, consent to everything. Consent to the introduction of educational methods that lead to far-reaching demoralisation';

That "it's about making people powerless. It is a social engineering that leads to the perpetuation of the power of these elites. (...) These elites are demoralized, but they have a lot of money and want to rule over this society. And ruling over a society that has its traditions, its identity, is more difficult than ruling over people who are about to lose even a sense of which gender they are;

that "Mr Trzaskowski also has doubts as to whether Poland should pay reparations for Jewish inheritance-free property. (...) You have to be a special kind of person to talk about something like that, to think like that. He would probably deny it, but please do not believe these denials. He said it was necessary to talk about it. (...) Law and Justice is a guarantee that we will not pay anything. President Duda is a guarantee that we will not pay anything;

That "we cannot accept that part of our national system [the media], is in foreign hands. Because all those who say it doesn't matter, capital has no nationality, are cynically lying. (...) Today they certainly do not believe this. This is patently untrue. Every self-respecting state makes sure that the media are in the hands of its citizens or its institutions. We do not live in a world in which the authorities can say they do not like the media, so they take them over and nationalise them. It is good that we do not live in such a world. I'm happy about that, but that doesn't mean we can't do anything. No large, self-respecting country has such a situation as in Poland, and we must strive for change. But you have to do it with your head.

Such numbers only "in the hands of the citizens of the PiS state, or the institutions of this state". This is where the chairman of PiS has again declared war on the media - the private media with foreign capital.

It's the old song, when things don't go well for PiS (meaning: the president doubts that Duda will win), the media are to blame (when it's not Tusk's fault).

Kaczynski calls the media a 'nervous system'. The nervous system is the most important system in our body, it controls all the others. It is something like a management centre, thanks to it we think and feel. The nervous system can detect changes and react to them.

This is the kind of media arrangement Kaczyński craves - to control our minds and bodies.

Horror.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Torture (88%); Human Rights Violations (80%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Film (70%); Arms Control + Disarmament (67%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Espionage (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (76%); Organic Chemicals (71%); Harbors + Ports (70%); Mining + Extraction (70%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Have you repaid your loan before the deadline? In these 14 banks you will get your commission back***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R054-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 310 words

**Byline:** kamrak / ISBnews

**Highlight:** Fourteen of the largest banks are refunding a portion of the fees charged in the case of early repayment of consumer credit, UOKiK has reported. The estimated value of the refund from the sector to consumers will amount to at least PLN 1.5 billion.

**Body**

[*The OCCP*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26115638,uokik-z-wakacyjnym-apelem-mintaj-zamiast-dorsza-i-stary-tluszcz.html) in 2016 issued a position that a financial institution should settle with the customer in case of early repayment of a consumer credit. In September 2019, this interpretation was confirmed by the Court of Justice of the ***European*** Union, it stated.

The reimbursement of the costs of the commission of granting a consumer loan or credit is the result of last year's judgment of the Court of Justice of the ***European*** Union. According to it, 'the consumer's right to a reduction in the total cost of credit in the event of early repayment of credit includes all the costs that have been imposed on the consumer'.

- I have had many meetings with the financial industry, where I have said that the straight-line method should be used to calculate the return, and that it is understandable for consumers, transparent and fair. This is the position I have communicated to banks and lending companies in the course of my activities. The industry has accepted the straight-line method of accounting advocated by the Office. I encourage consumers to file complaints in order to get their money back as soon as possible - said Tomasz Chróstny, [*President of UOKiK, quoted in the communiqué*](https://www.uokik.gov.pl/aktualnosci.php?news_id=16608).

Customers of 14 banks can count on a proportional refund of fees for a consumer credit or loan repaid early according to the straight-line method. These are (in alphabetical order): Alior Bank, BNP Paribas, Credit Agricole Bank Polska, Getin Noble Bank, Idea Bank, ING Bank Śląski, mBank, Millennium Bank, Nest Bank, [*PKO BP,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26062231,pko-bp-zwroci-pieniadze-za-prowizje-kredytow-wyjasniamy-jakie.html) Pekao, Santander Bank Polska, Santander Consumer Bank and Volkswagen Bank Polska.

UOKiK expects that Plus Bank and Bank Handlowy will also adjust their practice to the Office's recommendations as soon as possible.

The straight-line method consists in the financial institution dividing all costs by the number of calendar days the contract was supposed to be in force. The result is multiplied by the number of days by which the credit period was reduced and this amount should be paid back to the consumer.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Economic Crisis (93%); Securities + Other Investments (88%); Labor Force (84%); Labor + Employment (75%); Indictments (68%); Investigations (63%); Prices (63%); Central Banks (62%)

**Industry:** Investment Banking (75%); Retail + Wholesale Trade (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Why did the Serbs take to the streets? It is not just about lockdown***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R052-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 599 words

**Byline:** Bartosz T. Wieliński

**Highlight:** Serbian police brutally pacify protests that have been going on for days against new restrictions on the coronavirus outbreak. After an election that was supposed to be safe, the number of infected people has risen sharply.

**Body**

- The health care system in Belgrade has almost collapsed. 'I cannot understand what we have seen on the streets of the city in recent days,' says Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabić. The crowd that took to the streets of the Serbian capital on Thursday evening, despite another restriction imposed by the authorities banning events with more than 10 people, did not care about her words. People occupied the pavements near the headquarters of Skupiština, the Serbian parliament.

"Sit down and don't get framed" - proclaimed the inscriptions on their T-shirts. This is in response to accusations by the authorities that previous protests were inspired by hostile foreign forces.

The ignition of the demonstrations, which have been going on since Tuesday, was the announcement by President Aleksandar Vucic that in the wake of a spike in coronavirus infections in the capital, the authorities were going to reintroduce restrictions, including the so-called Belgrade lockdown. Angry people took to the streets. There was a regular battle with the police near Skupiština, who tried unsuccessfully to prevent the demonstrators from breaking through to the parliament building and then pushed them out of it. Eggs, stones and flagstones were thrown at the police. In response, officers used tear gas. Officers on horseback also dispersed the crowd of demonstrators. Several people were injured.

Footage shows police brutality bludgeoning even people who were not taking part in the protests, just sitting on benches nearby.

- The protests show what people think about the restrictions," assessed Serbia's chief epidemiologist Predrag Kon the next day, who lamented that the participants of the demonstrations did not wear protective masks, so the virus spread at an even faster rate. And President Vucić has begun to soften his tone, but this is not defusing the mood. For the Serbian protests are not only about tactics to fight the virus, but also about politics.

Due to the epidemic in Serbia, the elections scheduled for 26 April were cancelled. They were held on 21 June, when, according to the authorities, the epidemic was already under complete control thanks to very strict restrictions, and the number of new cases did not exceed 100 per day. The Serbian Progressive Party, the conservative formation of President Vucic, won the election with a low turnout of 49%. The opposition boycotted the vote, claiming that Vucic was using the epidemic to maintain power.

A week after the elections, it emerged that the number of new infections had doubled. Two weeks later, the authorities began to consider closing Belgrade, and intensive care units in the capital began to run out of ventilators. Yesterday, more than 350 infected people arrived.

People sense great manipulation in this, accusing the authorities of falsifying statistics and using the epidemic to consolidate power and shut up the opposition. The opposition blames the President for the situation. During a demonstration outside parliament, people shouted demands for him to resign. The issue of the credibility of the authorities is compounded by the economic crisis caused by the epidemic. There is growing frustration in Serbian society, which was impoverished even before the outbreak of the pandemic, and the ruling conservatives are being blamed for the problems.

Vucić initially claimed that the protests were inspired by "foreign countries" and aimed at obstructing Belgrade's ongoing talks with Kosovo. After warnings from the ***European*** Commission, which through a spokeswoman expressed "concern" about police brutality in Belgrade, Vucić backtracked on his lockdown announcement. However, the restriction of shops and restaurants and the banning of gatherings have been ordered. So far, this has not calmed the situation.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (74%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Medicine + Health (71%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (74%)

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

**End of Document**

[***"Lennon's 'Imagine' a pro-Soviet song? The Italian right wing in the culture war***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R034-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 739 words

**Byline:** Gino Castaldo, La Repubblica

**Highlight:** a song with a utopian vision of the future that anyone could sing. This is what John Lennon was thinking about when he wrote 'Imagine' in the early 1970s. Italian League MP Susanna Ceccardi suggests he was thinking more about the Soviet Union.

**Body**

Try to imagine John Lennon's 'Imagine' as a piece of pro-Soviet propaganda... No, but no, you'd better not. It's a thought too repulsive to be allowed in at all. Take the song for what it is: a slightly over-sweetened revolutionary mantra rightly considered part of the heritage of all mankind, like the Grand Canyon, the Sistine Chapel or Bach's Goldberg Variations.

That is something that Susanna Ceccardi, a member of the Salvini League, should think about when she suggests that the world referred to in Lennon's song is the Soviet Union. Alternatively, we could suggest to her that, yes, there is a post-Beatles song with 'Communist' sympathies - it is called 'Power to the people' and Lennon recorded it, so to speak, with his fist raised and clenched.

But not "Imagine." When Lennon wrote it, the Soviet regime was the last thing on his mind. He wanted to create a song that "everyone could sing" and that was relevant to any era. A song that would give a positive vision of the future, a utopia, not the nightmarish dystopia of Orwell. A vision of the world in which there is no religion, no borders between countries, no lust for possessions, nothing in the name of which people would kill or use violence, nothing that would justify the oppression of one person by another.

The first inspiration, by the way, were the rhymes that Yoko Ono wrote to reassure her younger brother during the bombings of World War II. Imagine this... imagine that... Imagine a better world, so that you don't see the horrors, so that you reject the ugliness, the injustice, the violence.

It is no coincidence that this song was banned in the Soviet Union; it was feared in the same way as all songs that extolled freedom.

The only ones who believed that Lennon had Soviet Russia in mind are - apart from Susanna Ceccardi - probably only the FBI officers of the early 1970s, when it subjected all artists who showed insufficient respect for the establishment to special surveillance.

In a sense, Lennon was indeed a subversive, but completely devoid of ideological motives. He was an artist and he behaved like an artist, he changed his mind, he sympathised with whoever he felt like, sometimes even with radical movements, but above all he was a pacifist. In fact, he was one of the greatest peace fighters of the modern era, and "Imagine" was the anthem of his worldview.

On one point, the song is unequivocal: it speaks of a world without religion. And it wasn't even about the idea of God for Lennon. As he later explained, he was fighting against organised cults and rigid denominations that restrict people's freedom of faith rather than defending it.

It happened that some people misunderstood the meaning of this song and it had almost comical effects. Convinced that he was doing something good and right, the popular singer Gianni Morandi sang it in front of John Paul II himself during a great meeting with the faithful in September 1997 near Bologna. It was undoubtedly an affront, albeit completely unintentional - but nobody noticed, or perhaps nobody wanted to make matters worse.

Italian versions of 'Imagine' are, by the way, a separate story, thankfully little known. There is even an Italian translation by Paolo Limiti, in which all these problems disappear, and in the refrain the words "you may think I'm a dreamer" are replaced by lyrics about love: "when my heart is broken, stay with me at least you". This has been sung by Ornella Vanoni and the duo Wess & Dori Ghezzi, among others. More faithful to the spirit of the original is Gina Paoli's version, but instead of "no possessions" (no possessions) he speaks of "universal brotherhood". He does not, however, omit "a world without religion and without borders".

So our duty is rather to defend the integrity of the text, just as we do with works of art in a museum. No one would dare touch the Mona Lisa. Avoid this mistake with the canonical songs of the 20th century as well.

translation. Bartosz Hlebowicz

Gino Castaldo, a critic and music historian who collaborates with "La Repubblica", is the author of many books on 20th century music. (on the Beatles, among others). Susanna Ceccardi was the mayor of Cascina in Tuscany until 2019 and is now a ***MEP*** for the right-wing League. She has built a career on anti-immigration slogans. On 4 July, she called Lennon's song a "Marxist song" on television, claiming that the country that met the "criteria" from Lennon's song was the Soviet Union.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (75%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Human Rights Violations (63%); Torture (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (74%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Free to hate. This is a pillar of the Duda and PiS programme***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B7-2J61-JCVT-R03Y-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 10, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 364 words

**Byline:** Marek Beylin

**Highlight:** What did we learn from the campaign? Well, that PiS's most important message for the future is: it's okay to hate.

**Body**

Hate LGBT people - this is what Andrzej Duda's homophobia has boiled down to. The result is a sudden increase in violence against these people, more beatings, more name-calling in the streets, more of their justified fear.

Hate the kids if they have their own opinions and are active in the Climate Strike, for example. After all, Duda condoned these kids being jerked around, spat on, harassed and called names at his rallies.

Hate women who want equal rights. This is what the campaign against 'gender' being waged jointly by the Law and Justice Party and the Church amounts to.

Hate the Jews, because they want to rob Poles of their money. Even in March 1968 the Communist regime did not propagate anti-Semitism so openly.

Hate the Germans and ***the European*** Union because they want to rule the Poles, to bring occupation here. That much is clear from the speeches of Duda and Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

Hate the free media, because they do not act to our liking, that is, against Poland's interests. And we will do away with them - the Law and Justice Party (PiS) gets so drunk with such announcements.

Above all, hate Rafał Trzaskowski and his voters, because they want to push the poor into even greater poverty and make Poland into a colony of Germany and the West. And destroy Polish traditions.

This PiS programme - you are allowed to hate - ignites aggression and violence among a section of society. This is, of course, a minority, but it is this minority which, by committing acts of violence against all those individuals and circles branded by the authorities, is to terrorise and silence the majority of Polish women and men. This aggressive and beating minority is to function as the storm troops of the party. Only that formally it does not belong to PiS, so the authorities can say: it is not us, it is the spontaneous anger of the people.

However, it is a spontaneity carefully directed.

The basic duty of normal states is to protect their citizens from savage violence. The state of PiS and Duda, on the contrary, makes this violence a pillar of its power.

Some voters are still hesitant to vote for Trzaskowski, thinking that it is only a choice of the "lesser evil". But this is false reasoning. It is rather worth asking who brings more good. And Duda and PiS bring us mainly hatred meant to regulate the lives of each and every one of us.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Industry:** Traveler Safety + Security (71%); Professional Services (69%); Harbors + Ports (64%); Mining + Extraction (64%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Europe is saving itself. But will it make it?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F18B-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 1149 words

**Byline:** Philippe Legrain

**Highlight:** The greatest benefit of the reconstruction fund is political. The EU is showing that it can come to the aid of ***Europeans*** when they need it most. It is an effective antidote to anti-EU sentiment and a Band-Aid to crisis-induced anger.

**Body**

Philippe Legrain - former economic advisor to ***the*** head of the ***European*** Commission, visiting professor at the ***European*** Institute at the London School of Economics and author of "***European*** Spring: Why Our Economies and Politics Are in a Mess - and How to Put Them Right"

Project Syndicate, 2020, [*www.project-syndicate.org*](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

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After four days and four nights of tough negotiations and many painful compromises, ***European*** leaders have reached agreement on a landmark ***€750*** billion reconstruction fund.

The agreement - an expression of solidarity with Italy, Spain and other countries still suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 crisis - is a major step forward for the Union. Despite this, it does not solve the ***eurozone'***s deepest problems.

The pandemic has strained the monetary union on an unprecedented scale. Although all countries have been affected, some have suffered more than others. Italy, France and Spain recorded the highest number of deaths and experienced the deepest recession, while the tourism-dependent south of ***Europe*** continues to struggle with a lack of visitors.

Worse still, while public debt is rising throughout the ***eurozone***, in many countries of the South it is reaching dangerously high levels - particularly in Italy. Italians - and with good reason - feel aggrieved and claim that, in the initial phase of the epidemic, the people of northern ***Europe*** blamed them for their plight more than they offered help. Even the country's pro-European politicians, starting with President Sergio Mattarella, felt they had no support from the ***EU at the*** height of the crisis.

It is fair to say that German Chancellor Angela Merkel has understood the gravity of the situation. In May, together with French President Emmanuel Macron, she proposed a ***€500*** billion reconstruction fund, which would be financed by EU bonds and would go in the form of grants to the most affected regions and sectors. The ***European*** Commission seized on this proposal, increasing the sum to ***€750*** billion and adding loans to the package.

The agreement that ***European*** leaders announced after a sleepless night on the morning of 21 July is significant for several reasons.

Although from the outset it was expected that the Union would finally approve some kind of deal, there were fears that negotiations would drag on until the end of the year, deepening internal divisions and diverting attention from other problems. Reaching agreement before a possible next lockdown is in itself a significant success.

Moreover, the deal includes many of the positives proposed by Merkel and Macron, notably the ***€390*** billion in EU subsidies (with few commitments).

The four richer northern ***European*** countries, led by the Netherlands, insisted that ***the EU should*** only agree to lend money on condition that the beneficiaries implemented ***EU-dictated*** reforms (and, in addition, that each country should have a veto over the provision of such aid). But such patronising treatment - reminiscent of the attitude towards Greece a decade ago - was unacceptable to Southern ***European*** countries.

Moreover, even given the exceptionally low interest rates on the loans - which ***the EU*** owes, among other things, to the ***European*** Central Bank, which has launched a ***€1***.35 trillion pandemic emergency asset purchase programme - the EU loans would be of little help. If anything, they would only exacerbate concerns about the debt sustainability of some countries, notably Italy, where public debt is expected to rise to more than 160 percent of GDP next year.

From an economic perspective, the ***€390*** billion in subsidies over the next three years will provide a significant boost to EU countries. ***The European*** Commission expects the ***EU*** economy to contract by nearly 8 percent this year, to ***€12***.8 trillion. As such, subsidies from the reconstruction fund would be equivalent to 3 percent of EU GDP or 1 percent of GDP for each year. Assuming the Italian economy shrinks by 10% this year, the ***€82*** billion allocated to the country would be equivalent to 5% of GDP. The EU subsidies - although much smaller than the national fiscal stimulus packages - are a significant help, supporting the ***European*** Central Bank's rescue programme.

However, the greatest benefit of the reconstruction fund is political. ***The European Union is*** showing that it can come to the aid of ***Europeans when they*** need it most. It is a very effective antidote to anti-EU sentiment and a Band-Aid to the anger caused by the crisis.

Institutionally, the agreed deal is a major victory for the ***European*** Commission, which was often overlooked during the 2010-12 ***eurozone*** crisis.

It is the Commission that will borrow ***€750*** billion to fund the fund and direct grants and loans from the ***EU*** budget it manages. Given the need to repay debt after 2027, the Commission will also oversee the search for new sources of ***EU*** revenue, such as a tax on digital services or carbon duties.

The downside is that, because the reconstruction fund was being worked out as part of wider negotiations on the ***EU*** budget for 2021-27, the agreement required regrettable compromises. Before the pandemic, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's flagship initiative was the Green Deal to tackle climate change. Now funding for the energy transition has been cut.

Another challenge for the Union is the growing authoritarian tendencies. Illiberal authorities, such as the government of Viktor Orbán in Hungary, continue to violate the rule of law with impunity, using EU cohesion funds for their own ends.

For this reason, one of Merkel's main priorities was to link future ***EU*** funding to respect for the rule of law. Unfortunately, these plans also fell through, presumably to prevent a possible veto from Orbán (which could only be an empty threat anyway, as Hungary is one of the main beneficiaries of EU funds).

With Brexit also came the chance to do away with country-specific budget privileges, which were first won for the UK by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s, and later obtained by other net contributors. Privileges made certain countries less willing to contribute to a common budget and demanded a "zero balance", which undermined ***European*** solidarity. But instead of reducing privileges, the new budget bribes the de facto claimant Dutch, Austrians, Swedes and Danes with even more concessions.

After the ***eurozone*** crisis of 2010-12, philanthropist George Soros pointed out that Merkel always does enough to keep ***the euro going***, "but no more". His words have been confirmed once again.

The Recovery Fund is a welcome step forward. However, it does not solve the fundamental problems of the ***eurozone***, such as Italy's unsustainable debt dynamics, Germany's deflationary stance and the lack of a fiscal rebalancing mechanism. The ***eurozone*** has avoided the final blow, but it remains an easy target.

Translated by Maciej Orłowski

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); ***European Union*** (67%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (67%); Investigations (65%); Recession (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (89%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (69%)

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Conference on the climate in Fr Rydzyk's school. Minister Woś misstated the truth several times***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F19T-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 1181 words

**Byline:** past

**Highlight:** China is not withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, Poland did not receive a "climate rebate" from the EU, and there are no "question marks" regarding human impact on climate change. These are just some of the issues on which Environment Minister Michal Woś was wrong during his speech at the Higher School of Social and Media Culture in Toruń.

**Body**

Solidarna Polska politicians - led by environment minister Michał Woś - took part on Friday in a conference at Father Tadeusz Rydzyk's university entitled "The European Green Deal and Poland's interest". On Friday, they took part in a conference organised at Tadeusz Rydzyk University entitled "The ***European*** Green Deal and the Polish Interest". Participants discussed what they believed to be the causes and effects of the ***European*** fight against climate change, including the Green Deal. The Minister for the Environment, in his speech, was wrong several times.

The first to speak was Father Rydzyk, who said that "once upon a time our fathers shed their blood so that we could be free," and now "they are conquering us in a different way," which "can be seen with the naked eye, unless someone is blind or completely without reason. Afterwards, Krystyna Szyszko, widow of Environment Minister Jan Szyszko, read out a statement written by her husband before his death on the "carbon sequestration of Polish forests". Szyszko stated that the Green Deal "has nothing to do with climate protection", but is "a hard-fought battle for interests".

Environment Minister Michal Woś spoke next. He began by saying that certain things in the Green Deal could "arouse concern" and it was necessary to talk about the "threats" associated with it. - We need to put a question mark - what is in the Polish interest, and where can we find other interests - he said.

The minister first got past the truth when talking about the Paris Agreement. He stated that "recently the US and China have withdrawn from it". While the US is indeed in the process of withdrawing from the agreement (but this process is ongoing and the US will formally be out of the agreement from November), China is not withdrawing from it and has not announced such a move. Assessing whether [*Beijing's actions are sufficient*](https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/china/) is a separate issue - but there is no question of China withdrawing from the agreement.

He went on to say that in the Paris Agreement, countries committed to "achieving climate neutrality in the second half of the 21st century". - So all countries are adopting which year? 2099 - the minister added. There is indeed such a provision in the text of the agreement. However, the overriding goal is, as stated in Article 2, to limit global warming to "well below 2 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era". According to current scientific knowledge, the world should reach climate neutrality around 2050 if it is to have any chance of achieving this objective, and it is not true that 'all countries' thought that this could be 2099. Although this is theoretically an acceptable date according to the text of the agreement, it is contrary to its spirit and overarching objective.

The environment minister then referred to an earlier statement by Krystyna Szyszko. She said at one point that on the issue of carbon dioxide's impact on the climate "there are hundreds of theories, nobody has confirmed it". - There are various theories about the impact of carbon dioxide. Most scientists agree that it is there and that it somehow affects climate change. Whether it is mainly anthropogenic factors, originating from man - some put a question mark - said Woś.

This representation of the scientific consensus on the causes of climate change is not consistent with reality. All serious climate-related institutions and almost all climate scientists [*agree*](https://naukaoklimacie.pl/fakty-i-mity/mit-nauka-nie-jest-zgodna-w-temacie-globalnego-ocieplenia-7) not only that the climate is changing, but also that human-induced greenhouse gases, above all carbon dioxide, are the cause. The portal [*naukaoklimacie.pl*](https://naukaoklimacie.pl/fakty-i-mity/mit-nie-ma-empirycznych-dowodow-na-antropogenicznosc-globalnego-ocieplenia-41) writes:

Greenhouse gases cause the warming, and today it is man who is increasing their content in the atmosphere. This is evidenced by independent measurements from the Earth and from space, in the atmosphere and in the oceans, at weather stations and in laboratories.

Minister Woś touched upon the "brilliant" role of Polish forests in absorbing carbon dioxide. - Other countries are envious of our forest model, carbon farms and the fact that forests absorb carbon dioxide - he said. It is difficult to verify the thesis of whether other countries "envy" us forests because of their role in combating climate change. But if we look at the hard data, their role, while important, is not unique compared to other countries.

As described by the [*naukadlaprzyrody.pl*](https://naukadlaprzyrody.pl/2017/06/19/mit-polska-jest-liderem-zalesiania/) portal, Poland's forest cover (i.e. the percentage of land area covered by forests) is just over 30 percent, a figure close to the global average and slightly below the ***European*** average. As for their role in absorbing carbon dioxide: [*Polish forests absorb a*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,174372,25317728,paradoks-lasow-drzewa-nie-starcza-by-uratowac-klimat-ale.html) total of around 30 million tonnes of CO2, so only around 7% of our national emissions. For comparison, the Bełchatów power station alone emits 38 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. So all the forests in Poland are not capable of offsetting the effects of just this one power station. Forests alone will not give us climate neutrality, and it is more important not to lead to deforestation, which means carbon emissions rather than absorption.

Minister Woś moved on to report on the findings of the ***EU*** summit in December 2019, where climate neutrality was agreed. - We achieved there, we can say, the so-called Polish rebate. (...) A decision was made that we agree that the ***European Union*** as a whole should achieve climate neutrality in 2050, but - and it is specifically in the conclusions - one of the countries is not able to achieve this neutrality in 2050 due to its historical complexities,' he said.

Contrary to what Woś said (and what other politicians from the ruling camp are repeating), Poland did not receive a 'climate rebate' at all, and the aforementioned clause from the summit's conclusions says something completely different. What is it like in reality? Poland agreed to accept the summit's conclusions (i.e. the declaration signed at its end), which state that the ***European*** Council supports the ***EU*** achieving climate neutrality by 2050. All that was added was that "one member state, at this stage, cannot commit to implementing this target and the ***European*** Council will return to this in June 2020".

So the conclusions do not give permission to delay achieving climate neutrality at all, only more time to think about it. The deadline was delayed before the epidemic, but the matter is by no means over. And if Poland sticks to its guns and does not declare a target for 2050, it could cost us. As agreed at the last ***EU*** summit, countries that have not committed to the Union's goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 will only have access to 50% of the Fair Transition Fund.

Later in the speech, the environment minister criticised the ***European*** emissions trading system for, among other things, the rising price of emission rights. Meanwhile, [*the Climate Ministry*](https://www.gov.pl/web/klimat/korzysci-z-unijnego-system-handlu-uprawnieniami-do-emisji) in April wrote about... benefits for Poland from this system. The Climate Ministry admits that "in its current form, the system does not work fully effectively", but among other things due to the fact that it "does not generate sufficient funds". However, "since the beginning of the auctioning of emission allowances, the state budget has received about 20.5 billion zlotys" and "without these revenues, it would not be possible to finance programmes such as 'My Current' or low-emission transport programmes.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (69%); Human Rights Violations (63%); Terrorist Organizations (62%)

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

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Head of the European Council European Council: The clauses linking funds to the rule of law are very clear***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F187-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 778 words

**Byline:** Tomasz Bielecki, Brussels

**Highlight:** - And we solved the problem of Poland's climate neutrality target with a budget settlement, says Charles Michel, President of the ***European*** Council.

**Body**

Immediately after the summit, there were conflicting interpretations of the provisions linking the budget to the rule of law. Is this the result of the ambiguity of the provisions, which was necessary for agreement?

- I invite you to read this document. After all, the text is very clear. It says that a system of conditionality will be introduced to protect the Union budget and the Reconstruction Fund.

And that in this context the ***European*** Commission will propose measures on infringements to be adopted by the ***EU*** Council by qualified majority. And that the ***European*** Council will swiftly return to this issue.

Let us see what the institutional situation is in the Union. Our job in the ***European*** Council is to hold political debates at the highest level. I am pleased that at the summit last weekend, we had the opportunity for the first time to have such a frank debate about the rule of law. This is a very important subject, so I think we will come back to this issue in the ***European*** Council in the near future.

But we did not change the EU Treaties at the last summit and we know how the ordinary legislative process works in the ***EU***.

Thus: "the ***European*** Council will return to this issue" - is this an announcement of a political discussion, and not an additional requirement for a unanimous decision imposed on the ordinary legislative process when passing specific legislation on the link between the budget and the rule of law? I ask this because this wording is now being discussed in great detail in Poland.

- Discussions at the level of the ***European*** Council may, on some difficult subjects, help the legislative process. But it will remain and proceed within its ordinary legal framework.

Prime Minister Morawiecki at the summit did not declare anything new about Polish commitments on climate neutrality. And yet you argue that agreement on a new financial package solves the issue. In what way?

- In December 2019, we declared the goal of climate neutrality in 2050, and a kind of return clause on this topic for Poland did not prevent the entire Union from making a common commitment. The debate from December to our last summit revolved around the question of whether more money should be mobilised to provide greater support for certain countries in the energy transition. And that is the money we mobilised. In December there was ***EUR*** 0 billion for a yet-to-be-declared project of the Just Transition Fund, and now we have decided that ***EUR*** 17.5 billion will go into this fund.

At the summit we reaffirmed our shared ambition for 2050 and decided that as much as 30% of the budget and the Reconstruction Fund are to be spent on the Union's fight against the climate crisis, which is the objective of neutrality in 2050, and we also decided that in future we will give more money to those countries that want to move towards neutrality.

Was Dutch Prime Minister Marc Rutte at the 'Mister No' summit? After Angela Merkel leaves next year, it will be Rutte and ***the eurosceptic*** Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán who will be the longest-serving members of the ***European*** Council. Does that not worry you?

- No. The Netherlands started the negotiations from a position of not agreeing to any subsidies from the Reconstruction Fund, and ended up with 390 billion ***euros in subsidies***. It was clear from the outset that for a group of "thrifty" countries the only way to accept the idea of subsidies was to obtain an assurance that this money would finance appropriate reforms in individual EU countries. That is why the dispute over management of the Reconstruction Fund even had to be one of the most difficult topics at the summit.

Defending the interests of one's country is a legitimate action within the Union. However, during the debates I have not once heard the leader of a country that is a net contributor say that he no longer wishes to be a net contributor.

Of course, the dispute was about money management and the scale of this 'net'. Rutte is a very good negotiator. It is no secret that we are close friends, which helped in the negotiations. This does not mean that there are no hard disputes, but mutual trust makes the negotiations easier.

What will happen if the ***European*** Parliament finally rejects the new ***EU*** budget?

- I am transferring the Belgian method to ***EU*** work - not to deal with problems that do not yet exist and may not exist, because we have enough existing problems to work on.

Is the joint indebtedness of the Union in the markets in order to have money for the Reconstruction Fund a step towards deeper integration? Because it is better not to use the politically tainted term "federalisation"...

- In the ***European*** Parliament, I have resorted to more romantic language. This long joint commitment and effort for economic and social transformation that we made at the summit is what I call an EU renewal of marriage promises.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (73%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%)

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Journalists from around the world stand in solidarity with the reporters of the Index service, which the Hungarian government wants to take over***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F199-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 689 words

**Byline:** Michał Kokot

**Highlight:** Friday's demonstration in defence of media independence in Hungary was covered by major world media. Human Rights Watch calls on the ***European*** Commission to strongly defend Hungarian editors.

**Body**

According to the organisers, between 5,000 and 10,000 people took part in the evening demonstration in Budapest on 24 July. It was covered by the BBC, Guardian, Associated Press and Reuters, among others. Protests against the further takeover of independent media by the government were organised by the opposition Momentum party. It was joined by other opposition groups, including the Democratic Coalition and Jobbik.

The protest was sparked by the dismissal on Wednesday of Szabolcs Dull, editor-in-chief of the largest news portal Index. Dull was dismissed for having publicly warned a month ago that the site he was heading could soon lose its independence and be taken over by people in power. On Friday, a further 80 people were made redundant from the editorial team (the number is now close to 90).

The AP news agency, reporting on Friday's protest, quotes Balazs Gulyas, a columnist for the weekly "Magyar Hang", as saying that the pacification of free media is just one part of Viktor Orban's consolidation of power. - Before that, they devoured local governments, universities, the Academy of Sciences and as a result they will slowly but surely devour the whole country, Gulyas said.

Index is one of the last independent media in Hungary. Before Dull received his dismissal, he warned that under the pretext of austerity, people in power wanted to gain influence over the content published by the portal. The portal is financially dependent on the Indamedia company, which has exclusive rights to sell Index advertising. Meanwhile, since March, the head of Indamedia has been Miklós Vaszily, known for his takeovers of other private media, which then became the government's propaganda mouthpiece (such as TV2).

Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto claimed on Thursday that everything that happens around the Index is an internal business process and it would be absurd to claim that the government has any influence on it.

However, this is exactly the same way the Hungarian government has explained takeovers of private media in the past by oligarchs linked to the ruling Fidesz. The BBC recalls past takeovers of private editorial offices by businessmen linked to people in power, such as the Origo portal, and the closure of the largest opposition newspaper Nepszabadsag in 2016.

On Friday, Hungarian media published a photo of Miklós Vaszily with Maria Schmidt, one of Orban's most important advisers, as they spent the afternoon together in a Budapest restaurant. Schmidt took over the weekly Figeylo a few years ago, which then became the propaganda organ of the Fidesz government. Today the title no longer belongs to her. It has been handed over - like nearly five hundred others - to the KESMA foundation controlled by Fidesz people. KESMA decides on the content of the media owned by the foundation and distributes state advertising among them.

"Like other independent media, Index has also been economically stifled (...). The government has stripped Index and other critical editors of government advertising and created pressure on private advertisers not to place their ads there," - writes Scott Griffen, deputy director of the International Press Institute, which brings together more than 120 editors (including Gazeta Wyborcza).

Solidarity with the Hungarian editors of the Index has also been expressed by the ***European*** Federation of Journalists: - There is no doubt that fundamental rights are not guaranteed in Hungary. The abolition of media pluralism no longer gives citizens access to independent and reliable information. ***The European Union*** cannot remain passive in the face of such worrying symptoms", said Mogens Blicher Bjerregård, President of the ***European*** Federation of Journalists.

Lydia Gall of Human Rights Watch is also calling on the ***European*** Commission to act decisively, recalling that Vera Jourova, its vice-president in charge of the rule of law in the ***EU***, criticised attempts to limit the independence of the Index in early July.

- Jourova should turn her words into action, and if the ***European*** Commission is serious about protecting common values in member states, it should step up its efforts to ensure that Hungarian journalists have conditions where they can do their work without political pressure, Gall said.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (88%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Human Rights Violations (71%); Arms Control + Disarmament (65%); Weapons + Arms (65%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

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**End of Document**

[***Hong Kong's last governor: Dialogue with China yes, but not on Chinese terms***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F180-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 1269 words

**Byline:** Stefanie Bolzen, Die Welt

**Highlight:** 'Angela Merkel knows what a police state is'. Chris Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong, urges ***Europe*** and Germany not to be intimidated by China.

**Body**

China is the number one topic today. From his home in Oxford, Chris Patten talks to a group of ***European*** journalists about the Chinese service Zoom. For 17 years he has been chancellor of Britain's top university, where Chinese make up the largest group of foreign students after Americans. Like few others, this 76-year-old politician knows the shared history of China and ***Europe***. He was the last British governor of Hong Kong, until 1997, when that part of the British colony was handed over to Beijing. As ***an EU*** Commissioner he was responsible for Brussels' international policy from 1999 to 2004. Since 2005 he has sat in the British House of Lords.

On 1 July, 23 years ago, Hong Kong came under Beijing's control. In retrospect, do you think the British government should have acted differently to prevent what is happening to the city today?

- We wanted to believe in the 'one country, two systems' concept, which was to last 50 years. But even then, there was a fierce debate in our Foreign Office about whether the Chinese could be trusted. At the time, a leading sinologist used to say that, although the Chinese were ruthless dictators, they could keep their word. Many of us, however, were sceptical, and we hesitated to put up even bigger security walls around Hong Kong.

When did you realise that China was not keeping its word?

- A difficult period came in 2003, when Beijing first tried to introduce a law in Hong Kong tightening security policy. But overall, attempts at Chinese intervention remained limited for a long time. Since last year, however, Hong Kong has fallen victim to increasingly tight control, which began when dictator Xi Jinping secured virtually life-long power. This is because the Communist Party is increasingly convinced that it is in danger of losing control due to globalisation, the growth of the internet and the increasing urbanisation of China, which is linked to the rise of a conscious middle class.

How should the West react in this situation?

- On the one hand, Hong Kong is a role model because it has all the elements of a liberal democracy. It consists of the rule of law, freedom of speech, a strong civil society and independent education. That is why the Communist Party sees this free city as a threat to its model of power.

Hong Kong, on the other hand, is a glaring example of how Beijing does not keep its word. This also applies to many other issues. As ***an EU*** Commissioner, I watched China join the World Trade Organisation. Since then, China has demonstrably violated WTO rules time and again.

The dispute over Hong Kong is therefore representative of the fundamental intellectual conflict of the 21st century, in which liberal democracy and autocracy clash. This is not a question of hostility towards China. It is about having the courage to take up a dispute with the Chinese Communist Party.

Should Angela Merkel seek confrontation rather than seek dialogue?

- I am always in favour of dialogue, but it cannot be on China's terms. Someone influential recently told me that this is the wrong moment to start fighting with Beijing. But we are not doing that. Nobody wants to mess with the Chinese, neither in India nor in the South China Sea. Japan, Australia, Canada, South Korea do not want conflict. But bad behaviour must have consequences.

I think it would be very unfair to say that the German Chancellor does not know what an enslaved society means. She herself grew up in one, in the GDR, worked for freedom and succeeded in bringing it about. She knows the difference between a police state, a state with a pervasive secret service, and an open and free country.

But Germany has great economic interests in China.

- Let us look at Hong Kong. There, all the factors of its economic attractiveness are concentrated in one place: free flow of capital, low taxes, rule of law, free access to information. If even some of these are eliminated, it will be much harder to sustain this city as a functioning global financial centre.

I therefore hope that the Chancellor will both listen to German industry and appreciate reports of Chinese violations of WTO rules.

I do not think that Chinese consumers are more inclined to buy German cars because the Germans are silent about the inhumane treatment of the Uighurs or the tightening of the screw on Hong Kong. It should be absolutely possible to conduct a mature dialogue without grovelling to the other side.

However, in confronting Beijing, Merkel must also consider the position of other ***EU*** members, and some have very close ties with China.

- Indeed. And this raises fundamental questions about the ***European*** Union. I say this as someone who regards Brexit as the most incredible act of self-harm. When I was a ***European*** Commissioner, the then President of the Commission, Romano Prodi, spoke of ***Europe*** not as a market for goods but as a community of values. Where have these values gone in Poland and Hungary? Where, when the Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, denigrates the ***EU*** from Monday to Friday, and at the weekend, he collects another cheque from the ***EU***?

However, some ***EU*** countries are grateful for Chinese investment.

- When Beijing took over the Greek port of Piraeus a few years ago, the Chinese company was six times more indebted than the Greek company that was previously in charge of it. What China is doing with the 'new Silk Road' initiative is exporting credit and debt to other countries. Do we think Hungary will have to pay its debts to China at some point? Of course, just like Italy, for example.

I am all for cooperation. But if China's ultimate goal is the disintegration of the ***EU*** as a community of values, this will mean irreparable damage to a ***Europe that*** is not just about doing business. That is why, especially during the pandemic crisis, my sympathy goes to those who do not allow support for countries that violate the rule of law and suppress free media.

The British government is now setting its sights on confronting China, including by banning the telecommunications company Huawei. Is this the right way to go?

- Of course the UK would be in a much better position if it were still a member of the ***EU*** and could jointly create a dialogue with China in the 21st century. I am glad that London has taken clear action, but alone we are in a much weaker position. We Brits think we are unusual and powerful outside the ***EU***. What a pernicious illusion that is!

As for Huawei: it is no ordinary commercial company. When Xi Jinping tells Huawei's chairman "Jump on the head!", then Huawei's boss can only reply, "From what height? Three metres, six metres?". I hope Nokia and Eriksson can help us build an alternative to them.

Does this UK move hurt Huawei?

- It will only worry the company if it turns out that others will follow the British example too. In any case, ***Europeans*** should follow Britain's example and refrain from having their companies and markets taken over by China. There is no fair competition there. Has a German company ever been allowed to take over a Chinese company? I remember when human rights activist Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. Beijing immediately threatened to boycott Norway, whose main export to China is salmon. What has happened? Norwegian salmon exports to Vietnam have risen sharply, as have exports from Vietnam to China. We should not allow ourselves to be intimidated by Beijing. Beijing does not have strong enough cards.

translation. Michal Kokot

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (68%); Human Rights Violations (64%); Film (63%); Terrorist Organizations (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (78%); Harbors + Ports (63%); Mining + Extraction (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***125 billion euros for Poland and a 50 gr levy on sweetened drinks***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F6-N1W1-JCVT-R031-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 549 words

**Byline:** Katarzyna Jaklewicz

**Highlight:** Poland has negotiated 125 billion from the new ***EU*** budget. Unemployment rose year-on-year and Millennium Bank's profit fell dramatically. We recap the week in figures.

**Body**

Poland has negotiated so many grants from the Reconstruction Fund and the new seven-year ***EU*** budget.

***European*** Council chief Charles Michel on Tuesday announced a deal at a budget summit that had dragged on in Brussels since Friday 17 July. ***EU*** leaders agreed on a Reconstruction Fund worth ***€750*** billion over the next three to four years and ***€1***.074 trillion in grants from the seven-year budget for 2021-27. The principle of money for the rule of law remained, albeit in a watered-down version.

[*We describe*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26146444,jest-zgoda-na-szczycie-budzetowym-ue-ile-pieniedzy-dla-polski.html) the summit and the negotiations in detail [*in this text.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26146444,jest-zgoda-na-szczycie-budzetowym-ue-ile-pieniedzy-dla-polski.html)

This is how much the Bank Millennium Group's net profit decreased in H1 2020 compared to the same period of the year, and this despite the acquisition of ***Euro*** Bank. Bank Millennium has opened the reporting season in Poland for the first half of 2020. The bank's financial results are bad, but not as bad as analysts expected. But the whole banking sector is in for another difficult quarter. [*We write more about the condition of Polish banks here*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,26154154,zysk-banku-millennium-spadl-o-prawie-80-proc-110-oddzialow.html).

This will be a fixed charge per litre of beverage containing sugar or sweetener. For energy drinks, it will be an additional 10 gr for each litre of such drink. The variable charge will be 5 gr for each gram of sugar exceeding 5 grams per 100 ml per litre of beverage. These are the assumptions of the draft sugar levy, which aims to cover sweetened and energy drinks.

At Wednesday's session, the Sejm was to once again deal with the adoption of a sugar tax, which the government had already proposed in February. However, after the Senate's veto in March, the draft was sent to the Sejm's "freezer". Details of the draft are [*described in this text*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,26150460,powraca-podatek-cukrowy-rzad-chce-go-wreszcie-wprowadzic.html).

Every tenth Ukrainian is able to survive in Poland for this amount or less per month. The latest CSO data shows that in the first quarter of 2020. Ukrainians spent in Poland nearly PLN 1.48 billion. This is more than 100 million zlotys less than a year earlier and at the same time the least for three years. This is bad news, because workers from the East accounted for 11 percent of Polish economic growth over the past five years, spending PLN 8 billion annually on consumption. The coronavirus pandemic and the associated uncertainty in the labour market are responsible for the sudden halt in spending. In many cases, Ukrainian citizens were the first to be pushed out of work, made redundant or had their earning capacity restricted. [*We write in detail*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,26132590,co-dziesiaty-ukrainiec-jest-w-stanie-przezyc-w-polsce-za-mniej.html) about how Ukrainians fared in Poland during the coronavirus pandemic [*in this text*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,26132590,co-dziesiaty-ukrainiec-jest-w-stanie-przezyc-w-polsce-za-mniej.html).

This was the rate of unemployment in June, according to the Central Statistical Office. In comparison with May this year registered unemployment increased by 0.1 percentage points.

Currently we have 1 million and 26 thousand unemployed people registered in labour offices in Poland. This is 14.8 thousand more than in May and 149 thousand more than in June last year. The unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points on a monthly basis and by 0.8 percentage points on an annual basis. [*We describe the details in this text*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,26152605,gus-podal-stope-bezrobocia-jest-lepiej-niz-sie-spodziewano.html).

This is how much another coal storage facility of the Polish Mining Group will cost. Although the demand for coal is decreasing and prices are falling, millions of tons of coal are still stored on stockpiles, and the Central Coal Warehouse, launched at the beginning of the year, is bursting at the seams. Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Jacek Sasin is already preparing another one. In this way, after the campaign break, the government wants to pardon miners once again. [*You can read more about the details of this project*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,26152245,bedzie-kolejny-magazyn-na-wegiel-polskiej-grupy-gorniczej-za.html) here.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (77%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Espionage (65%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%); Law Courts + Tribunals (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (73%)

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EP does not accept the EU budget***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-WBT1-JBK9-24H2-00000-00&context=)

Fact Poland

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Section:** POLITICS; P. 2; No. 173

**Length:** 86 words

**Byline:** Tjak

**Body**

***The European*** Parliament on Thursday rejected the findings of Tuesday's summit on the EU budget. It was a four-day debate between ***EU*** heads of state on how to allocate funds to tackle the crisis. The European Parliament has rejected the reduction of some spending and the easing of the rules on the rule of law. They are calling for them to be tightened. The government spokesman Piotr Müller (31) believes that the resolution is not binding. He added that he hopes that there will be no formal veto by the EP.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Journal

**Journal Code:** FAK

**Subject:** Legislation (94%); ***European Union*** (93%); Children (88%); Law + Legal System (88%); Legislative Bodies (88%); Passports + Visas (82%); Alcohol Abuse + Addiction (75%); Consumption (75%); Contracts + Bids (75%); Food + Beverage Regulation + Policy (75%); Substance Abuse (75%)

**Industry:** Alcoholic Beverages (82%); Beverage Products (82%)

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Will Cimoszewicz answer for the accident?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-WBT1-JBK9-24H1-00000-00&context=)

Fact Poland

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Section:** POLITICS; P. 2; No. 173

**Length:** 96 words

**Byline:** Tjak

**Body**

Former prime minister, left-wing ***MEP*** Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz (70) is in trouble. The Regional Prosecutor's Office in Białystok has asked the ***European*** Parliament for permission to hold him criminally liable. Investigators want to charge the politician with causing an accident and fleeing from the scene. This concerns a road accident that occurred on 4 May 2019.

in Hajnówka. Cimoszewicz hit a woman on a pedestrian crossing with his car. According to the prosecutor's office, the politician did not pay attention and the woman suffered extensive injuries.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Journal

**Journal Code:** FAK

**Subject:** Awards + Prizes (87%); Families + Children (75%); Chemistry (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Mining + Extraction (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***RMF: The minister announced the denunciation of the Istanbul Convention because she "confused the messages". Ziobro took advantage of this***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F19K-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 442 words

**Byline:** past

**Highlight:** At the moment there is no decision of the government about the denunciation of the Istanbul Convention - assures the government spokesman Piotr Müller. So why Zbigniew Ziobro's announcement that a proposal on this matter has already been prepared? According to RMF FM, Ziobro took advantage of the situation after Minister Marlena Maląg... mistakenly suggested that the government was in agreement on the matter.

**Body**

A week ago, the Minister for Family, Labour and Social Policy, Marlena Maląg, announced on TV Trwam that Poland was preparing to denounce the Istanbul Convention, a Council of ***Europe*** document on preventing violence against women and domestic violence. On Friday, a [*protest against such a decision was*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26157025,rzad-chce-wypowiedziec-konwencje-antyprzemocowa-w-warszawie.html) held in front of the headquarters of Ordo Iuris, an extreme right-wing organisation that seeks the denunciation of the convention. Meanwhile, it turns out that in the government the decision on this matter... has not yet been made at all.

[*The radio RMF FM reported*](https://www.rmf24.pl/fakty/polska/news-rmf-fm-nieoficjalnie-minister-rodziny-zapowiedziala-przygoto,nId,4631442) on Saturday that, according to government spokesman Piotr Müller, the government has so far "not taken any binding decisions" on the anti-violence convention. According to a person anonymously quoted by RMF FM, minister Maląg "went ahead of the curve" and confused messages - she thought that the message of Solidarna Polska (which is clearly in favour of denouncing the convention) was the message of the whole government.

According to prominent Law and Justice politicians, Marlena Maląg thought that the fierce opposition to the convention repeated in the media by Solidarna Polska politicians, which she had often heard, was a message from the entire government that she too had to repeat. So she did, despite the fact that no new decisions had been made on the matter. A few days later, she explained that there were no binding decisions on the matter

- read on rmf24.pl

Meanwhile, the Minister of Justice, Zbigniew Ziobro, announced concrete actions on the denunciation of the Convention. He informed that [*the ministry prepared a project of a*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26158359,ziobro-mamy-projekt-wniosku-o-wypowiedzenie-konwencji-stambulskiej.html#s=BoxOpMT) motion to denounce the Istanbul Convention. According to RMF FM Ziobro used the situation created by Maląg by mistake. In the background is the dispute between Ziobro and his Solidarna Polska and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

The Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the so-called Istanbul Convention, creates a framework for legally preventing all forms of violence against women at ***European*** level. It recognises the structural nature of violence against women as gender-based violence and that violence against women is one of the basic social mechanisms through which women are pushed into a subordinate position in relation to men.

The states that ratify it are obliged, among other things, to amend the law so that the definition of sexual violence is based on the lack of consent of the victim; to ensure that the law is also applied to sexual offenders if the victims are their current or former partners; to provide protection and legal assistance to victims at every stage of criminal proceedings; to prosecute rape ex officio; and to impose an obligation to provide shelters for victims of violence.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Indictments (63%); Investigations (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Military Weapons (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%); Human Rights Violations (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (77%); Harbors + Ports (65%); Mining + Extraction (65%); Destinations + Attractions (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Thousands of Hungarians demonstrated in solidarity with journalists. "Free country, free media".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F192-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 377 words

**Byline:** dbd, past

**Highlight:** Thousands of Hungarians took to the streets in a show of solidarity with Index journalists who resigned after the sacking of their editor-in-chief. Until now, it was the largest government-independent news portal in Hungary.

**Body**

As we have already reported, on [*Friday three editors from the management of the Hungarian portal Index.hu handed in their resignations,*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26156117,wegry-60-dziennikarzy-sklada-rezygnacje-najwiekszy-niezalezny.html#a=63&c=160&s=BoxNewsLink) along with about 70 editorial staff. This is a protest after CEO Laszlo Bodolai fired the portal's editor-in-chief. Szabolcs Dull was fired on Wednesday. Index.hu was the largest news portal in Hungary independent of Viktor Orban's government.

In the short footage published by the Hungarian correspondent of the New York Times, we see crowds applauding journalists leaving the Index editorial office.

On Friday afternoon a large demonstration took place in the streets of Budapest in defence of freedom of speech and as a gesture of solidarity with the portal's employees. According to Dominik Héjj of the dotka.hu portal, between 5 000 and 10 000 people took part. The protesters marched to the office of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, where they delivered speeches on press freedom. Slogans "Free country, free media" were raised.

As described by Western media, Index had long been on the target of Orban, who called the portal a "fake news factory". The first concerns about the portal's independence emerged back in March. At the time, Miklos Vaszily, a businessman with close ties to Orban, took over a 50 percent stake in the company, which is the portal's sole advertiser. The BBC reports that Vaszily ran the pro-government TV station TV2 and played an important role in the Origo takeover.

Hungary has been steadily falling in Reporters Without Borders' press freedom ranking for years; it currently ranks 89th out of 180 countries, behind Kyrgyzstan, Albania and Sierra Leone, among others. According to the ***European*** Federation of Journalists, since 2010 the Orban government has "systematically dismantled media independence, freedom and pluralism" and has reached a level of media control "unprecedented for a member of ***the European*** Union".

The authorities do not use violence or intimidate journalists through arrests, but silence critical media through deliberate manipulation of the advertising market, the organisation describes. This is done - as in the case of Index.hu - by forcing the closure or takeover of independent media by businessmen and companies linked to the Orban government. And the "pro-government media empire" built in this way serves as a "propaganda machine for the Orban government", which helps to maintain power.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices (89%); Military Weapons (87%); Environmental + Wildlife Organizations (70%); Hazardous Waste (70%); Industrial Accidents (70%); Manufacturing Facilities (70%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Terrorist Organizations (67%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Espionage (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Commercial Property (70%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Near record of new COVID-19 cases, "Election rallies come out without masks, weddings"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F1B3-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 498 words

**Byline:** Past, IAR

**Highlight:** In Poland, the number of detected cases of COVID-19 has been increasing for several days. The Ministry of Health reports outbreaks in mines and factories, but doctors warn against disregarding the rules and large gatherings. Some countries are reinstating some restrictions, but Poland has just loosened restrictions.

**Body**

Last day, [*584 new cases of*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,173952,26158112,bardzo-duzy-wzrost-zakazen-koronawirusem-ministerstwo-zdrowia.html) coronavirus infection [*were confirmed in Poland*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,173952,26158112,bardzo-duzy-wzrost-zakazen-koronawirusem-ministerstwo-zdrowia.html), the Health Ministry said. This is the highest daily increase since the beginning of June, and only a dozen or so cases were needed to break the record. What is more, a clear upward trend in the number of detected COVID-19 cases has been visible for several days.

The Ministry of Health reported that there have been outbreaks of the virus in three mines in Silesia (KWK Bielszowice, Chwałowice and PG Silesia) and in the Małopolskie voivodship in production facilities, a meat processing plant, a nursing home and a commercial entity. No details were given as to which sites were involved.

TVN's "Fakty" reports outbreaks of the virus in a hospital in Gorzów Wielkopolski, a military hospital in Ełk and a kindergarten in Poznań. Meanwhile, from 25 July further restrictions have been loosened, including on the number of people at conferences and exhibitions, at swimming pools, the limit of people at stadiums and in cinemas.

Dr Michal Sutkowski, president of Warsaw Family Doctors, quoted by TVN, says this is a result of the crowded gatherings that are possible with the lifting of restrictions. - Things are coming out that we predicted would come out. Election rallies without masks are coming out, weddings are coming out, techno parties sprinkled on a catamaran are coming out," he assessed. It was about the [*Big Boat Party on a catamaran,*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114883,26158449,juz-17-osob-zakazonych-po-imprezie-na-katamaranie-sanepid-zlozyl.html) which was attended by more than 200 people, and a dozen people have already been confirmed infected with coronavirus.

In addition to fewer restrictions, doctors also point out the disregard for safety rules, especially the order to cover the mouth and the new indoors.

In Poland, the rules relating to the epidemic have been relaxed for the time being, but some countries - also in ***Europe*** - are reinstating some of the restrictions. For example, as of today in Italy, people arriving from Romania and Bulgaria are being quarantined because of the epidemiological situation in those countries.

From today in Belgium it is compulsory to cover the mouth and nose in crowded public places, and catering establishments must keep a register of customers. In Belgium, an increase in infections has been observed for several days. Last week, the average number of cases detected per day exceeded 200, which is 89% more than a fortnight ago.

From today, Czechs too are obliged to cover their mouths and noses indoors at events with more than 100 participants. This applies to both private and public events. The rules do not apply to visits to shops and restaurants. On the other hand, from Monday the limit of participants in events, including outdoor events, will be reduced to 500 people.

Some Czech states have individually decided to reinstate some of the restrictions. In the Moravian-Silesian country, there are limits in restaurants, rules on spacing and wearing masks are in force, and cross-border workers must present a negative PCR test for coronavirus once every fortnight. In the Liberec and Ustka states, it is compulsory to cover the mouth and nose in medical and social facilities or pharmacies.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Espionage (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%); Law Courts + Tribunals (61%)

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

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Poll: Poles do not want to denounce the Istanbul Convention. Most opponents in small towns***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F18Y-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 364 words

**Byline:** dbd

**Highlight:** When asked whether Poland should denounce the Istanbul Convention, 15 percent of respondents gave a positive answer. 62 percent of respondents are of the opposite opinion. According to the poll, the fewest supporters of Poland's withdrawal from the agreement on combating violence live in small towns and villages.

**Body**

The survey was conducted by SW Research on behalf of "[*Rzeczpospolita*](https://www.rp.pl/Polityka/200729715-Sondaz-Wypowiedzenia-konwencji-stambulskiej-chce-tylko-15-proc-ankietowanych.html)". The poll asked the question "Do you think Poland should withdraw from the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the so-called Istanbul Convention?"

A positive answer was given by 15% of the respondents, 62% are against withdrawing from the convention, 22.9% replied that they have no opinion on the matter. Przemysław Wesołowski, President of the SW Research agency, noted in his commentary to the poll that women were much more frequently against withdrawal from the Convention (70% against 54% among men). - In terms of age, the withdrawal from the convention is most often criticised by young people under 24 years old - 70% of them. Almost 70% of people with income between PLN 2001 and PLN 3000 net as well as 2 out of 3 people from cities with population between 200 000 and 499 000 think that withdrawing from the regulations is wrong - he says.

The fewest supporters of the withdrawal of the Istanbul Convention live in cities with up to 20,000 inhabitants (12.6%) and villages and cities with up to 100,000 inhabitants (14.6%). On the other hand, most supporters live in large cities of over 500,000 (19.2%).

The survey was conducted on 21-22 July on a group of 800 internet users over the age of 18.

The Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the so-called Istanbul Convention, provides a framework for legally preventing all forms of violence against women at ***European*** level. It recognises the structural nature of violence against women as gender-based violence and that violence against women is one of the basic social mechanisms through which women are pushed into a subordinate position in relation to men.

The states that ratify it are obliged, among other things, to amend the law so that the definition of sexual violence is based on the lack of consent of the victim; to ensure that the law is also applied to sexual offenders if the victims are their current or former partners; to provide protection and legal assistance to victims at every stage of criminal proceedings; to prosecute rape ex officio; and to impose an obligation to provide shelters for victims of violence.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Resources + Personnel Management (94%); Recruitment + Hiring (94%); Employment Services (78%); Suits + Claims (78%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (82%); Harbors + Ports (65%)

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Ziobro: We file a motion to denounce the Istanbul Convention. "Contradictory to axiology".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60FF-1XS1-F09W-F19F-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

July 25, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 751 words

**Byline:** dbd

**Highlight:** the Ministry of Justice has prepared a draft motion to denounce the Istanbul Convention. Zbigniew Ziobro argued that the Polish law on the protection of victims of domestic violence is exemplary and "meets all the requirements that are set out in the Convention". He also stated that the document "contains provisions of an ideological nature".

**Body**

- We are moving from words to deeds, to the implementation of what we have announced, and we are submitting a formal request to the Ministry of Family for work on the termination of the so-called Istanbul Convention - [*Zbigniew Ziobro*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=zbigniew+ziobro) declared at the conference. The Minister of Justice argued that his department has taken many steps to counteract domestic violence. - We have made such changes in the law, which were repeatedly mentioned by representatives of the left or liberal circles, but they said, and we did it - said Ziobro. - Only we, introducing changes in the law on police, military police, in the code of offences, in the code of civil proceedings, we did it in a way free from ideology - he added.

As he said, the Polish law on the protection of victims of domestic violence is exemplary and "meets all the requirements that are set out in the Istanbul Convention".

According to Ziobra, the Istanbul Convention "contains provisions of an ideological nature". - We do not accept them and we consider them harmful," he said. - One of them is constructing the notion of socio-cultural sex in opposition to biological sex - he said. The justice minister mentioned provisions of the convention that "give grounds to question religion and tradition as the main causes of domestic violence". - We do not agree with this view, we believe that it is a much more complicated phenomenon, he stressed. - As for the layer related to the protection of victims of domestic violence, we fully share all the postulates of this convention. Polish law meets these standards, but we do not agree with the second area, related to the sphere of ideologisation, which can lead to social changes - he said.

After Ziobra's speech, deputy justice minister Marcin Romanowski showed a draft of a motion to denounce the Istanbul Convention, which is to be sent to the family ministry. - We believe that this convention, from the point of view of protection and prosecution of perpetrators of violence, is unnecessary, and from the point of view of its contradiction with axiology and constitutional order, it is dangerous - he said. Romanowski argued that the convention "imposes ideologisation".

When asked by a journalist whether the ministers so far have noticed problems with ideologisation in Poland, Zbigniew Ziobro replied: - For example, the LGBT Charter, which was introduced by President Trzaskowski, in which he referred to solutions that mandated the sexual education of children.

The Minister of Justice argued that "this is a topical issue". - We have made an assumption that we will want to terminate the convention when we manage to introduce changes in the legal order that will meet all the standards and requirements of the convention when it comes to protecting women from violence. This we managed to do at the very end of the previous term," Ziobro said.

For the time being there is no government decision regarding the denunciation of the Istanbul Convention,' assures government spokesman Piotr Müller. So why Zbigniew Ziobro's announcement that a proposal on this matter has already been prepared? According to RMF FM, Ziobro took advantage of the situation after [*Minister Marlena Maląg... mistakenly suggested*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,26158638,rmf-minister-zapowiedziala-wypowiedzenie-konwencji-stambulskiej.html) that the government was in agreement on the matter.

"According to prominent Law and Justice politicians, Marlena Maląg thought that the fierce opposition to the convention repeated in the media by Solidarna Polska politicians, which she had often heard, was a message from the entire government that she too must repeat. So she did, despite the fact that no new decisions had been made on the matter. A few days later she explained that there were no binding decisions on the matter". - reports rmf24.pl.

The Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the so-called Istanbul Convention, creates a framework for legally preventing all forms of violence against women at ***European*** level. It recognises the structural nature of violence against women as gender-based violence and that violence against women is one of the basic social mechanisms through which women are pushed into a subordinate position in relation to men.

The states that ratify it are obliged, among other things, to amend the law so that the definition of sexual violence is based on the lack of consent of the victim; to ensure that the law is also applied to sexual offenders if the victims are their current or former partners; to provide protection and legal assistance to victims at every stage of criminal proceedings; to prosecute rape ex officio; and to impose an obligation to provide shelters for victims of violence.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (81%); Human Rights Violations (74%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Securities + Other Investments (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Biden at the White House, headache at Nowogrodzka***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JD-KN51-JCVT-R4G4-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 1166 words

**Byline:** Witold Gadomski

**Highlight:** "The summit will bring together representatives of the world's democracies, strengthen our institutions, be honest with countries that are going down the wrong path, and develop a common agenda." After these words from Biden, a red light should go on in PiS.

**Body**

With less than three months to go before the US election, Democratic candidate Joe Biden has a decisive advantage over incumbent President Donald Trump. According to bookmakers, he has a 60 percent chance of winning, while Trump has only a 37 percent chance. The change of the occupant of the White House - formally taking place in January 2021 - will be of fundamental importance for the world, including the ***European*** Union and Poland. It seems that the Law and Justice government is not considering such a scenario and is not prepared for it.

Biden's lead over Trump of between 3 and 10 percentage points in various polls does not mean that Trump will definitely lose. His chances are weakened by the coronavirus, which the federal administration is dealing with poorly, and the president has continually spoken about it in a manner that does not lend him gravitas. The economic crisis has destroyed the president's key strengths of prosperity and low unemployment. The promises of four years ago - to rebuild industry, to stop jobs moving to cheaper countries - have not been fulfilled because they were unrealistic.

But the Democratic candidate also has many weaknesses, which Trump will expose in the final weeks of the campaign. If Biden wins, he will be the oldest president in US history. Media unfavourable to him claim he has the beginnings of Alzheimer's disease, as evidenced by numerous gaffes and slip-ups. His son was involved in shady financial operations in Ukraine.

Most threatening for Biden may be the image of the extreme left, reinforced by both Trump and the left wing of the Democratic Party. Ideologically, the left wing of the Democrats is stronger today than at any time in the last 50 years. Its representatives are pushing solutions until recently unthinkable in the United States, such as state health insurance for all, free higher education, the Green Deal, guaranteed jobs. This is not Biden's agenda, but the Democratic candidate cannot openly protest against it.

The riots organised by organisations such as Black Lives Matter, which have been going on for two months, and the moral blackmail against police officers, civil servants and intellectuals who do not sympathise with the rioters, are likely to discourage the "silent majority" - average Americans who are not interested in politics but want peace and normality - from speaking to Biden.

Finally, the great unknown is the voting itself under the conditions of the epidemic. Some political commentators claim that the results could be very different from the polls, if only because of the lower than usual turnout.

Despite these reservations, Biden is still the favourite and must be seriously considered to replace Trump in January. What we don't know is how he will fare in domestic politics, whether he will manage to contain the crisis and deliver at least some of the promises on the Democratic Party's left-wing agenda.

More important for the world will be the new priorities in international politics, which Biden presented in an article published in "Foreign Affairs" and [*reprinted a week ago by "Wyborcza".*](https://wyborcza.pl/magazyn/7,124059,26172118,joe-biden-stany-zjednoczone-wroca-na-miejsce-u-szczytu.html)

"In the first year of my presidency, the United States will organize and host a global Summit for Democracy," the Democratic candidate announces. - The Summit will bring together representatives of the world's democracies, strengthen our institutions, be honest with countries that are going down the wrong path, and develop a common agenda."

After such sentences, red lights should go on in the PiS headquarters in Nowogrodzka Street. Trump turned a blind eye to violations of the rule of law in Poland, although US Ambassador Georgette Mosbacher has drawn red lines which the Law and Justice government should not cross. According to the Ambassador, such a line is maintaining media freedom and pluralism and refraining from anti-Semitic accents in government propaganda. The ambassador rebuked Beata Mazurek, a spokeswoman for the Law and Justice party, who suggested that TVN (owned by the US corporation Discovery) was carrying out the programme of the long-disbanded Military Information Service, but in a subsequent Twitter post she stressed that the Trump administration's relations with the Polish government were excellent.

After the change of occupant of the White House, they will no longer be excellent. For Trump, the ***European Union*** is a hostile union that hinders the export of American goods to ***Europe***. The president welcomes measures that weaken the Union. Therefore, the government in its dispute with the ***European*** Commission and the ***EU*** Court of Justice over the rule of law could count on the tacit support of its ally from across the Atlantic.

In his programmatic article, Biden writes: "We must strengthen cooperation with democratic friends beyond North America and ***Europe...***. ***Europe*** is treated here as an equal partner sharing values close to Americans, not as a commercial rival. Thus, one can believe that the ***European*** Union's pressure on the Polish government to respect the rule of law and democratic rules will be reinforced by a parallel pressure from the Biden administration.

PiS as well as President Duda have invested a lot in Trump's term extension. Duda behaved like a schoolboy in front of the American president, who does not even dream of having an equal relationship. He stroked the American president's ego by talking about "Fort Trump". Just before the election, he made a trip to Washington just to take a photo with Trump.

PiS's foreign policy was exclusively oriented towards Trump's America. The government agreed to play the role of a Trojan horse weakening the ***European*** Union. For PiS, the United States is the only guarantor of Poland's security. The government made energy security dependent on the supply of American liquefied gas, bought expensive and not always necessary military equipment from the United States, earlier breaking the contract for the supply of helicopters with France, American companies would probably be preferred in the tender for the construction of a nuclear power plant.

Trump - a TV showman, multiple divorcee, known for his sexist statements and affairs - is hardly a defender of conservative values, but by a strange coincidence he has become such a defender for a large part of his electorate. Duda and the PiS politicians pretend to share these values with the American president. Biden, who may be elected President in January, will emphasise liberal values, in the American sense of the word, such as the rights of sexual and ethnic minorities, women's rights (including abortion), absolute anti-racism and political correctness. These are not necessarily the values that the old man has professed all his life, but in the cultural war that is taking place in America, as well as in other countries, including Poland, the future president will take the liberal side. He will not find a common language with Andrzej Duda and PiS politicians.

Jarosław Kaczyński, who is poorly versed in international politics, and his advisors have no plan "B" in the event of a change in American policy. Logic would dictate rebuilding good relations with ***European*** countries, above all with Germany and France. But logic is a rare commodity in the Nowogrodzka building.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (94%); Terrorist Organizations (90%); Law Courts + Tribunals (63%); Military Weapons (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (61%)

**Load-Date:** August 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Elections in Belarus. Protests in the cities. The Presidents of Poland and Lithuania have issued a statement***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R55N-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 263 words

**Byline:** mb, IAR

**Highlight:** The presidents of Poland and Lithuania have issued a joint statement in connection with the presidential election in Belarus. "As neighbours of Belarus, we appeal to the Belarusian authorities to fully recognise and respect basic democratic standards," - they wrote.

**Body**

We call for non-violence and respect for fundamental freedoms, human and civil rights, including the rights of national minorities and freedom of expression

- Polish and Lithuanian presidents Andrzej Duda and Gitanas Nauseda wrote in a joint statement in connection with the presidential election in Belarus.

As the presidents wrote, they believe that "dialogue is always the best way to ensure social development and to discuss reforms and political action".

We hold the sovereignty and independence of Belarus in the highest regard and hope that the conditions will be created for deepening cooperation with Belarusian society and state institutions

- we read. According to Andrzej Duda and Gitanas Nauseda, closer cooperation with the ***European Union*** is in the interest of Belarus.

We want to keep the door open for this cooperation and we stand ready to continue to support Belarus on its path to deeper relations with the united ***European*** family.

- they wrote in a statement.

Recall that [*according to the official exitpoll, Lukashenko won 79.7 percent of the vote*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26196310,bialorus-zakonczyly-sie-wybory-prezydenckie-wyniki-rzadowego.html). His main rival Svitlana Tikhanouska received 6.8% of votes. Belarusians believe that the election was not fair and took to the streets in protest.

As journalist Franak Viacorka reports on Twitter, [*Belarusians are showing their dissatisfaction with the election results*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26196517,protesty-po-wyborach-prezydenckich-na-bialorusi-to-jest-faszystowski.html). People in Minsk shout "shame" to commission members leaving the polling station. The TUT.BY portal reports that services are dispersing the protesting people. Protests are also taking place in other cities.

[*We invite you to follow our live coverage*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/14,166794,26196650.html).

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Indictments (76%); Investigations (76%); Law Enforcement (75%); Celebrities (63%)

**Industry:** Traveler Safety + Security (71%); Organic Chemicals (69%); Amusements + Gambling (63%); Harbors + Ports (61%); Mining + Extraction (61%)

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Although Russia is pushing Belarus to the wall, Minsk does not have to grovel before Moscow***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R55C-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 1012 words

**Byline:** Vladislav Inoziemtsov\*

**Highlight:** The desire for change accompanying the civic mobilisation of Belarusians on the occasion of the presidential election - after 26 years of Alexander Lukashenko's uninterrupted rule - makes it necessary to think also about economic reforms.

**Body**

[*The era of Alexander Lukashenko*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26196312,bialorus-lukaszenka-wygrywa-wedlug-panstowego-exit-poll.html) is coming to an end, when the desire to get rid of ***Europe's penultimate*** dictator by itself supersedes any agenda and is supported by the majority of Belarusians. However, the desire for change accompanying the 2020 civic mobilisation raises the need to think about economic reforms as well.

For more than a quarter of a century in office, the president has created an order capitalising on the main wealth of the country he has arranged, namely the status of 'brother' and ally of Russia.

Over the years, Belarus has successfully profited from Moscow losing other partners in the post-Soviet space. In this situation, it was easier for Minsk to demand from Moscow concessions in oil and gas trade, favourable loans and other financial assistance, and the opening of the internal Russian market for its goods.

The International Monetary Fund estimates that Belarus received no less than $100 billion from Russia - in the form of subsidies of one kind or another - in 2005-16. Russian official sources spoke of $22.3 billion for the period from 2011 to 2015. Either way, these sums represent between 11 and 27 percent of the country's GDP for these periods.

In the last decade, 54-60% of Belarus' imports were from Russia, primarily raw materials. At the same time, more than half of its exports went to ***Europe***. Thus, we have been and still are dealing with a peculiar 'raw material economy' in which what is priced at discounts - and after processing at market rates - is 'pumped' to the West.

The income generated in this way allowed Lukashenko to finance inefficient state industry and steadily move closer to his "big goal" of a national average salary of $500 and guaranteed funds for social spending.

The events of 2019-20 will most likely make this system stop working over time. Moscow is not ready again and again to finance its neighbour without "fuller integration", [*which in practice means incorporating the country into the Russian Federation.And this is somethingno onein Minskwants to go*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25536469,liczne-demonstracje-na-bialorusi-przeciw-integracji-z-rosja.html)

Russian oil supplies fell by 44.3 per cent in the first half of this year, with the result that the country's exports contracted by 17.4 per cent, budget revenues by 11.2 per cent, and a budget deficit of 3.3 per cent turned into a deficit of 2.7 per cent.

We will not have to wait long for changes in relations between Moscow and Minsk. If Lukashenko suppresses the post-election protests of Belarusians, they will be smoother than if the country followed the path of democratisation.

It is worth remembering that when Putin thought in 2004 that Viktor Yanukovych had won the presidential election, Ukraine was to pay USD 50 for 1 thousand cubic metres of Russian gas for five years. However, when it turned out that Viktor Yushchenko had won, the price jumped to USD 360.

Whatever the turn of events, however, the Belarusian economy faces serious challenges.

Today, the country is virtually the only example of a state-owned economy in ***Europe***. The state sector accounts for more than 75 per cent of GDP. The share of income from business activities in the total income of the population fell to 8 per cent just three years ago and is still falling.

Nearly a third of citizens of working age work in the state budget, 43.4 per cent - in state-owned enterprises. In our times, such a "national economy" has no future.

At the same time, Belarus has many important advantages: a developed industry, good infrastructure, a qualified workforce (including those with experience in ***European*** countries) and young people inclined to think innovatively.

Under these conditions, the country needs a broad debureaucratisation, the removal of the restrictions imposed on business activity - above all, the decriminalisation of what are today considered "economic crimes", which are in fact ordinary business procedures.

It is essential to reduce the tax burden. Today, taxes and contributions to social funds consume 41.7% of GDP, which is twice as much as in Kazakhstan, for example.

There are assets in the republic, the partial privatisation of which could provide significant income for the budget. Once upon a time Lukashenka valued Belaruskalij (potassium fertiliser producer) at 30 billion dollars, MAZ (Minsk Automobile Plant) at 3 billion, Mozyr refinery at 2.5 billion and Belshina (tyre factory) at 1.2 billion. Even if these sums were divided in half and the companies were sold for 35-40 percent of the shares of these giants valued in this way, it is easy to calculate that privatisation could bring in about 18 billion Belarusian roubles (1 rouble equals 1.52 zlotys today), i.e. an equivalent of the annual state budget.

All in all, privatisation could fill the state coffers for the next 3-5 years and at the same time improve the efficiency of the country's economy.

Belarus should integrate with ***Europe*** as soon as possible by adopting ***European*** investment protection laws and agreeing to have business disputes heard in ***European*** jurisdictions. Cheap labour and compliance with ***European*** laws would allow Minsk to attract the interest of ***European*** companies and embark on the path of reconstruction that other Central ***European*** countries have previously followed.

The country should not base its reforms on a potential alliance with China, but become a '***European*** China', close to ***EU*** partners, accessible and understandable.

Belarus should also take advantage of its unique position as a bridge between ***Europe*** and Russia. This does not require cowering before Moscow or swearing allegiance to the Union State.

[*Today, Russia is not prepared either to drive the republic away from itself and, as a result, to have a 'cordon sanitaire' from the Baltic to the Black Sea, or to interrupt the supply of energy resources to* ***Europe*** *via Belarus.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25471792,kreml-czeka-na-podpis-lukaszenki.html) Nor, most importantly, to destroy the ***Eurasian*** Economic Union that it has created, thanks to which the country can play the role of a door to ***European*** business for a large part of the post-Soviet area.

Minsk can and should leave the Union State, which made some sense 21 years ago, but has now become a mindless creature from an economic point of view.

\*Vladislav Inozemtsov - Russian economist, publicist, political scientist. Translated by Wacław Radziwinowicz, title and subtitles from the editors of "Wyborcza".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (88%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (61%)

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Europe tightens rules on the wearing of masks. Heavy fines for not wearing one***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R545-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 1266 words

**Byline:** Jerzy Adamiak, PAP

**Highlight:** In most ***European*** countries, the wearing of masks in public spaces has been made compulsory. Covering the mouth and nose is mostly required in shops and transport. The rules can vary even within a single country, and there are fines for disregarding them.

**Body**

Wearing masks is one of the basic safety measures to limit the spread of coronavirus. Their use, especially when in close proximity to people with whom you are not in daily contact and cannot keep a safe distance from them, is recommended by the World Health Organisation and the medical authorities of most countries.

Adherence to hygiene rules and social distancing are just as important. Although the spread of the epidemic has been largely halted in ***Europe***, in recent weeks the number of new infections has been rising again almost across the continent. There is increasing talk of a second wave. The obligation to wear masks is maintained in most ***European*** countries and the list of places where it is obligatory is often extended.

France: Masks on Parisian boulevards

Mouth and nose coverings are compulsory in all enclosed public spaces throughout France, but a rise in new infections has prompted many local authorities to extend this to selected outdoor areas. Hundreds of towns and cities have taken this step, including major centres such as Marseille, Lille and Toulouse, and many tourist destinations such as Biarritz and Saint Tropez.

From Monday, the wearing of masks will be required in some particularly busy areas of Paris, including on the boulevards along the Seine and the Canal Saint-Martin and in open-air markets. In France, non-compliance with the rules on the use of masks carries a fine of ***€135***.

The municipal authorities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam introduced on Wednesday the obligation to wear masks in the busiest shopping streets. In the former city, a 95 ***euro*** fine can be paid for non-compliance. Throughout the Netherlands, the face must be covered in public transport vehicles. The government of this country, unlike most of its ***European*** counterparts, does not urge citizens to wear masks in other places. Instead, it stresses the need to respect the rules of distance between people.

The list of places in England and Scotland where it is compulsory to wear masks is also being extended. From Saturday, in addition to shops, shopping centres and public transport, museums, libraries, galleries, cinemas and religious buildings are also on the list. Similar rules will apply from Monday in Northern Ireland, where, as still in Wales, face covering was only required when using public transport. We could face fines of up to £100 for non-compliance.

Italians step up controls

Also in Ireland, from Monday, it will be compulsory to use masks not only on public transport, but also in shops and shopping centres. Breaking this law will lead to a fine of up to ***EUR*** 2 500 or up to six months in prison. In Spain, it is necessary to cover the mouth and nose in all closed public spaces and in open public spaces, such as streets and squares, when it is not possible to keep a one and a half meter distance from other people. However, all regions of the country except the Canary Islands have introduced even more far-reaching regulations, mandating the use of masks in any public place, regardless of social distance. A fine can be paid for disregarding these regulations. The fine varies from region to region and is usually 100 ***euros***.

We must also cover our face in all closed public spaces and means of transport in Italy. This should also be done outdoors when it is impossible to keep a safe distance from others. As in Spain, the local authorities can introduce additional restrictions, as is often the case, for example, in crowded tourist areas. According to the Italian media, controls are being tightened and penalties increased for non-compliance. In Milan, a fine of ***EUR*** 400 can be imposed for not wearing a mask. The same behaviour in the Campania region results in a fine of ***EUR*** 1 000.

The penalties for non-compliance with the rules on covering the mouth and nose introduced by individual German states are also increasing. In North Rhine-Westphalia, a fine of 150 ***euros*** is to be imposed on all violators - previously, a warning was often enough. The same fine is to be paid for not wearing a mask in Bavaria. The fines in Berlin are higher, up to 500 ***euros.*** The Schleswig-Holstein government is planning to introduce a financial penalty, and the government of Lower Saxony is planning to increase the fine.

Although the regulations concerning the wearing of masks are decided by the individual federal states, there are similar regulations practically all over Germany. They require the face to be covered on public transport and in shops. Similar rules have to be taken into account when visiting Austrian federal states.

Belgium: 250 ***euro*** fine for breaking the rule

More stringent restrictions are in place in Belgium, where many municipalities have introduced requirements for the use of masks in all or part of the city, such as the inner city or main shopping streets. Such regulations have been introduced in Brussels, Bruges and Antwerp, among others. Penalties of up to 250 ***euros will*** be imposed for violation.

In Portugal, we have to cover our face when using public transport and also in some public places such as museums and churches. It is not necessary to do it on the streets and beaches. Failure to comply with the rules may result in a fine of between ***€120*** and ***€350***.

In Croatia, Romania, Greece, Ukraine and Bulgaria, masks must be worn in public transport vehicles and in enclosed public spaces, such as shops. In the latter country, you will pay a fine of 300 leva (about 675 PLN) for disregarding the rules. Similar regulations are in force in Cyprus.

Visitors to Turkey's largest cities and tourist regions must wear masks in all public places, including streets, parks and beaches. Breaking this regulation may result in a fine of up to 900 Turkish liras, or almost 500 zlotys.

Similar regulations have been adopted in Montenegro, except that in Montenegro there is no need to cover the face on beaches and in national parks. The general obligation to wear a mask was abolished in the Czech Republic, but there are local exceptions, and covering the mouth and nose is still required in the Prague metro, for example.

In Slovakia, masks must be worn in all enclosed spaces where you come into contact with strangers - including mass transport. A fine of up to ***€1650 is*** payable for non-compliance. Covering the face in public transport (including, for example, inside ships sailing on Lake Balaton) and in shops is compulsory in Hungary. The same is currently the case in Lithuania.

The Latvian, Estonian and Danish authorities do not require their citizens to cover their mouths and noses in public spaces, but advise them to do so in particularly crowded places, such as on public transport. Finland is considering introducing similar recommendations. According to the Swedish public health agency, there is no need for people to wear masks in everyday situations in this country.

Most official government websites report that it is sufficient to cover the mouth and nose with a non-medical mask. Some add that the use of a scarf or shawl is also allowed. Usually, younger children and people who should not wear masks for health reasons, among others, are exempt from this obligation.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Medicine + Health (70%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Espionage (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

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

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Lukashenko has ruled Belarus for more than 25 years. "The last dictator of Europe"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R53M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 1566 words

**Byline:** Ursula Ziemska

**Highlight:** Sunday 9 August was the day of the sixth presidential elections in the history of the Republic of Belarus. According to the first government polls, it was won by "***Europe's*** last dictator", Alexander Lukashenko, who has ruled the country since 1994. How did he come to power and what is he doing to keep it? The politician has not shied away from either illegal changes to the constitution or widespread repression against oppositionists and critics.

**Body**

Following the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, Belarus declared its independence. Three years later, the country's political system was transformed into a presidential republic and the first elections were called. The most serious candidate for the office of President of Belarus seemed to be the then Prime Minister of the country, Vyacheslav Kiebich. However, the 39-year-old parliamentarian [*Alexander Lukashenko*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=aleksander+%B3ukaszenka) stood in his way of victory.

[*Read more: Belarus. The presidential election has ended. Results of a government poll? Nearly 80 percent for Lukashenko*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26196310,bialorus-zakonczyly-sie-wybory-prezydenckie-wyniki-rzadowego.html#s=BoxOpMT)

The politician was recognisable because he became famous as the chairman of the so-called Commission for Combating Corruption. In December 1993, he presented a report on corruption in the Verkhovna Rada in an over three-hour speech broadcast by the media. During his speech, he made accusations against many government officials, but his main target was Kiebich. Lukashenka presented himself to the public as an implacable opponent of corruption, and a shadow of suspicion fell on his biggest political rival.

Alyaksandr Lukashenko ran as an independent candidate in the 1994 presidential election. He advocated union with Russia and a determined fight against bribery. He also announced that officials who had committed corruption would be held to account and opposed privatisation. Both Lukashenko and Kiebich were associated with the communists, wanted the integration of [*Belarus*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=bia%B3oru%B6) with Russia and did not have a precise political programme. In order to distinguish himself from his main opponent, Lukashenka created himself as a young, daring politician who, unlike Kiebich, a doctor of economic sciences, comes from the people and does not represent the discredited political elite.

There was also a dramatic theme in Lukashenka's election campaign. A few days before the first round of the election, on 17 June 1994, the media reported that his car was shot at. In a conversation with journalists, the presidential candidate said that it was probably intended to intimidate him and discourage him from taking part in the election. Subsequent investigations have shown that the attack was most likely staged and the bullet fired from inside the vehicle. So far, neither has it been proven that Viacheslav Kiebich committed the acts Lukashenko accused him of. However, the latter's campaign had the expected effect. The politician won over mainly inhabitants of villages and small towns, uneducated people struggling with material problems and longing for the glory of the Soviet Union. He won with Kiebich in the second round, gaining 80% of votes.

Almost from the very beginning of his seizure of power, Lukashenko strengthened his position in the country. In 1996, two years after he became president, a referendum was held in Belarus, the results of which are considered by experts to have been falsified. As a result of this vote, however, the constitution was changed, which led to the dissolution of the Supreme Council and its replacement by a bicameral parliament. In the same year, Lukashenko's term of office was illegally extended until 2001. Three years later, another referendum was held in Belarus, after which the presidential term limit was abolished. As a result, the incumbent president can seek re-election without any restrictions. The results of this referendum were also found to be falsified

"Alexander Lukashenko has concentrated in his hands the basic powers of the executive, legislative and judiciary. Formally, according to the constitution, the president is only the head of state. In reality, however, he usurps the position of the country's administrator. The head of state intervenes in everything, even in secondary issues or those that are the responsibility of the government. Lukashenko also decides on all staffing issues. Members of the government, on the other hand, play the role of whipping boys, on whom responsibility for all failures in foreign and domestic policy falls". - writes Olga Wasiuta in the work [*"President of Belarus A. Lukashenko - "the last dictator of* ***Europe****"?"*](https://studiadesecuritate.up.krakow.pl/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2018/10/Wasiuta_Prezydent_Bia%C5%82orusi_A._%C5%81ukaszenka.pdf)

Lukashenko has now won five presidential elections in a row. According to the official results, in 2001 he received 75.65 percent of the vote, in 2006 82.6 percent of voters supported him, in 2010 he won 79.67 percent of the vote, while his 2015 result was 84.09 percent. The international community considered the successive elections in Belarus as undemocratic and the results as fraudulent.

Lukashenko's successive victories and his changes to the constitution have been met with a violent response from Belarusian society, but all demonstrations have been brutally suppressed. One of the bloodiest clashes between police and protesters took place after the 2010 elections. Between 20 000 and 40 000 Belarusians took to Minsk's October Square after the end of voting. One of the people who was severely beaten was Lukashenko's opponent Uladzimir Niakliayeu, who lost consciousness and was taken to hospital. During the pacification of the opposition demonstration, three other presidential candidates were beaten - Ryhor Kastusiau, Vitaly Rymashevskyi and Andrei Sannikau. They also needed medical assistance. A few hours later, all the hospitalised candidates were arrested. Niaklajeu, who was unable to move on his own, was carried out on a sheet. By morning, seven of Alexander Lukashenko's nine challengers were in custody.

Belarusians also protested against the regime in 2011. They organised silent protests, mobilising through social media. At the appointed time, they gathered in streets and squares without any banners. There was no shouting, only clapping. Demonstrations of this kind have also been suppressed and their participants arrested. [*Alexander Lukashenko has thus earned himself the so-called Anti-Nobel Peace Prize*](https://www.improbable.com/ig-about/winners/#ig2011). The peace prize was awarded to him for banning clapping in public places. He shared it with the Belarusian police, who managed to arrest a clapping man with only one hand.

The President of Belarus, who has been in power for over a quarter of a century, maintains his hold on power through violence and fear-mongering, among other means. Those who oppose his policies, for example by protesting or standing as candidates in presidential elections, face a range of consequences.

"Repression varies from prison sentences, frequent arrests, dismissal from work or university, to other means of daily intimidation. The use of similar methods is meant to warn society against involvement and support for the opposition. The authorities have not, however, decided to completely destroy the institutional opposition. Its existence is supposed to create an impression of political pluralism in Belarus, confirming the democratic and modern character of the country. A legal, regulated opposition also channels a part of social discontent, which makes it easier to control it by the security apparatus. However, when feeling threatened, the Lukashenka regime does not hesitate to use direct violence against members of the opposition". - comments Tomasz Bakunowicz in his work [*'Playing by Lukashenko's rules: political opposition in Belarus'*](https://www.osw.waw.pl/pl/publikacje/komentarze-osw/2015-07-09/gra-wedlug-regul-lukaszenki-opozycja-polityczna-na-bialorusi).

Some researchers believe that the way the Belarusian president runs the country is related to his childhood traumas and personality disorders. Lukashenko grew up in difficult conditions and with the stigma of being an illegitimate child. Because of this, he was said to have been bullied at school, which was to influence his later governing style. In 2001, a psychiatric doctor, Dmitry Shchigelsky, published an article in which he declared that the President of Belarus had a personality disorder which he described as 'mosaic psychopathy'. He stated that Lukashenko's disorders include a persistent belief in his extraordinary role in history, a high level of aggression, a high capacity for manipulation and a perception of the environment as hostile. After publishing this work, Szczygielski had to leave the country. He obtained asylum in the United States.

Non-governmental organisations from all over the world have been reporting violations of human rights in Belarus for years. The Polish [*Freedom and Democracy Foundation*](http://web.archive.org/web/20131203002146/http://wid.org.pl/raport.pdf) issued a report in 2007 in which it recalls that it was under Alexander Lukashenko's regime that leading opposition figures Yuri Zakharanka, Viktar Hanchar and Anatoly Krasovsky, as well as the journalist Dmitry Zavadsky, were killed in unexplained circumstances. Amnesty International, in turn, reminds us every year that Belarus is the only country in ***Europe*** where death sentences are still carried out.

The repression of Belarusian oppositionists and the brutal suppression of protests have also been observed this year. [*Kamil Kłysiński from the Centre for Eastern Studies in Warsaw*](https://www.osw.waw.pl/pl/publikacje/analizy/2020-07-29/trudne-wybory-lukaszenki) believes that an erosion of authority among the citizens can be observed in Belarus. Blocking economic reforms and the recession are causing the standard of living of Belarusians to fall. Some are also disappointed by the authorities' dismissive attitude to the coronavirus pandemic. The Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus conducted a survey in April this year, which showed that only 33 per cent of the country's citizens trust Alexander Lukashenko.

- It is impossible to remove Alexander Lukashenko from power without bloodshed. History has proven this to be true. Regimes of this kind do not give up. Lukashenka himself said that he would not give up power', Belarusian political scientist Artiom Shrajbman told [*'Gazeta Wyborcza'*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26191898,czy-bialorusini-maja-dosc-sil-by-obalic-rezim-lukaszenki.html), outlining the future of our eastern neighbour.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%)

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

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***She stood up to the "last dictator of Europe". Who is Svitlana Tikhanouska?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R53P-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 932 words

**Byline:** mmz/AP

**Highlight:** On Sunday 9 August, Belarusians will elect their president - although voting had already started a few days earlier. The country has been ruled by Alyaksandr Lukashenka for 26 years and it is hard to expect that the power will change after this election. But the social upheaval in Belarus this time is exceptional. Opposition rallies are attended by tens of thousands of people, opposition songs are played from loudspeakers, including in cars, and the main face of the opponents of the incumbent president is Svitlana Tsiachanouska.

**Body**

The crowds that Svitlana Tiachanouska drew at her rallies were the largest demonstrations in [*Belarus*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=Bia%B3oru%B6) since the country gained independence in 1991. A gathering of several thousand people is already a lot in this country, and according to the Belarusian journalist and social and political activist Franak Viacorka, as many as 65 000 people were expected to gather at one of these rallies.

The Associated Press wrote about 60 000, while [*other estimates put the number of*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26172577,bialorus-rekordowo-wielki-wiec-opozycyjnej-kandydatki-na-prezydenta.html) participants at 30 000-40 000. Even this lower figure represents huge crowds not seen for decades. In the last week of the campaign, the authorities made it difficult to organise such meetings in Minsk, but the Belarusians coped with this, too, by 'taking over' a pro-government rally.

Who is the woman who is gathering so much support?

Svetlana Tsiachanouska is running in the presidential elections as a kind of replacement. Originally, she was supposed to support in the political fight her husband, a well-known Belarusian blogger and activist, Sergei. Siarhiej openly criticised Lukashenka on his blog. Svetlana's husband was planning to run for election, but was arrested when the deadline for submitting registration documents was approaching. His attorneys tried to complete the formalities, but the election commission eventually rejected the application. His wife then decided to replace him.

He was released from custody, but soon after, in late May, he was taken back into custody on charges of assaulting an officer, which he claimed was a provocation. Later, the authorities in Minsk opened a new investigation, claiming that Tiachanouski was planning to organise mass riots together [*with members of the so-called Wagner group, recently detained in Belarus*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26175635,bialorus-zatrzymani-wagnerowcy-mieli-bilety-do-turcji-z.html).

Svetlana is 37 years old, a former English teacher and has no political experience, which she herself often emphasises. In the eyes of potential voters, this seems to be even an advantage. She is a mother of two children, a 10-year-old son and a 5-year-old daughter, whom she sent from Belarus to one of the ***European*** countries - she does not specify which one, but claims that she was afraid of safety.

"I got a phone call: 'We will put you behind bars and put your children in an orphanage'," - she said, adding that at the time she was considering dropping out of the election. In the end, she decided that she would continue campaigning because "there has to be a symbol of freedom". She described herself similarly in an interview with the Associated Press agency - as a symbol of change. The desire for change is strongly evident in recent protests by Belarusians. Viktor Coj's song "Change!" has become the unofficial anthem of the opposition, played by drivers in their cars during demonstration drives through Minsk, and [*played by two young DJs at an official government party*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26189718,bialorus-opozycyjnej-kandydatce-uniemozliwiono-wiec-dokonano.html), after which they were sentenced to 10 days in jail.

"People don't see me as a seasoned politician, fighting for power, but as an ordinary person like them - and they like that," - Ciachanouska tells AP. "They understand that I don't want anything for myself" - he assures.

What does the candidate promise? First of all, that if she won the elections, after six months she would order another one, in which those who were not given such an opportunity by the authorities could run. Tiachanouska also promises that she would release all political prisoners, order a constitutional referendum on limiting the number of presidential terms and abolish the treaty assuming close economic, political and military relations between [*Belarus*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=bia%B3oru%B6) and Russia.

Svetlana forms a trio with two other women in the fight for the presidency. One is Maria Kolesnikova, the campaign manager of Viktor Babariko, the former head of a major bank who wanted to run for election but was arrested in May on charges of money laundering and tax evasion. The other is the wife of Valeriy Cepkała, the former Belarusian ambassador to the United States, Veronika. Cepkała fled to Russia with his children a few weeks ago due to fears of being arrested and stripped of his parental rights.

The now 65-year-old Alyaksandr Lukashenka became President of Belarus in 1994 and since then has ruled the country uninterruptedly and without interference, suppressing protests, destroying the independent media and earning himself the nickname '***Europe***'s last dictator'. For years, he has relied on loans from Russia to keep the country's economy afloat, although he also occasionally tries to show that he is not entirely dependent on Moscow.

He will probably also win this election, which will be his sixth, although Western observers do not regard it as fair or free. The Belarusian opposition representatives are concerned about the model which allows early voting - this could be done from Tuesday to Saturday. In theory, this is supposed to enable those who will not be able to do so on the day of the actual elections to take part in them, but there is no obligation to explain the reasons. The opposition fears rigging, raising the issue of ballot box security at night. In the previous presidential election, 36 percent of eligible voters voted early.

Although Lukashenko's victory seems certain, Tiachanouska poses the greatest risk and challenge. The president's nervousness is evident from the actions of the uniformed services. More than 1,000 protesters have been arrested, and more videos are appearing on social media, including those purporting to show arrests of protesting cyclists, for example.

Several journalists cooperating with Western media were also expelled from the country.

"I cooked internally for over 20 years. We were afraid all this time and no one dared to say a word. But if I could overcome my fear, anyone can," - Ciachanouska said in an interview with the Associated Press.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (83%)

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Ziobro to the Commissioner of the Council of of the Council of Europewho called for the release of the activist: Be ashamed of your appeal***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R54H-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 321 words

**Byline:** WBG

**Highlight:** Zbigniew Ziobro has responded to a Council of ***Europe*** commissioner who criticised Poland for detaining an LGBT activist, calling it "a very bad sign for freedom of expression". "May you be ashamed of your appeal in defence of the aggressor and apologise," - he wrote on Twitter.

**Body**

If you were violently thrown out of your car, beaten, and your wheels were pierced with a knife, would you consider the arrest of the perpetrator by a court to be an attack on freedom? Be ashamed of your appeal in defence of the aggressor and apologise to the defenceless man who was beaten by an LGBT activist! (This is the LGBT activist Małgorzata Sz., alias Margot, who is a transsexual woman - ed.)

- Zbigniew Ziobro wrote on Twitter.

Earlier, Council of ***Europe*** Commissioner Dunja Mijatović called for the release of the detained activist from custody.

I call for the immediate release of Margot from Stop Bullshit, who was arrested yesterday for blocking a van calling for anti-LGBT hate speech and hanging rainbow flags on monuments in Warsaw. Two months in jail is a very bad sign for freedom of speech and LGBT rights in Poland

- Mijatović wrote on Twitter.

A court has decided on a two-month jail term for LGBT activist Małgorzata Sz. (pseudonym Margot) for destroying a van of the Pro-Life Foundation with homophobic slogans and attacking its driver, which took place on 27 June. The activist was also involved in hanging rainbow flags on Warsaw monuments, which appeared, among others, on the statue of Jesus Christ in front of the Holy Cross Church in Krakowskie Przedmieście, which took place on the night of 28-29 July.

Significantly, there has been a campaign against LGBT people in Poland for several weeks. Many Law and Justice politicians, including Andrzej Duda, have taken part in it, publicly saying that LGBT is not people, it is an ideology", which has aroused the opposition of many Poles.

On Friday, a demonstration took place in Warsaw against the arrest of an activist, which resulted in the police detaining 48 people. All were charged with active participation in the rally. In addition, five people were charged with damaging a police car and violating the integrity of a police officer. On Sunday morning the police announced that all the detained persons had left the police station.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Gays + Lesbians (65%); Espionage (63%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Medicine + Health (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

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

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Elections in Belarus. "Triumvirate" stands up to fight against Lukashenko. "Perhaps. Miracles do happen."***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R53B-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 1525 words

**Byline:** past, mk, IAR

**Highlight:** Sunday's presidential elections are underway in Belarus. Alexander Lukashenko is fighting for the seat of the head of state for the sixth time. Although polls and forecasts give the politician only a few percent support, analysts have no doubt that his victory will be declared. Lukashenko's main challenger is Svitlana Tikhanouska. The 37-year-old's rallies attracted tens of thousands of participants, and the candidacy of a woman making her political debut caused considerable enthusiasm among Belarusians.

**Body**

An event to celebrate the railway troops was the official reason why the authorities did not agree to a rally by Belarusian presidential candidate Svitlana Tikhanouskaya on Thursday. However, those in power apparently did not anticipate the reaction of Belarusians. Her supporters appeared at the government concert, and the unofficial 'anthem' of the opposition flew from the loudspeakers. [*The music technicians in charge stated*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26189718,bialorus-opozycyjnej-kandydatce-uniemozliwiono-wiec-dokonano.html#do_w=46&do_v=58&do_a=286&s=BoxNewsLink) that they themselves "want change", although they reckon with the consequences.

This is a certain analogy to the candidacy of Tikhanouskaya herself, who did not plan to run in the presidential elections. Her husband, businessman and anti-government blogger Sergei Tikhanouski, wanted to run. However, he was arrested. Since he could not register his electoral committee, his wife did it.

In May, when he was arrested, [*he was one of many people*](https://belsat.eu/pl/news/wszyscy-konkurenci-lukaszenki-kto-jeszcze-chce-zostac-prezydentem-bialorusi/) who announced that they would compete against Alexander Lukashenko, who has been in power for 26 years. He was associated with a blog critical of the authorities and meetings with people. His arrest, subsequent release and subsequent arrest attracted attention, and protests were held in his defence.

At that time, two other Lukashenko's competitors were also prevented from running. Valery Cepkała, a politician and former advisor to Lukashenko, was not registered as a candidate because half of the signatures he collected were supposed to be invalid. He left for Russia after that. Former bank president Viktar Babaryka, described as one of the president's most serious competitors, was also unable to register as a candidate - he was arrested.

Out of a dozen candidates, five were left who managed to register an election committee, including Lukashenko and Tikhanouska. The latter received strong support. At a press conference, Veronika Cepkała, the wife of an unregistered candidate, and Marija Kaliosnikova from Babaryka's electoral staff declared their support and joint struggle.

Their alliance was dubbed the "triumvirate against Lukashenko". "A few months ago she was a housewife raising children . (...) Today, the accidental candidate is at the head of a new, feminine wave in politics, in which a growing number of Belarusians are pinning their hopes for democratic change". - wrote the [*Radio Free* ***Europe***](https://www.rferl.org/a/women-lead-the-charge-against-lukashenka-in-belarus/30743179.html) portal. The media also recalled Lukashenko's statement in May that "our society is not mature enough to vote for a woman. Because in our country, according to the constitution, the president has strong power". He later tried to explain that "a poor woman would collapse" under the weight of constitutional responsibilities.

Cichanouska has devoted herself to caring for her two children in recent years. She has a degree in linguistics and in the past worked as a translator for charity organisations. She announced that if she wins, she will resign after a few months and organise new elections, which will be fully democratic.

Tikhanouskaya's meetings began to attract larger and larger crowds, and her [*rally in Minsk at the end of July*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26172577,bialorus-rekordowo-wielki-wiec-opozycyjnej-kandydatki-na-prezydenta.html) was described as the largest political rally in the recent history of Belarus - more than 60 000 people turned up. However, her further campaign faced increasing obstacles, and there was also the issue of the detention of the 'Vagnerovs', Russian citizens, [*who, according to the Belarusian authorities, were planning to interfere in the presidential election*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26175635,bialorus-zatrzymani-wagnerowcy-mieli-bilety-do-turcji-z.html).

In a video published on social media just before the election, Tchanouska said, among other things, that Belarusians are not divided into people and officials, as they are all a big family. - The current authorities are against privatisation of enterprises, but in doing so they privatise the whole country. Belarusians are not property, and the country should not belong to one man," she noted.

Marya Maroz, Ciechanouska's chief of staff, was detained on Saturday in connection with unspecified administrative proceedings. The trial is scheduled for Monday, after the elections.

Apart from Tikhanouska, other opposition politicians are also running in the elections - former member of the House of Representatives Hanna Anatoleuna Kanapacka, co-chairman of the social movement "Speak the truth!" Andrey Uladzimiravich Dzmitryeu and the chairman of the party "Belarusian Social Democratic Hramada" Syarhey Uladzimiravich Cherachen.

A June poll conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Studies showed that Viktar Babaryka enjoyed the greatest support among respondents (58.2%), followed by Svetlana Tikhanouska (20.4%) and Valery Tsepkalo (15.7%). The Belarusian president came fourth with the support of... 3.8%. National media, however, claim that Lukashenko is supported even by more than 70 percent of citizens.

- The three percent figure that appeared in one of the Internet polls is unrealistic. There is a large group of people living in the countryside who do not use the Internet and watch only state television, where they show only Lukashenka in a positive light and his opponents in a negative light. I think that the real level of support for him is 8-9 percent. - In an interview with [*Belsat.* ***eu***](https://belsat.eu/pl/news/niedopuszczony-kandydat-na-prezydenta-lukaszenka-stracil-kontakt-ze-spoleczenstwem/) Valery Cepkała.

The low support and expectation of change is not surprising if one takes a broader view of the situation in Belarus. Many citizens are struggling financially, with low wages and rising prices. The average salary there is currently around USD 500, while it often does not even exceed 300.

Lukashenko himself has tried to win support among Belarusians by instilling fear. He warned that both Russia and Western countries intended to interfere in the elections and destabilise the country. In his August address, he claimed that foreign forces were planning a 'colour revolution'. He also threatened that the opposition would lead to a return of the 'bad nineties', associated with economic crisis, chaos and high crime.

Although the actual election day was set for Sunday, 9 August, according to local electoral law, people could already vote five days earlier. According to official reports, the early voting was organised to allow those who could not vote on the actual election day to cast their votes. According to the authorities, almost one third of those eligible to vote cast their ballots over the four days.

- People go to vote stately, beautifully, they do not disturb anyone. They are voting now because on holidays someone will want to go to a dacha or some other place, as is usually the case," Alexander Lukashenko commented on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Belarusian opposition has been calling for years for early voting to be stopped for fear of electoral fraud. It has been pointed out, among other things, that there has been manipulation and overstating of the turnout in the protocols, and that there have been many times too many ballot papers in the ballot boxes.

Moreover, even if opposition activists observe the voting during the day, at night the ballot boxes are not guarded by anyone. - We do not know what goes into them," opposition activist Olga Kovalkova told [*Radio Free* ***Europe***](https://www.rferl.org/a/vote-rigging-fears-ahead-of-presidential-election-in-belarus/30769357.html).

After last year's parliamentary elections, OSCE observers also warned that the turnout was lower than officially reported. This year, for the first time since 2001, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will not monitor the Belarusian voting, due to the lack of an invitation from the Belarusian authorities. Instead, the elections will be observed by independent observers.

No one seems to be under any illusion that Sunday's vote will bring any breakthrough. The results will be announced after a few days, and everything points to Lukashenko seeking a seventh term as President. At the same time, the official figures on Tikhanouskaya's result are likely to be simply drastically understated.

- Nothing will change in Belarus on Sunday, maybe I am a bad prophet, but I believe that the official election commission will announce its result at the most 3, 5, 9 percent of voters' votes - assessed Valery Bulhakau, a Belarusian publisher, publicist and social activist, in an interview with Slawomir Sierakowski from [*Krytyka Polityczna.*](https://krytykapolityczna.pl/swiat/to-jest-taki-polski-sposob-myslenia-rozmowa-sierakowskiego/) He added that Sunday's elections "one hundred percent" will be rigged and will most probably provoke street protests.

However, at the moment, I do not see any indication that these protests will succeed in bringing down the regime. What is needed for that? It would have to last, for example, three months, so that the public space in the city centres would be dominated by the opposition, so that society would have the will and the will to fight on - there must be a completely different energy in the nation. Perhaps... Miracles do happen. Perhaps we will see such a miracle, but the overthrow of Lukashenka's regime can succeed only after a long peace campaign lasting several months.

- he pointed out.

Kamil Klysinski of the [*Centre for Eastern Studies*](https://www.osw.waw.pl/pl/publikacje/analizy/2020-07-29/trudne-wybory-lukaszenki) also has no doubts that pushing through another Lukashenko victory "is not a threat" and "the risk of the regime being toppled is quite low".

"There are still no clear signs of revolutionary sentiment in society. The leaderless, spontaneous protests observed in this campaign (mainly related to the repression of the most popular Babarik) were extinguished after a few days due to the actions of the forces of order," - reads the political scientist's analysis.

**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 (69%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (89%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Belarus. The presidential election has ended. Results of a government poll? Nearly 80 per cent for Lukashenko***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R55D-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 467 words

**Byline:** mb, IAR, past, mk

**Highlight: The** presidential election has ended in Belarus. According to a poll, they were won by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. It was the sixth election held in independent Belarus.

**Body**

According to the official exit poll, Lukashenko won 79.7% of the vote. His main rival Svitlana Tikhanouska received 6.8 per cent of the vote. Although voting officially ended at 7pm, voters in Minsk were still queuing at some polling stations.

Apart from Tikhanouska, other opposition politicians also ran in the election: former member of the House of Representatives Hanna Anatoleuna Kanapacka, co-chairman of the social movement "Speak the truth!" Andrey Uladzimiravich Dzmitryeu and the chairman of the party "Belarusian Social Democratic Hramada" Syarhey Uladzimiravich Cherachen.

A June poll [*conducted by the independent Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Studies*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26190047,bialorusini-wybieraja-prezydenta.html) showed that Viktar Babaryka enjoyed the greatest support among respondents (58.2%), followed by Svetlana Tikhanouska (20.4%) and Valery Tsepkalo (15.7%). The Belarusian president came fourth with the support of... 3.8%. National media, however, claim that Lukashenko is supported even by more than 70 percent of citizens.

- The three percent figure that appeared in one of the Internet polls is unrealistic. There is a large group of people living in the countryside who do not use the Internet and watch only state television, where they show only Lukashenka in a positive light and his opponents in a negative light. I think that the real level of support for him is 8-9 percent. - In an interview with Belsat. ***eu*** Valery Cepkała.

President Alexander Lukashenko has ruled the country for 26 years. This year, five candidates took part in the elections. However, his real opponent was the leading opposition candidate, Svitlana Tikhanouska. Her election rallies in big cities gathered thousands of supporters. On Sunday, on the appeal of her electoral staff, many people came to vote only in the afternoon. As a result, queues of people lined up in front of polling stations (this happened, among others, in Warsaw and Moscow). Some polling stations ran out of ballots.

Media reports that in the capital in the evening, militia OMON officers blocked a pedestrian walkway on central Independence Prospect near Minsk's Independence Square. Buses filled with militiamen, prisoner cars to transport detained people and vehicles with water cannons to disperse demonstrations appeared in the city.

Elections in Belarus. Lukashenko wins again

Lukashenko has now won five presidential elections in a row. According to the official results, in 2001 he received 75.65 percent of the vote, in 2006 82.6 percent of voters supported him, in 2010 he won 79.67 percent of the vote, while his 2015 result was 84.09 percent. The international community considered the successive elections in Belarus as undemocratic and the results as fraudulent.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Weapons + Arms (70%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (68%); Chemistry (68%)

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Germany. The government has a problem with masks. "The purchasing policy is completely out of control".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R54Y-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 348 words

**Byline:** Deutsche Welle

**Highlight:** The German government has ordered almost 6 billion protective masks from Coronacrisis, but has not yet paid for all of them. Their suppliers have taken legal action.

**Body**

As "Welt am Sonntag" reports, 48 suppliers of protective masks ordered by the Federal Ministry of Health have filed a complaint with the Bonn district court for still unpaid or only partially paid bills for the completed contract. According to the "Welt am Sonntag", around 100 other suppliers are currently preparing with the help of hired lawyers to go to court.

In total, the mask suppliers are demanding that they be reimbursed approximately ***EUR*** 400 million. This is the amount calculated by the lawyers from the law firms cooperating with them. A spokesman for the district court in Bonn confirmed today (09.08.2020) that 48 complaints have been filed (until Friday, 07.08.2020) concerning the unpaid bills. They are for sums ranging from 300,000 to 5 million ***euros***. The first hearing is set for September. Complaints from suppliers will be considered individually.

The first complaints about unpaid bills for masks came to court as early as May. The Health Ministry, for its part, has stated that it is so far aware of 31 complaints amounting to ***€59*** million. The ministry explains that the reason for the delays in paying for some of the masks were their "quality defects and incorrectly billed invoices".

[*Read more: Coronavirus - a red zone. Where does it apply? What does it mean? What restrictions will apply?*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,26191164,koronawirus-czerwona-strefa-gdzie-obowiazuje-co-oznacza.html)

The government ordered protective masks en masse in the spring, when the coronavirus pandemic was developing fastest. The opposition supposes that the government, acting under pressure of time and events, simply ordered too many of them. The vice-chairwoman of the Green Party parliamentary club in the Bundestag, Katja Doerner, has expressed the opinion that the policy of buying protective masks "is completely out of control" for the Ministry of Health.

The FDP's budget expert Otto Fricke is of the opinion that "the government is using various bureaucratic tricks to avoid paying for the masks it has ordered, or to delay paying its bills".

The article comes from the [*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/pl/dostawcy-maseczek-ochronnych-oskar%C5%BCaj%C4%85-rz%C4%85d-w-berlinie/a-54503131) website.

[*Read more: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia introduce restrictions. 14-day quarantine for people returning from Poland*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,26192183,litwa-lotwa-i-estonia-wprowadzaja-obostrzenia-14-dniowa-kwarantanna.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (89%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Respiratory Disease (74%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (70%); Arms Control + Disarmament (63%); Espionage (63%); Medical Devices (63%); Weapons + Arms (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (69%)

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Elections in Belarus. "De facto, a state of emergency has been introduced in Minsk. Police and soldiers everywhere."***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R554-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 545 words

**Byline:** mb

**Highlight: The** presidential election in Belarus has ended. The incumbent Alyaksandr Lukashenka ran for re-election. His main opponent was Svitlana Tikhanouska.

**Body**

According to media reports, [*Belarusians*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=bia%B3oru%B6#e=TagLink) were divided into two camps - some voted for the incumbent president and others for the leading opposition candidate Svitlana Tikhanouska. At a polling station located in a school on Bogdanovich Street, which was visited by a Polish Radio correspondent, people were also divided. Pensioner Olga admits that she voted for President Lukashenko.

I voted for a flourishing Belarus. My husband and I are already retired. We do not need much. The important thing is that there should be no war

- said the woman. Polish-speaking Mr Alexander, on the other hand, admits that he voted for Svitlana Tikhanouska.

Only Christmas, because there is no other alternative

- he stated.

Young people who took part in the so-called alternative count stood outside the school doors. They say that the official figures given in the minutes by the electoral commissions are inflated.

Read also: [*She stood up to '****Europe's*** *last dictator'. Who is Svitlana Tikhanouska?*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,26192502,stanela-naprzeciw-ostatniego-dyktatora-europy-kim-jest-swiatlana.html)

Several hundred of her supporters came to one of Minsk polling stations on Sunday to vote for opposition presidential candidate Svitlana Tikhanouska. The gathered welcomed the political debutant with applause. After casting her vote, the candidate told reporters that she hoped for a fair recount of the election and calm after the results were announced. She reiterated that she does not want bloodshed in Belarus.

However, the media reported that her close associate, Vieranika Capkała, left Belarus. Earlier, her husband Valery Capkała left the country. Despite submitting the required number of signatures of support, he was not allowed to participate in the elections.

President [*Alyaksandr Lukashenko*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=aleksander+%B3ukaszenka#e=TagLink) told reporters after the vote that there would be no repression of female opposition activists because, as he put it, female activists "are not worth anything".

Read also: [*Lukashenko has ruled Belarus for more than 25 years. "****Europe's*** *last dictator" will win again*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26192100,lukaszenka-rzadzi-bialorusia-od-ponad-25-lat-ostatni-dyktator.html)

Meanwhile, on social media, during the day, some independent journalists reported a solid military and service presence around the Belarusian president's residence in Minsk.

I expect the worst

- Hanna Liubakova wrote.

In fact, a state of emergency has been declared in Minsk. Central squares and administrative buildings are blocked. Police and soldiers are everywhere

- reported journalist Franak Viacorka:

Warsaw Mayor and former head of state candidate [*Rafal Trzaskowski*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=rafa%B3+trzaskowski) appealed to the Belarusian authorities "for a democratic and lawful electoral process". Trzaskowski also announced that the Palace of Culture will be illuminated in the colours of Belarus on Sunday.

Belarus is electing, and Warsaw is calling for a democratic and lawful electoral process. We are supporting the Belarusian people at this important moment, which is why today we are lighting the Palace of Culture and Science in the colours of Belarus

- wrote the politician and added: "Long live Belarus!".

Other Polish politicians also showed solidarity:

The Belarusian Central Election Commission has already announced that the [*presidential election*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=wybory+na+Bia%B3orusi#e=TagLink) is valid. Already at midday, the turnout exceeded 50 per cent. As of 14:00, just over 65 per cent of those eligible had voted. After 7pm, voting ended. According to a [*government poll, Alexander Lukashenko won with 79.7 percent of the vote*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26196310,bialorus-zakonczyly-sie-wybory-prezydenckie-wyniki-rzadowego.html). His main rival Svitlana Tikhanouska received 6.8 percent of the vote.

**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%); Espionage (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (80%)

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Belarus. "The majority is with us. We have already won." Lukashenko's counter-candidate issued a statement***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R55P-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 256 words

**Byline:** IAR, MA

**Highlight:** Agencies, independent media and social media users are reporting on the unrest that began after the polling stations closed in Belarus. Alexander Lukashenko's main rival in the presidential election Svitlana Tikhanouska issued a statement.

**Body**

[*We invite you to follow our live coverage*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/14,166794,26196650.html)

In Minsk, police [*used flashbang grenades*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26196517,protesty-po-wyborach-prezydenckich-na-bialorusi-to-jest-faszystowski.html) to disperse [*demonstrators*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26196517,protesty-po-wyborach-prezydenckich-na-bialorusi-to-jest-faszystowski.html). Opposition protests and arrests are also taking place in other cities, including Grodno, Brest and Vitebsk.

The media also report that the internet is not working.

Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who is seeking re-election, won 79.7 per cent of the vote in an exit poll conducted for state broadcaster MIR. His main challenger Svitlana Tikhanouska received 6.8 per cent of the vote.

Svitlana Tikhanouska declared after the exit poll was announced that she did not trust the results. "I believe my eyes and I see that the majority is with us," - she said. She said Belarusians had already won, after her campaign attracted tens of thousands of supporters to rallies. "We have already won because we have overcome fear, apathy and indifference," she stressed.

Rioting broke out in Minsk, with police using flashbang grenades. Opposition protests and arrests were also reported in other cities.

"A deep, unprecedented political crisis is beginning," - Tikhanovskaya's main ally Maria Kolesnikova told a press conference. She accused the authorities of gross violations of voting rules, claiming that some polling stations had seen a turnout of more than 100 percent. In her view, the government is "incapable of running the country".

"The authorities should recognise that the majority is on our side," - Kolesnikova said.

[*Read more: Lukashenko has ruled Belarus for more than 25 years. "The last dictator* ***of Europe****"*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114881,26192100,lukaszenka-rzadzi-bialorusia-od-ponad-25-lat-ostatni-dyktator.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Elections in Belarus. Lukashenko's men detained Tikhanouskaya's staff just before the vote***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-5YK1-JCVT-R53W-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

August 9, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 179 words

**Byline:** IAR,dafa

**Highlight:** In Belarus today the sixth presidential election in the country's history. Over 6 million 800 thousand citizens are eligible to vote. About 6,000 polling stations will be open from 8am to 8pm local time, or 7am to 7pm Polish time.

**Body**

There are five candidates running, but only two of them were visible in the election campaign - the incumbent president, Alyaksandr Lukashenko, who has been in office for 26 years, and the opposition representative, Svitlana Tikhanouska.

The President visited factories, large farms and military units. Svitlana Tikhanouska organised election rallies in all the big cities for thousands of people.

The fight with the independent candidate continued until the last moment. According to Tichanouska's staff on Saturday evening, the militia detained the head of her electoral staff, Marya Maroz, and her closest associate, Marya Kalesnikawa.

The Belarusian elections will be observed mainly by observers from the post-Soviet Commonwealth of Independent States. There will be no OSCE or Council of ***Europe*** Parliamentary Assembly observers.

Commentators point out that there were no independent pre-election polls in Belarus and there will be no post-election exit polls. The winner of the elections will probably be declared the incumbent president, Alyaksandr Lukashenko, who has won all the elections organised during his rule.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Indictments (76%); Investigations (76%); Celebrities (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (82%); Traveler Safety + Security (70%); Harbors + Ports (62%); Mining + Extraction (62%)

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The EU is concerned about spending in Poland. EC: efficient and effective fund management is hindered***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y9F-5581-JCVT-R4BH-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

February 26, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 382 words

**Byline:** ŁSK / ISBNews

**Highlight:** As assessed by the ***European*** Commission (EC), the functioning of the expenditure rule of the budgetary framework in Poland has been undermined by the circumvention of rules in some recent budget spending programmes. At the same time, the EC noted that work on reforming the budget system is underway in Poland.

**Body**

- The expenditure rule remains a cornerstone of the [*fiscal*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=bud%BFet+pa%F1stwa) framework. However, its functioning has been undermined by circumvention of the rule in some recent spending programmes, the Country Report Poland 2020 reads. [*The EC*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=komisja+europejska) also noted in it that Poland remains the only member state without an independent fiscal council. In the report, the commission also noted that recently "the fiscal framework has been weakened, as some [*spending*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=Wydatki) increases go beyond the rules in place."

The structure of the Polish budgetary framework has remained unchanged. Fiscal rules defining the acceptable level of deficit, debt and expenditure at different levels of government appear to be its strongest element

- noted the EC in its report.

According to the committee, 'the stabilising expenditure rule, which covers almost the whole general [*government*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=samorz%B1d) sector, plays an important role in preventing overspending'. The report notes that the rule sets a nominal level of expenditure for entities and funds specified in budget [*law*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=ustawa), but "several new expenditure items (e.g. additional [*pension*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=emerytura), development of local bus services, support for adults with disabilities) are managed through newly created funds that are not subject to the rule".

The EC believes that "although the practice strongly weakens the expenditure rule, it remains a key tool in curbing unsustainable expenditure growth". She also reminded in the report that in [*Poland,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=polska) reforms [*budget system are underway, in*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=pieni%B1dze) terms of its weaknesses. These include - according to the EC - complex and outdated budget classifications, sub-optimal recording of information, lack of medium-term planning and lack of direct influence of expenditure control on the budget process. According to the EC, these hinder efficient and effective fund management and clear accountability.

Reform appears important in light of limited room for additional significant revenue increases, long-term spending pressures and inefficiencies in expenditure management

- concludes the EC in its report.

At the same time, due to the complexity of the reform, its implementation is expected to take several years. A final date for its completion has not yet been announced by the [*government*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=rz%B1d).

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (82%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Medicine + Health (68%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

**Load-Date:** February 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Iustitia: Prosecution wants to bring criminal charges against Judge Tulea***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y9F-5581-JCVT-R4BM-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

February 26, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 492 words

**Byline:** Paweł Kośmiński

**Highlight:** In a month's time, the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court is to decide whether to allow a judge to be prosecuted.

**Body**

The case goes back to [*December 2017.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,22799183,bedzie-sledztwo-ws-posiedzenia-sejmu-w-sali-kolumnowej-tak.html) It was then that the District Court in Warsaw, presided over by Judge Igor Tulea, overturned the prosecution's decision to discontinue the investigation into the famous vote in the Columned Hall.

At that time, protests were held in front of the parliament building against further actions of the authorities. First, the Law and Justice party tried to restrict the media's ability to report on events in the Sejm. Then, the then Speaker Marek Kuchciński excluded Civic Platform MP Michał Szczerba, who entered the rostrum with a placard reading "#FreeMediainSejm".

In the end, Kuchciński moved the proceedings to the Columned Hall, where the budget and de-stewardship bills, among others, were quickly passed. Votes were taken by show of hands, without the participation of the media, while opposition MPs complained that they were not allowed inside. They also claimed that there might not have been a quorum during the vote. The opposition informed the public prosecutor of the irregularities.

Overturning in its entirety the prosecution's decision to discontinue the investigation, the court ordered that it be conducted. At the same time, [*Tuleya filed a notice of suspicion of false testimony*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,24351217,co-mial-sedzia-tuleya-na-poslow-pis-znamy-tresc-zawiadomienia.html) by MPs. This totals over 230 people, mainly from the Law and Justice party. Among them the most important people in the state. The judge cited specific questionable quotes.

Two months ago, [*the OKO.press portal wrote*](https://oko.press/sedzia-tuleya-na-celowniku-sledczych-za-orzeczenie-ws-glosowania-pis-nad-budzetem/) about the fact that the ruling of December 2017 is being dealt with by a special department of the National Prosecutor's Office. According to the documents now made available by the Association of Polish Judges "Iustitia", the prosecutor's office wants to bring criminal charges against Tulea and, before that, to revoke his immunity.

She has already asked the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court, set up by the Law and Justice Party, to adopt a resolution "on the authorisation to prosecute" a judge.

According to the prosecution, Tuleya - as a public official - failed to fulfil his official duties and exceeded his powers.

The application to the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court reads: "allowed representatives of the mass media to record images and sound during the session of the District Court in Warsaw (...) and the announcement of the decision in this case and its oral recitals, as a result of which he disclosed to unauthorised persons, without the authorisation of an authorised person as required by law, news from the preparatory proceedings of the District Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw (...), which he obtained in connection with the performance of his official duties".

And by doing so - according to the prosecution - he acted to the detriment of the public interest.

Iustitia draws attention to the fact that according to the [*so-called muzzling law signed by President Andrzej Duda in February,*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,25665956,andrzej-duda-podpisal-ustawe-kagancowa.html) such motions are considered by the Disciplinary Chamber on a one-man basis. This particular one is to be dealt with on 20 March by former [*prosecutor Jacek Wygoda*](https://krakow.wyborcza.pl/krakow/7,44425,23946576,byly-prokurator-z-malopolski-nominowany-przez-prezydenta-do.html).

Implementing a ruling of the Court of Justice of the ***EU***, the Supreme Court ruled that - fully staffed with the help of the new National Judicial Council - it is not a court under EU and national law because it does not guarantee independence from politicians.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (75%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (67%)

**Load-Date:** February 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Senate is to adopt a resolution on the "devastation of the judiciary". PiS politicians announce boycott***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y9F-5581-JCVT-R4BB-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

February 26, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 516 words

**Byline:** MLZ

**Highlight:** During Thursday's session, the Senate is to adopt a resolution on the judiciary, "Rzeczpospolita" has learned. The draft, signed, among others, by Speaker Tomasz Grodzki, includes provisions on the "unimaginable devastation of the Polish justice system" and on the future "redress of grievances".

**Body**

On Thursday, the Senate - where the opposition has a majority - is to vote on a resolution defending the independence of judges and the independence of the judiciary, [*"Rzeczpospolita" reports*](https://www.rp.pl/Polityka/200229483-Senat-uchwala-potepi-dzialania-PiS.html). On the same day, in the morning, the Senate committees are to consider the resolution. The author of the project, which was signed by 22 senators, including Speaker Tomasz Grodzki, is PO senator Bogdan Zdrojewski.

>>> Tomczyk: PiS is taking over the courts so as not to answer to them

"Rzeczpospolita" has reached the content of the draft resolution, which will be the subject of Thursday's session of the Senate.

The justice system of the Republic of Poland has been subjected to unimaginable devastation. Over a period of just four years, the authority of the Constitutional Tribunal has been destroyed. Changes made to the National Council of the Judiciary have made this body significantly dependent on the executive. The judgments of ***European*** institutions, including the Court of Justice of the ***European*** Union and the Venice Commission, are being ignored. Judgments of the Supreme Court are openly discredited. The independence of the judiciary is being undermined, and judges themselves have become the object of various aggressive actions on the part of the authorities

- reads the draft. It also expresses support "for all those judges, as well as representatives of other legal professions, who courageously, despite threats and repression, resist the devastation of the judiciary and often suffer severe consequences because of it".

The draft ends with a declaration in which the "Senators of the Republic of Poland" assure that "the time will come when wrongs will be righted, and unworthy and unlawful behaviour will be judged". The word "judged" is to be changed in the final version of the resolution," Zdrojewski said in an interview with Rz. The PO senator also admitted that the introduction of the draft resolution to the Senate's agenda was motivated by, among other things, "physical attacks on judges" and "the effects of the so-called muzzling law, which means that over 20% of judges resign from applying for promotions".

According to unofficial conversations between the daily and PiS senators, the party's representatives may leave the chamber during the voting on the draft resolution on the judiciary.

[*And the upper house of parliament has already managed to indirectly express its stance on the*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,25609218,senat-odrzucil-tzw-ustawe-kagancowa-nowelizacja-wroci-teraz.html) PiS-led [*changes to the judiciary*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,25609218,senat-odrzucil-tzw-ustawe-kagancowa-nowelizacja-wroci-teraz.html). In January, the Senate rejected the so-called muzzling bill (51 senators voted against the new law).

The vote in the Senate was preceded by an opinion on the repressive law issued by the Venice Commission, a Senate debate and work in parliamentary committees. Among the participants in the debates were the president of the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court, Stanisław Zabłocki, the Ombudsman Adam Bodnar and representatives of judicial communities from Poland and abroad.

The repressive law, finally passed by the Sejm, which rejected the Senate's decision, provides, among other things, for penalties for challenging the status of judges or decisions made by the National Council of the Judiciary. A range of penalties are envisaged for judges: removal from office, a fine or transfer. The President signed the act on 4 February, and the new law came into force a week later.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (78%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Weapons + Arms (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Medicine + Health (68%); Espionage (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (63%); Arms Control + Disarmament (62%)

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

**Load-Date:** February 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***There is no shortage of sadists among Sweden's privileged strata***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y97-6091-F09W-F2XT-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

February 26, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 2199 words

**Byline:** Wojciech Orliński

**Highlight:** We were inspired by schools for children from very rich families. Older pupils there pastored the younger ones, with staff and parents doing nothing. Interview with writers Alexander and Alexandra Ahndoril

**Body**

The text was published in Duży Format on 9 April 2018.

ALEXANDER:...are you afraid to come here?

ALEXANDRA: We were a country of social democratic equality for many years, but we are not anymore. Sweden is changing, just like the rest of ***Europe***. We have had several decades of privatisation and commercialisation.

ALEXANDER: The old equality is gone, we have become a class society again. In that respect we are not so much different from Britain now.

ALEXANDER: The school in our novel is invented, but we were inspired by schools for children from very rich, privileged families.

ALEXANDRA: In Sweden, there have been several recent scandals with the phenomenon of "surge" in these schools - older students pastoring younger ones, with staff and parents inaction.

ALEXANDER: It turned out that there was no shortage of sadists among the privileged strata.

ALEXANDER: I wouldn't take it in the category of party labels. But the crime novel is a great tool for social criticism.

ALEXANDRA: To write a good detective story, you need a good understanding of society.

ALEXANDER: Because every crime is an act of failure of society as a whole. It's not just a matter of one bad individual, it's a matter of the whole system failing somewhere, overlooking something, failing to prevent something.

ALEXANDRA: We all got a bit paranoid after Olof Palme's death.

ALEXANDER: For although more than 30 years have passed, it still remains a mystery. In the centre of town, on a busy street, the country's prime minister was killed and no one knows how it happened. It's hard not to get suspicious.

ALEXANDRA: Yes. We wanted to pay tribute to the Finnish minority in Sweden. It's quite large, and not many people know about it. In the 1960s, the Swedish economy was booming, and many Finns came here to work in our factories and to build our houses.

ALEXANDER: The Swedes tend to look down on the Finns. Finland is like a little brother to us, and we're always ready to give them advice, whether they ask for it or not. Finns don't like it, Swedes are mostly unaware of it. There are no Finnish characters in Swedish literature. There are Danes, there are Norwegians. There are no Finns at all. Joona Linna is the first main character in Swedish crime novels! His name is the Finnish version of the biblical Jonah, the one who lived in the big fish, and his surname is an homage to Väinö Linna...

ALEXANDRA:...the famous Finnish writer, the only Nobel Prize nominee.

ALEXANDER: He is a brilliant writer, we both adore him.

ALEXANDRA: In our imagination, Joona has been raised in Sweden since childhood, so Swedish is his mother tongue. But he speaks Finnish.

ALEXANDER: He speaks Finnish rarely, mostly when he is angry. He swears in Finnish [both laugh].

ALEXANDER: These are hardly real animosities. They come out at most during football matches, but even then not really seriously. Many Swedes, for example, have moved to Norway precisely because there is so much oil money there.

ALEXANDRA: My brother moved to Denmark and we also often joke about where things are better. But I would say there's more friendship and bonding from shared history than actual animosity.

ALEXANDER: These jokes can be coarse, and Joona can be conflicted. He's a perfectionist and a workaholic; such people are rarely liked by co-workers.

ALEXANDRA: Joona speaks Swedish with a Finnish accent.

ALEXANDER: Every Swede hears it straight away, whether someone speaks Swedish like a Swede or like a Dane or a Finn.

ALEXANDRA: We both like the Finnish accent, if you like, imagine someone speaking as if they were singing a melancholy song. That's how Swedish sounds with a Finnish accent to a Swede.

ALEXANDRA: I would disagree that she is from a comic book. She has a very complicated psyche, nobody knows all her secrets.

ALEXANDER: Joona has a strong personality, we had to come up with a heroine who was equally strong. In many ways, Saga is his opposite - Joona usually pursues a straightforward path, Saga prefers to follow only the paths she knows.

ALEXANDRA: I came up with the first part - the name "Lars", in homage to Stieg Larsson, who inspired a new wave of Scandinavian crime fiction. I gave the name to Alexander.

ALEXANDER: And I chose Kepler mainly because Alexandra wrote a biographical novel on the great Danish astronomer Tychon Brahe. Johannes Kepler was his assistant. His character fascinated me, and I read a lot about him myself afterwards. He was a genius. He understood how the solar system worked without even having a telescope. In fact, his reasoning was like that of a detective in a detective story - after eliminating all false hypotheses, he finally formulated the correct one, that is the model which we still call 'Kepler's laws'. I wanted to pay tribute to him.

ALEXANDRA: Brahe and Kepler didn't have a telescope, but Brahe had his own island in the sea, so at least they could set up an observatory in complete isolation.

As a child I lived in Helsingborg, on the south coast of Sweden. That is close. At school we were often taken to this island for a trip....

ALEXANDER:

That is where our idea came from! We were sick of being alone. We said to ourselves: after all, we love each other, surely we can find some way to work together.

ALEXANDRA: First we lay out the plot on the board, sticking hundreds of note cards. Then each of us carries out the following elements

ALEXANDRA: We sit at neighbouring desks, exchanging files by email.

ALEXANDER: That would be the case if we signed with our two names. Every writer is used to what they do. But we're not the ones writing the books, Lars Kepler is. So if we argue about anything at all, it's how Lars would write something.

ALEXANDER: Something like that. We sketched a portrait of him and came up with a biography of him.

ALEXANDRA: Lars Kepler used to be a teacher and had a family, but he lost everything through some great tragedy. He now works in Stockholm at a homeless shelter and writes at night. Books are everything he values in life and Commissioner Joona is his fantasy, he has always dreamed of being someone like him.

ALEXANDER: We made up the idea that Kepler drank a lot of tea, so we now drink it too, to feel like him.

ALEXANDRA: We wanted to keep it a secret. Although Kepler's books are published by our publisher, who has also published our books written separately, we sent him "The Hypnotist" anonymously, from a mailbox set up especially for this purpose.

ALEXANDER: It was all done by our agent, who was the only one who was privy to it. The publisher settled with him and he settled with us. It seemed that we would manage to keep the secret for a long time. But in 2009, "The Hypnotist" was the hit of a book fair in London, and suddenly the Swedish press was out to expose Lars Kepler.

ALEXANDRA: It was crazy. A newspaper set up a special hotline, open 24 hours a day, that whoever told the secret would get a prize.

ALEXANDRA: They finally figured us out. One newspaper published 10 proofs that Lars Kepler was us. Evidence number one was that my brother works as a hypnotist, the rest I don't remember, but after that there was no point in hiding anymore.

ALEXANDER: We live in harmony with our era, although we don't like everything about it. Politics used to be simpler. There weren't so many...

ALEXANDRA: ...divisions. But there is no nostalgia in us for the 1950s. Above all, it was a time of poverty, unimaginable for young Swedes today.

ALEXANDRA: This is August Palme, the father of Swedish social democracy. He is said to have made the first public speech for socialism in 1881 and the whole country followed his lead. I have written a book about him. This monument also moves me, because I know what he says in that speech: we will give women suffrage, we will give rights to the working class, we will introduce free education, free schools....

ALEXANDER: ...and freedom of speech! He is a very important figure in Swedish history. I admire him too.

ALEXANDRA: But to admire him is one thing, and to feel nostalgic for the old days is another.

ALEXANDER: Those were difficult times.

ALEXANDRA: Politics was simpler because everyone was united by a common goal: to lift Sweden out of poverty, to give people basic rights. When we succeeded in building prosperity, we started arguing about how to divide it. These divisions can be unpleasant, but no one longs for the poverty of the past.

In one of your novels, a supporting character says that this prosperity can quickly disappear, so one should always be ready for it. This resonates well in Poland, we have also made great progress in two decades and I still have this suspicious thought - I shouldn't be able to afford to sit here having coffee with you...

ALEXANDER: We know the feeling. We both come from working-class families. I associate this quote, it's from "The Hypnotist." The title character's mother convinced him with this argument to study medicine because it was a miracle to her that her child could study whatever he wanted, so why not medicine. She often repeated to him that this prosperity might be something temporary, a temporary anomaly in Swedish history, and who knows, it might turn out that she was right.

ALEXANDRA: We don't take this prosperity for granted. It's been with us like this for a generation.

ALEXANDRA: All over ***Europe*** such parties are now gaining popularity, but in Sweden this is under control for now. 13 percent voted for them, so 87 percent voted against them.

Unsure laughter, both look at each other helplessly, searching for an answer].

ALEXANDER: This advice is quite sound. Indeed, where there are tourists, there are pickpockets. Petty theft has been a scourge in Stockholm lately, so my advice in the Old Town is to keep an eye on your wallet. At the airport too...

ALEXANDRA: Sweden is generally a safe country. Like in every city there are neighbourhoods where you can come across drunk people in the evening. They are not dangerous, but they can be unpleasant.

ALEXANDER: They are realistic in two senses. Usually, the starting point for the storyline is a real problem in Swedish life, for example the ambiguous situation in which Sweden is an arms exporter, which involves our politicians in deals with countries whose policies we officially condemn. In addition, we try to be as realistic as possible when describing police procedures. Who does what research on whose orders or who can talk to a witness when, and who it depends on, is realistic for us.

ALEXANDER: In Sweden, both institutions are based in the same building, they have a common chief. In Sweden, the equivalent of the FBI is the National Criminal Division. It can be called upon for help by the local police unit or by the Säpo political police. All these institutions use common laboratories, for example, so as not to duplicate this. This is quite sensibly organised in our country.

ALEXANDRA: The crime stories in our books themselves are a product of our imagination, but the police procedures are not. So our approach is more or less like this - we invent a crime and we wonder how our institutions would react if something like that really happened.

ALEXANDRA: ...and Sjöwall and Wahlöö are Marxists. That's true, but after all it's not as if they agitate for a particular political option in their books.

ALEXANDER: We too have our views, but we avoid agitation. We prefer to inspire the reader to think.

ALEXANDRA: Before we started writing crime fiction, we both had literary careers. Many Scandinavian crime fiction authors started their careers as journalists. This is a big difference. We primarily want to tell an interesting story. They sometimes wrote books to draw attention to something or to condemn a phenomenon. We have a duty as writers, not as journalists.

ALEXANDRA: Maybe when we feel that Sweden is facing some kind of disaster...

ALEXANDER: There is no need for that at the moment. Sweden has various problems, but for the time being it is dealing with them very well.

Lars Kepler - does not exist, which does not prevent him from being the most fashionable Swedish writer of the last decade. His detective stories about the adventures of commissioner Joona Linna have already been translated into 40 languages and published in 12 million copies. The latest book in the series, "The Hunter", has just been published in Poland. - In it, Joona Linna investigates a murder against the background of a sex scandal among the Swedish media and political elite.

Behind Lars Kepler is a married couple, Alexander and Alexandra Ahndoril, authors who were already well established as writers and decided to try their hand at crime fiction. They arranged to meet me at their favourite café, located near the place where Sweden lost its innocence in 1986: Prime Minister Olof Palme was shot here after leaving a cinema (as befits a Swedish prime minister, he arrived by metro, unaccompanied).

The café was decorated in the 1950s and nothing has changed since then. Wooden furniture, a coffee machine, display cases with pastries, everything is as it was then. Even the password for the WiFi is the year the café opened: 1954.

The couple arrive on foot, order coffee and cinnamon cakes and start talking - like a two-headed dragon in which one head finishes a sentence started by the other...

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (92%); Human Rights Violations (90%); Terrorist Organizations (89%); Awards + Prizes (88%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (88%); Chemistry (88%); Medical Science (88%); Medicine + Health (88%); Military Weapons (88%); Physics (88%); Writers (88%); Management Theory + Practice (75%); Espionage (71%); Rebellions + Insurgencies (70%); Film (69%); Labor Force (63%); Respiratory Disease (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (84%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (84%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%)

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Coronavirus in Europe. US virologist: Europe is a second China [THURSDAY 12 MARCH - MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION]***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDM-JBY1-F09W-F2JK-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 12, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 1427 words

**Byline:** paz, IAR

**Highlight:** On Thursday, many ***European*** countries imposed heavy restrictions due to the increasing number of people infected with the coronavirus. Donald Trump has also decided to suspend flights from ***Europe*** to the US. The head of the CDC (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), virologist Dr Robert Redfield stated that "***Europe*** is the new China".

**Body**

The number of people infected with coronavirus in Belgium has risen to 399. The health ministry said 85 new cases have been detected since yesterday, out of more than 800 samples tested. This group includes 34 people living in a Brussels nursing home. 11 of them were taken to hospital. The health ministry said more than a dozen people currently in hospitals in Belgium are in a serious condition. So far, three coronavirus fatalities have been confirmed in the country. They were elderly people with long medical histories and multiple medical conditions.

Universities in Wallonia, the French-speaking part of Belgium, will be closed for six weeks from Monday. Teaching will be done remotely, via the internet. This is what the rectors of the francophone universities have decided.

[*For*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/14,166794,25781214.html#s=BoxMMt1) more information [*see our coverage>> and*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/14,166794,25781214.html#s=BoxMMt1) our summary [*highlights>>*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,173952,25784290,koronawirus-48-zakazonych-jedna-ofiara-smiertelna-czwartek.html)

Belarusians are using Chinese methods to treat people seriously ill with the coronavirus. President Alexander Lukashenko thanked China for providing Belarus with information and advice on the fight against COVID-19. Unfortunately, the Belarusian health minister did not specify what the guidance was. Earlier, during a morbidity summit in China, Minsk provided Beijing with humanitarian aid in the form of medical supplies and medicines.

So far, 12 coronavirus infections have been confirmed in Belarus. Doctors say that 4 people have been successfully treated. The condition of the others is satisfactory. Persons with suspected infection with the pathogen are still being reported. Isolation of people in contact with them is ongoing.

The ***European*** Commission has decided that most officials will work from home from Monday. The reason is the coronavirus pandemic - six people from the Commission have been detected infected with the pathogen. The Commission had earlier decided to take precautions against the coronavirus, with around 9,000 officials working from home.

In agreement with the Commission, the heads of the ***European*** Schools in Brussels have decided to close their establishments by the end of March.

The government in Prague has imposed a state of emergency. It is to last for thirty days. From Saturday, people from high-risk countries will not be allowed to enter the Czech Republic. These countries include China, South Korea, Iran, Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Denmark and France. Czech citizens are also banned from travelling to these countries.

The French government intends to help people at risk of redundancy due to the economic consequences of the coronavirus. The authorities are concerned with maintaining existing jobs. Around sixty thousand workers are now threatened with redundancy. However, according to French Labour Minister Mauriel Penicaud, this number will increase rapidly.

A so-called health reserve has been activated on the Seine, made up of retired doctors and some medical students. All will now fight the coronavirus.

Spanish Equality Minister Irene Montero is infected with coronavirus. She has been quarantined along with her partner, Podemos party leader and Deputy Prime Minister Pablo Iglesias. Spanish authorities said that later today all members of the government will be tested for coronavirus.

More than 2 200 people are infected with the pathogen in Spain. 55 people have died, while more than 180 have fought off the infection.

Universities, schools and kindergartens closed, most events cancelled. Such measures have been taken in Ireland in connection with the coronavirus. This was announced by Prime Minister Leo Varadkar.

The restrictions are expected to last until 29 March. - Schools, colleges and kindergartens will be closed. Where possible, education should take place at a distance, Leo Varadkar enumerated. - Cultural institutions will also be closed. We are advised to refrain from gatherings.

Inside buildings, assemblies should not take place if there are 100 people. Outside - if there are 500 people.

Due to the threat of the coronavirus, the Lithuanian authorities have decided to close all educational and cultural institutions for a fortnight. The authorities in Vilnius, meanwhile, have gone one step further and decided that the ban, which starts tomorrow, will be in force in the city for five weeks.

All kindergartens, schools and universities will be closed throughout the country. All mass events have been cancelled. Museums, cinemas, sports clubs and other places for recreation or entertainment will be closed. The Lithuanian authorities are also advising their residents to refrain from travelling to other countries for at least a month.

Three cases of coronavirus have so far been confirmed in Lithuania.

Latvia is declaring an emergency due to the spread of the coronavirus. From Friday to 14 April, educational and cultural institutions will be closed and events cancelled.

So far, 16 cases have been registered in the country.

An 80-year-old man has died in Germany due to a coronavirus. This was reported by the Bavarian health ministry. This is the fifth fatal victim of the pathogen in the country.

A conference on the spread of the coronavirus was held in Berlin with Chancellor Angela Merkel, federal ministers and the prime ministers of all the states. Bavarian Prime Minister Marcus Seder admitted that the situation is very serious.

Federal Minister for Education and Research Anja Karliczek has not yet decided to close schools in the country. However, she announced that she does not rule out such a decision.

On Thursday, the Norwegian government took two important decisions. First, large public events were cancelled, all schools and kindergartens were closed, and places such as beauty and tattoo parlours were closed. The second decision was to impose a mandatory 14-day quarantine for all those who arrived in Norway from abroad after 27 February (outside the Nordic countries). Both Norwegians and foreigners are to undergo this quarantine. It also does not matter whether they observe symptoms of the disease in themselves.

On Thursday, the first person infected with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus also died in Norway, both Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg and Oslo University Hospital, where the patient was staying, announced. The victim is an elderly person.

The number of people hospitalised due to coronavirus is 384, the latest figures from the health ministry show. In addition, 2,736 people were quarantined and 14,841 people were under epidemiological surveillance.

A total of 51 cases of coronavirus infection have been confirmed in Poland. One person has died. A 57-year-old resident of Czapur also had another serious illness. She lay in an infectious disease hospital.

In connection with the spread of the coronavirus, Slovakia is closing its borders to all foreigners except Poles from tomorrow.

Slovenian Prime Minister Marjan Sarec has announced that schools across the country will be closed from Monday. The decision is aimed at reducing the rate of spread of the coronavirus. The Prime Minister did not give a date for the reopening of schools.

In Slovenia, 57 cases of coronavirus infection have been confirmed. The first two primary schools were already closed on Wednesday. The reason was the detection of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in teachers at these establishments.

The Scottish Government will recommend the cancellation of large gatherings, regional chief executive Nicola Sturgeon has announced. The First Minister urged organisers to give up concerts or conferences. She added that scientists advising the government say cancelling such events will not significantly reduce the spread of the virus.

There have been 24 new cases reported in Scotland today. There are 60 in total, with 590 cases found across the UK, after around 25,000 people were tested. Ten people have died.

There have been 134 new cases of coronavirus infection registered in the UK today. Two people have died. Both were suffering from other chronic illnesses. The number of COVID-19 victims in this country has therefore risen to ten.

Around 25 000 people were tested on the islands. A total of 590 cases have been reported. Among those infected is the Deputy Health Minister, Nadine Dorries (pictured above).

Civil protection chief Angelo Borrelli said that so far a total of 1015 people have died from the coronavirus. Over the past 24 hours, more than 2200 new cases have been registered. The total number of those infected has therefore risen to almost 13 000. More than 5 000 people do not require hospital treatment. The rest are hospitalised. Over 1 150 people are in intensive care units. This is 125 more than yesterday.

The extraordinary security measures taken by the government yesterday are in force throughout Italy from today because of the coronavirus pandemic. Only shops and services catering to the basic needs of the population are open. In Rome, life has virtually ground to a halt.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Terrorist Organizations (70%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Weapons + Arms (64%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (87%)

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Dramatic letter from the chief executive of 'La Repubblica': We are left alone with this epidemic***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDM-JBY1-F09W-F2HY-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 12, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 526 words

**Byline:** Gianluca Di Feo

**Highlight:** solidarity and coordination were lacking. A sad lesson that we will not forget. Once the plague has passed, nothing will be as it was before. The Union must reform itself thoroughly," writes Gianluca Di Feo, deputy editor of the daily La Repubblica.

**Body**

Masks, rubber gloves and plastic goggles. These are the first things Italy asked ***Europe*** for - the help needed to erect the simplest barrier against coronavirus. They got no response. And France and Germany even banned exports.

Sure, Brussels allowed the Italian government to breach its public debt limits to prop up an economy devastated by the epidemic. Sure, Ursula von der Leyen said: "We are all Italians". And yet...

There may yet be someone who thinks COVID-19 is "just a stronger version of the flu". No, it is a killer. It spreads rapidly, destroys the lungs. Older people first. The number of victims is growing. An entire generation can be wiped out and the basis of the economy undermined.

We have taken measures unprecedented in recent Western history. All Italians must stay at home, shops and restaurants have been closed. Life has been turned upside down.

You have seen the images of a deserted Milan, of the empty streets of Rome. You know less about the battle being waged by hospitals in northern Italy overwhelmed by the number of sick people.

Half of the infected have to be treated in hospitals, one in ten have to be in intensive care, connected to a ventilator. Resistance can only continue by creating new wards for the infected, throwing new staff and equipment there. It is a fight against time: finding hundreds of new places for patients before the epidemic takes a bigger toll. The fortunate thing about this tragedy is that the virus attacked Lombardy, which has the best health system in the country. But we are left alone, not a single doctor, not a single mask, not a single field hospital has arrived from the Union.

Why has ***Europe,*** with its administrative and technical apparatus, done nothing to prevent the epidemic, to coordinate the fight? Each country is acting on its own, with the result that what is happening in Italy could soon happen in France or Germany. We wanted common solutions, but there were none.

Why did ***Europe*** not immediately implement a plan to produce basic items such as masks and gloves, and equipment which had proved to be an effective weapon in China? Now everyone is looking for respirators and protective clothing, even though the Union's industrial capacity could have produced the necessary supplies in a month. For the Italians, for everyone. None of this.

Economic aid will be necessary tomorrow, today we are fighting to stop the decline of our society. Right now, medicine is more important than business. And we know that without hospitals that are able to receive the sick, panic will increase the chaos, ruining markets.

In this situation, the Union is proving to be remote from the citizens' problems - it is avoiding intervention. There is a lack of solidarity and a lack of coordination. A sad lesson that we will not forget. Once the contagion has passed, nothing will be the same as before. The Union must reform itself thoroughly, starting with the needs of the people. Otherwise, nothing will be able to defend it against the xenophobic populism that turns the virus into a powerful political weapon to deal the final blow.

translation. Bartosz Hlebowicz

The text appears simultaneously in seven ***European*** dailies belonging together with "Wyborcza" to the LENA alliance

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Torture (84%); Human Rights Violations (82%); Securities + Other Investments (82%); Terrorist Organizations (77%); Film (75%); Awards + Prizes (64%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (64%); Chemistry (64%); Espionage (64%); Medical Science (64%); Medicine + Health (64%); Military Weapons (64%); Physics (64%); Writers (64%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Harbors + Ports (75%); Mining + Extraction (75%); Destinations + Attractions (69%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (65%)

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***URGENT! Due to coronavirus, Trump suspends travel from Europe to the USA***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-RW01-F09W-F1YC-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 12, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 466 words

**Byline:** Maciej Czarnecki, Minneapolis - Saint Paul, Bartosz T. Wieliński

**Highlight:** Foreigners who have been in ***Europe in the*** past two weeks will not be allowed to enter the USA. In this way the US authorities want to stop the expansion of the coronavirus

**Body**

Trump announced the drastic decisions during an address delivered in the Oval Office, which was broadcast by major television stations. - We will suspend all travel from ***Europe*** to the United States for 30 days. The new rules will take effect at midnight on Friday. These restrictions will be adjusted as conditions change, he announced. This is the response of US authorities to the growing number of coronavirus cases in the US.

More than 1 200 infections have been detected, most of them in Washington State. So far, 38 people have died. Already 23 states have declared a state of emergency in connection with the disease. [*Trump himself did not consider the coronavirus a serious problem for a long time, comparing it to the flu and saying that "it will pass on its own"*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25731777,epidemia-koronawirusa-trump-w-usa-wszystko-jest-pod-kontrola.html). Did he change his mind under the influence of scientific advisors or did political calculation prevail? It is not known. There has been much comment in the US that how the federal government deals with the virus will have a very serious impact on the outcome of the autumn elections. And Democratic Party politicians have long accused Trump of downplaying the threat.

Trump added that the exceptions would only apply to US citizens who "pass the appropriate checks". The suspension will not cover travel from the UK, where almost 500 cases of the coronavirus have been detected so far. However, more than 20 000 tests have been carried out for its presence and, so far, [*the spread of the virus is not only slower than in Italy, but also in France and Germany*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25780951,koronawirus-we-wloszech-premier-conte-zamykamy-prawie-wszystko.html). Besides, the United Kingdom is currently the most important global ally of the USA.

Trump's executive order is not just about people. - The bans will not only apply to a huge amount of trade and cargo, but various other things. The object of our consideration is everything that comes into the United States from ***Europe***," Trump added.

Shortly after his speech, however, the Department of Homeland Security changed the meaning of his message. Indeed, it clarified that the travel ban would apply to foreign nationals who had been in a Schengen country at any time in the last 14 days before their scheduled arrival in the US. US citizens, their loved ones and those with permanent residence in the US will be allowed to continue flying into the country.

The situation is most serious in New York State, where National Guard units have been mobilised. Epidemiologists warn that it will get worse. The development of the disease may be encouraged by the fact that health care in the US is extremely expensive and there is no sick leave. Americans may therefore ignore symptoms fearing the cost. Another problem is the availability of tests. In the US of 327 million people, only 8,500 people have been tested for coronavirus. Among those infected is 63-year-old actor Tom Hanks and his wife.

More events are being cancelled across the country and workers are being encouraged to work from home.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Torture (93%); Terrorist Organizations (90%); Law Courts + Tribunals (73%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Medicine + Health (62%)

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

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Coronavirus. Black Thursday on the markets. On Wall Street, the worst session since the crash of 1987, on the WSE - ever***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDM-JBY1-F09W-F2K0-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 12, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 475 words

**Byline:** mmz

**Highlight:** It was absolute panic. Stock markets in the United States tumbled the hardest since 19 October 1987 - the so-called "Black Monday". Many other stock exchanges also had their worst day in years, including the Warsaw Stock Exchange, for which the session of 12 March 2020 was the worst in history.

**Body**

The [*coronavirus*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,173953.html) seriously spooked investors a few days ago, and today it was actually Donald Trump who did it. After he [*announced*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25781315,koronawirus-trump-zakazal-podrozy-do-usa-bez-uprzedzenia-ue.html) on the evening [*that the US would not accept planes from the* ***EU***](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25781315,koronawirus-trump-zakazal-podrozy-do-usa-bez-uprzedzenia-ue.html) for 30 days (although it did [*accept planes*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25781315,koronawirus-trump-zakazal-podrozy-do-usa-bez-uprzedzenia-ue.html) from the UK), the stock markets started Thursday with a solid discount. After that, it basically only got worse.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones index lost almost 10 per cent and it was its worst session since the 1987 "Black Monday" crash. As well as the S&P 500, which lost 9.5 per cent, the Nasdaq technology index fell 9.4 per cent.

Investors, apart from the flight issue, did not like the way central banks and politicians were acting on the issue of preventing the negative economic impact of the pandemic. The Fed did announce that it would increase operations to pump money into the market, but this only calmed the mood for a while. The US President also disappointed - concrete ideas to support the economy were expected, but he only announced a tax holiday.

"What is happening is a 'tsunami is coming' approach. We know it could hit any day, but nobody knows what the effect will be," - Kathy Entwistle of UBS bank said, as quoted by CNBC.

Earlier, [***the European*** *Central Bank defied expectations*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,25784288,koronawirusowa-panika-na-gieldach-ebc-kontratakuje-ale-stop.html) by not cutting interest rates. Lower rates are seen as stimulating the economy - meaning cheaper loans. ***European*** stock exchanges saw double-digit drops, including the Warsaw Stock Exchange, where the main index - WIG20 - lost 13.28 percent. Experts underline that investors are fleeing from emerging markets, which also include Poland. Money is invested in assets considered to be a "safe haven" for times of turbulence and uncertainty. Such a safe haven is, for example, the Swiss franc, which has risen in value today, also against the Polish zloty.

[*Read more on this topic: Coronavirus. Frank almost the most expensive in history. Loan instalments are going up*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,25785180,koronawirus-frank-niemal-najdrozszy-w-historii-raty-kredytow.html)

The level of uncertainty is indicated by the behaviour of the VIX (Cboe Volatility Index), known as the "fear index" - the higher it is, the greater the anxiety in the markets reflects. On Thursday, the VIX jumped sharply, to its highest level since November 2008, the height of the last financial crisis.

The markets are waiting for decisive action - not just from central banks - to show that governments have a plan to combat recession. And this may be unavoidable in many countries.

Read also:

[*Coronavirus. 51 infected, one fatality [THURSDAY, MARCH 12 - MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION].*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114883,25784290,koronawirus-48-zakazonych-jedna-ofiara-smiertelna-czwartek.html)

[*Coronavirus. The Church in the midst of a pandemic. "The priest is a bit on the front line".*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,25784947,koronawirus-kosciol-w-czasie-pandemii-ksiadz-jest-troche.html)

[*Do you have symptoms resembling coronavirus? GIS advises what to do in these situations*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,173952,25783115,masz-objawy-przypominajace-koronawirusa-gis-radzi-co-robic.html)

[*Coronavirus. What about shops and merchandise? "'Retail chains are prepared for the worst case scenario'*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25784228,koronawirus-co-ze-sklepami-i-towarem-sieci-handlowe-sa-przygotowane.html)

[*Coronavirus. The government is encouraging people to pay with cards. "There will be no shortage of money at ATMs".*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,25784542,koronawirus-rzad-zacheca-do-placenia-kartami-pieniedzy-w.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (93%); Torture (88%); Military Weapons (82%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Espionage (63%); Arms Control + Disarmament (61%); Weapons + Arms (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (83%)

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Coronavirus pushes stock markets into the abyss. WIG20 at its lowest level since mid-2003. On Wall Street, the worst session since the crash of 1987.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDM-JBY1-F09W-F2HT-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 12, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 834 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** Global stock markets in retreat: falls of more than 10 percent, and the WIG20 index of the largest Polish companies fell to the level of July 2003. Oil prices are down on news of Saudi Arabia's escalating price war with Russia.

**Body**

After three days of falls on the Warsaw Stock Exchange, Thursday brought another shock for investors. [*The WIG index of the Warsaw Stock Exchange lost 12.6%, while the WIG20 index of the largest Polish companies slid by as much as 13.3%.*](https://wyborcza.biz/Gieldy/1,132329,25784854,indeks-wig20-spadl-o-13-28-na-zamknieciu-w-czwartek.html)

After this bump, the WIG20 returned to its lowest level since July 2003. And as recently as Wednesday it was at its March 2009 level.

Since the beginning of the year, the value of the WIG20 index has shrunk by more than 39 percent.

On Thursday, the leader of the WIG20 companies' declines were the shares of the shoe manufacturer CCC, which fell by over 21 percent. The shares of the banks Alior and Pekao SA fell by almost a fifth. And the share prices of three quarters of WIG companies lost more than 10 percent in value. Orlen shares were the least negative, losing "only" 6.5 percent. - Orlen shares were the least affected.

The Polish currency was also losing value rapidly. On Thursday, before noon, according to the average NBP exchange rate, 1 Swiss franc was worth PLN 4.12 - the most expensive in three years. However, already in the evening on the foreign exchange market, the franc cost as much as PLN 4.15.

In the evening on the foreign exchange market, 1 ***euro*** cost 4.37 PLN and 1 dollar cost 3.91 PLN.

On Thursday it was not only the Warsaw Stock Exchange that was in retreat. By the evening the DAX index of the German stock exchange had lost over 12.2 per cent and the FTSE 100 index of the largest companies on the London stock exchange had fallen by almost 10 per cent.

The New York Stock Exchange was immediately suspended after the opening as the S&P500 index of the largest American companies fell by 7%, and in such a situation trading on Wall Street is automatically suspended for 15 minutes. This week, this already happened on Monday.

But after the resumption of trading on Wall Street, it was no better. By the evening, the Dow Jones index of the American stock exchange was already down by more than 9 per cent. Later, however, investors gained some optimism and the Dow Jones fell by "only" 6.5 per cent and the S&P500 index lost the same amount.

A pinch of optimism was provided by the US central bank Fed, which announced on Thursday that it would provide banks with an additional 500 billion in refinancing loans. A similar intervention was made by the ***European*** Central Bank, which on Thursday promised ***eurozone*** banks loans at an interest rate - 0.75 percent. -and an additional 120 billion ***euro of*** bond purchases this year.

Interventions by central banks from both sides of the Atlantic have improved investor sentiment but have not stopped the stock market collapse.

By the evening, the optimism had evaporated. The Dow Jones index lost 19 per cent at the end of the session and the S&P500 was down 9.5 per cent.

- We are heading for a global recession, Mohamed El-Erian, chief economic adviser at Allianz, told CNBC.

Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers believes the US economy is in danger of stagnation similar to Japan. - We are in that place where Japan is - said Summers. - It's a place that is very difficult to leave, as the Japanese experience teaches, and as the ***European*** experience increasingly teaches, he added.

In his view, the emergence of a pandemic requires more aggressive action to avoid mistakes like those made after the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy, when fiscal stimulation proved too weak.

These steep falls in the stock market were triggered by US President Donald Trump's announcement on Thursday night, Polish time, to suspend the arrival of EU Schengen zone residents in the US for 30 days. In this way, Trump wants to protect Americans from the spread of a coronavirus outbreak. But this unannounced decision by Trump was seen by investors as an additional risk factor.

Additional turmoil in the stock markets was caused by reports that Saudi Arabia intends to bounce Russia off its traditional oil buyers, offering them crude for as much as $25 a barrel.

"The Saudis are knocking on every door, offering a lot and cheaply," - An oil industry representative told Reuters.

After these reports, the price of ***European*** oil Brent on the London Stock Exchange lost more than 9 percent and in the evening cost 32.8 dollars per barrel. Meanwhile, on Wall Street, the barrel of American WTI crude oil cost 30.75 dollars, almost 7 percent cheaper than at the close of the previous session.

Talks on further oil production cuts by OPEC and Russia ended in fiasco last Friday. OPEC had wanted to do so in order to stem the fall in crude prices caused by the coronavirus. But Russia refused, effectively abandoning its existing alliance with OPEC.

In this situation, from April OPEC countries and Russia will formally have no restrictions on production. Saudi Arabia on Monday said it would increase oil production from 9.7 million to 12.3 million barrels per day from April and cut the price of its crude by $6-8 per barrel. On Wednesday, Saudi oil giant Saudi Aramco said in a stock exchange filing that it had been ordered by authorities in Riyadh to increase its production potential to 13 million barrels per day.

"Riyadh is really angry with Moscow for its move at the summit with OPEC and that is why their first target will be the [Russian] Urals oil market," an oil industry insider told Reuters.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Terrorist Organizations (92%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Medicine + Health (70%); Torture (70%); Weapons + Arms (70%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (67%); Chemistry (67%); Espionage (65%); Stock Indexes (65%); Law Courts + Tribunals (64%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (81%)

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***IN A NUTSHELL***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-0631-JBK9-214R-00000-00&context=)

Fact Poland

March 12, 2020 Thursday

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**Section:** POLITYKA; Str. 8; No. 60

**Length:** 130 words

**Byline:** Dp

**Body**

Kukiz will register his party

WARSAW No later than next week we will submit the documents to the court needed to register a political party, said Kukiz' 15 leader Pawel Kukiz, who earlier announced the registration of a party called "K15". - How long it will be registered, only the courts know. It may take a month, or it may take until 2024 for the elections to pass, because that's how it works, unfortunately." - He added.

Large NATO military exercises

DRAWSKO POMORSKIE Exercises of US troops with allies in ***Europe are*** increasing the security of NATO's eastern flank, the head of the Ministry of National Defence Mariusz Blaszczak assures. The exercises are held at the training ground in Drawsko Pomorskie and also in Germany. A total of 37,000 soldiers of allied armies will take part in the Defender-Europe 20 exercises.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Journal

**Journal Code:** FAK

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Terrorist Organizations (82%); Weapons + Arms (71%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Torture (69%); Espionage (68%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (67%); Chemistry (67%)

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Coronavirus. Frank almost the most expensive in history. Loan instalments skyrocket***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDM-JBY1-F09W-F2JN-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 12, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 505 words

**Byline:** mf

**Highlight: The** Swiss franc currently costs nearly PLN 4.15 on the foreign exchange market. These are almost the highest levels of the Swiss currency in history. The culprit is, of course, the coronavirus.

**Body**

The last time the franc exchange rate was at similar levels was only in November/December 2016. Even [*after the dramatic "Black Thursday" on 15 January 2015*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25595130,5-lat-temu-frankowicze-mieli-swoj-czarny-czwartek-od-tego.html) , when the Swiss central bank announced that it was no longer defending the exchange rate of the franc against the ***euro*** (after a momentary shock, when the price of the franc briefly jumped to even more than PLN 5), the CHF/PLN exchange rate, after several days at PLN 4.20-4.30, went below the limit of PLN 4.10.

Current franc exchange rate:

In a word - currently the exchange rate of the franc to the zloty is almost the highest in history. Just a month ago, the Swiss currency was about 15 gr cheaper. Since mid-April 2019, the franc has risen by about 40 gr, since mid-April 2018 by more than 60 gr.

The reason for this situation is obvious - fears of a coronavirus make [*investors all over the world sell off whatever they can and buy, among others, francs, which are considered a "safe haven".*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,25784288,koronawirusowa-panika-na-gieldach-ebc-kontratakuje-ale-stop.html) Even before the development of the epidemic, in recent months the zloty had been losing against the franc due to other global risks, such as the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East.

An expensive franc is obviously bad news for several hundred thousand holders of loans linked to the exchange rate of this currency. It can be estimated that for a model 30-year loan of the equivalent of PLN 300,000 taken out at the beginning of 2008, a franc 10 g more expensive means an instalment higher by around PLN 45. At the current exchange rate, a model borrower would pay an instalment of nearly PLN 1870. Even at the beginning of the year, when the franc cost around 3.90-3.95 PLN, the instalment was almost 100 PLN lower.

For comparison, just two years ago the instalment oscillated around 1600 PLN. Approx. 1500-1600 PLN were the first installments of credit in 2008, and there were months (e.g. in 2010), when the installment fell to about 1400 PLN.

It is not only the level of the instalment that can cause anxiety among franc holders. It is worth noting that the expensive franc also means higher debts of borrowers. Despite over 12 years of reliable repayment, a model borrower who in 2008 owed 300 thousand zlotys now owes the bank over 370 thousand zlotys.

On Thursday, President [*Andrzej Duda met with representatives of the financial sector.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25783064,duda-chce-zawieszenia-rat-kredytow-na-kilka-miesiecy-wola.html) After the talks, the president announced that "there is a willingness on the part of the banking sector" to allow all borrowers (including foreign currency borrowers) in need to suspend loan repayments for at least a few months in the wake of the coronavirus.

A few hours later, this will was confirmed by [*the president of the Polish Bank Association, Krzysztof Pietraszkiewicz.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25783064,duda-chce-zawieszenia-rat-kredytow-na-kilka-miesiecy-wola.html) The formula for supporting borrowers is to be worked out by ZBP in cooperation with banks by next Monday. The procedure for suspending instalments is to be as simple as possible, the president expects everything to be handled remotely, e.g. via the Internet. Of course, the suspension of instalments will not mean that they will be lost, that they will be written off. The loan repayment period will be extended by the time of the suspension.

Coronavirus. Read also:

\*\*\*

On Friday, Minister Jadwiga Emilewicz is the guest of Gazeta.pl's morning conversation. If you are an entrepreneur, run a business and want to ask a question, write to us: [*next.redakcja@agora.pl.*](mailto:next.redakcja@agora.pl)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices (81%); Shareholders (70%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (68%); Chemistry (68%); Military Weapons (68%); Writers (67%); Autism (63%); Mental Illness (63%); Psychiatry (63%); Human Rights Violations (61%)

**Industry:** Insurance (93%); Organic Chemicals (77%); Professional Services (71%)

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Coronavirus. Special plane from China to Italy. On board experts and 30 tons of medical supplies***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDM-JBY1-F09W-F2JS-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 12, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 270 words

**Byline:** mmz, AP

**Highlight:** the Chinese want to share their experience in fighting the epidemic and support the Italians, who are now in the most difficult situation in ***Europe***. A special plane has flown from Shanghai to Rome.

**Body**

This is a unique flight and cooperation that could hardly have been expected a few weeks ago. [*China*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=chiny), which is still fighting a new [*coronavirus*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,173953.html) at home[*,*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,173953.html) wants to help [*Italy, the*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=w%B3ochy) country currently struggling most with the epidemic.

China Eastern's Airbus A350 flew from Shanghai to Rome. The machine's route could be followed on Flightradar24.com. It landed in the Italian capital on schedule after 22:20 Polish time.

On board the plane was a team of nine Chinese medical experts - intensive care specialists, paediatricians and nurses. It also carried medical supplies: anti-viral drugs, respirators, protective masks and other equipment - 31 tonnes in total. The Chinese want to share their experience in combating epidemics.

That is not all. According to the China Daily portal, a truckload of equipment from Shanghai's Ruijin Hospital was also due to arrive in Rome on Thursday. According to the hospital, more than 230 boxes from medical equipment manufacturers were collected in 24 hours. The transport is being organised by the Red Cross.

In Italy, [*1016 people have already died as a*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,173952,25785131,wlochy-w-powodu-koronawirusa-nie-zyje-juz-ponad-1000-osob.html#s=BoxMMt3) result of the disease caused by the new coronavirus. The mortality rate there is as high as 6.7%. - The world average is around 3.5-4.0 per cent. (although it should be remembered that these calculations are not certain). Among the reasons for such a high mortality rate is the fact that Italy has the second oldest (after Japan) population in the world.

On Friday, Minister Jadwiga Emilewicz is the guest of Gazeta.pl's morning conversation. If you are an entrepreneur, run a business and want to ask a question, write to us: [*next.redakcja@agora.pl.*](mailto:next.redakcja@agora.pl)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Film (75%); Securities + Other Investments (65%); Terrorist Organizations (65%); Human Rights Violations (63%); Military Weapons (62%); Torture (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Harbors + Ports (75%); Mining + Extraction (75%); Meats (63%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Italy. More than 1,000 people are now dead due to the coronavirus. 188 patients died within 24 hours***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDM-JBY1-F09W-F2JJ-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 12, 2020 Thursday

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**Length:** 320 words

**Byline:** MM, IAR

**Highlight: the** coronavirus in Italy is not going away. In the past 24 hours, 2651 new cases of infection have been detected. 188 people have died, meaning that the epidemic in the country has killed more than 1,000 infected people.

**Body**

The coronavirus in Italy has so far caused the deaths of 1016 people, authorities have officially stated. In the past 24 hours alone, 188 of those infected have died. 98 percent of all fatalities were over the age of 68.

Over the past 24 hours, more than 2 200 new cases have been registered and 1 258 people have recovered. In total, more than 15 100 people are currently infected. Over 5 000 people do not require hospital treatment. The rest are hospitalised. There are more than 1 150 people in intensive care units. This is 125 more than yesterday.

Civil protection chief Angelo Borrelli said the number of blood donors had fallen dramatically as the pandemic unfolded. "Blood donations are taking place in safe conditions. Hence the appeal to everyone - donate blood because it helps save lives," - he appealed.

Italy's foreign minister Luigi Di Maio told the [*BBC*](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51852320?at_custom3=%40BBCBreaking&at_campaign=64&at_custom4=57CB936C-6487-11EA-8FAA-23CCFCA12A29&at_custom2=twitter&at_custom1=%5Bpost+type%5D&at_medium=custom7) he hoped his country would be the first in ***Europe to*** deal with the outbreak. "Our grandfathers were enlisted for war, we are being asked to stay at home," - he pointed out. Di Maio also said that "most citizens are following the rules" put in place because of the coronavirus.

[*Read also: Italy. A traffic ban under threat of punishment? What do we have to reckon with? An Italian journalist explains*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,25782137,zakaz-poruszania-sie-pod-grozba-kary-z-czym-wkrotce-musza-liczyc.html)

Throughout Italy, there are travel restrictions and, from today, in addition, all shops are closed apart from those selling food and other basic products and pharmacies. Restaurants and bars are closed, as well as offices, businesses, services and workshops that are not related to meeting the basic needs of the population. The restrictions will be in force for a fortnight. Public transport and those factories that comply with the new hygiene requirements are open.

On Friday, Dr Pawel Grzesiowski, immunologist, will be the guest of Gazeta.pl morning conversation at 8.00 a.m. If you want to ask about all matters related to coronavirus write to us: [*redakcjagazetapl@agora.pl*](mailto:redakcjagazetapl@agora.pl)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (76%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (67%); Espionage (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (82%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (68%)

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Remote Parliament, and the Prime Minister and Ministers turned up in large numbers. And without gloves***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHV-8R31-JCVT-R18K-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 27, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 216 words

**Byline:** Justyna Dobrosz-Oracz

**Highlight:** This may come as a surprise. PiS has been saying for days: only Sejm online, because in-person presence is a threat to MPs' health and lives. And today we recorded how the prime minister and ministers approached the parliament just like before the epidemic. Nobody was even wearing gloves. The Prime Minister did not limit himself to a dry speech. Footage by Justyna Dobrosz-Oracz.

**Body**

Video available for subscribers

The online Sejm does not mean that deliberations take place virtually. Forty-one MPs were able to sit in the Plenary Hall as yesterday. From the government there were Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, Development Minister Jadwiga Emilewicz, Defence Ministry chief Mariusz Blaszczak, Culture and National Heritage Minister Piotr Glinski, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State Assets Jacek Sasin.

- This limited debate is all about the usual PR, power monologue," commented PO spokesman Jan Grabiec outside the Sejm building. Initially, politicians who returned home had big problems with logging into the system. Voting tests were postponed. It was nervous. Some MPs decided to keep vigil in the parliament, such as Grzegorz Schetyna and Tomasz Siemoniak.

The head of government not only presented the anti-crisis package. He criticised the opposition. And he hit out at the ***European*** Union. - ***The European Union*** has not yet given a single ***eurocent*** to fight the coronavirus, the head of government said.

Among others, PO MEP Cezary Tomczyk responded sharply. - I am embarrassed that the Polish Prime Minister is repeating the message of Russian propaganda that the ***EU*** is not helping. PLN 33 billion - this is the amount of aid for Poland. 5 billion is already in the accounts," said Tomczyk.

Video production: Justyna Dobrosz-Oracz, Weronika Walenciak, editing: Bartosz Kłys

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Awards + Prizes (76%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (76%); Chemistry (76%); Medical Science (76%); Medicine + Health (76%); Military Weapons (76%); Physics (76%); Writers (76%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (69%); Film (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (62%); Mining + Extraction (62%)

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Wojciechowski responds to Morawiecki's words. "7 billion euro is not new funds, but good for the Poles"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHV-8R31-JCVT-R199-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 27, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 208 words

**Byline:** aplk

**Highlight:** Janusz Wojciechowski has referred to Mateusz Morawiecki's words about the ***European Union*** not allocating new funds for Poland to fight coronavirus. The PSL politician, who serves as the ***EU's*** agriculture commissioner, tweeted that while ***the EU*** had not allocated new funds, it had changed the law regarding the management of previously donated money.

**Body**

At Friday's sitting, MEPs are dealing with a package of solutions to protect the economy and citizens from the financial collapse associated with the coronavirus pandemic. [*The draft provides for state support in the time of the pandemic in the amount of over PLN 212 billion*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,25821990,biznes-walczy-kogo-osloni-tarcza-antykryzysowa-na-co-moga.html). The so-called anti-crisis shield is based on five pillars: support for the health service, security of the financial system, support for entrepreneurs and public investments, as well as maintaining jobs

During the Sejm, [*Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki stated that "****the European Union*** *has not given* ***a cent*** *to fight the coronavirus*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,173952,25825335,mateusz-morawiecki-w-sejmie-unia-europejska-nie-dala-eurocenta.html). - All supply chains have been torn apart, stock market falls comparable only to the crises of the last 150 years. Falls in commodity markets, asset markets. This shows that we need to unite to fight the consequences," the Prime Minister said.

Janusz Wojciechowski of the PSL referred to Morawiecki's words.

It is true that the more than ***EUR*** 7 billion made available to Poland by the ***EU*** to combat a pandemic and its consequences are not new funds. What is new, and what is good for Poland, however, is the right to spend them on saving the life, health and existence of Poles instead of on other, less important objectives of today.

- tweeted the politician serving as ***EU*** agriculture commissioner.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Medical Devices + Equipment (70%); Suits + Claims (70%); Medical Devices (68%); Investigations (67%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (63%); Music Groups + Artists (63%); Recruitment + Hiring (63%); Employment Services (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (76%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (68%); Entertainment + Arts (63%); Traveler Safety + Security (63%)

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"Wake up, Lord!" During the plague, Francis urges God***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHV-8R31-JCVT-R198-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 27, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 619 words

**Byline:** Bartosz Hlebowicz, Florence

**Highlight:** the Pope's extraordinary sermon during the Urbi et Orbi blessing in an empty St Peter's Square.

**Body**

The blessing of "Rome and the world", according to tradition, is given by the Pope at the end of the conclave, at Christmas and at Easter. This time Francis decided to speed it up and combine it with the announcement of the possibility of a plenary indulgence.

The square in front of St Peter's Basilica - due to coronavirus and decrees banning people from going out - was empty on Friday.

- Indulgence is a grace that is needed in the time in which we live, helping us to discover that Christ is present where there is sickness, fear and human weakness, just like the Good Samaritan. "Forgiveness and indulgence are the greatest gift that can be given in situations such as war or pestilence," Fr Antonio Interguglielmi explains to Vatican News.

The Pope, with the crucifix of St Marceli behind him, an object which, according to legend, was said to have protected Rome from the plague in 1500, gave a moving sermon in St Peter's Square.

"For weeks now, it seems as if the night is going on. An impenetrable darkness has fallen over our squares, streets and cities, it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a pain that paralyses: you can feel it in the air, you can sense it in our gestures, it is betrayed by our looks.

From this colonnade, which surrounds Rome and the whole world, I ask that the blessing of God, like a caring arm, flow down upon all. Lord, bless the world, breathe health into our bodies and comfort into our hearts".

Francis' Friday evening sermon was accompanied by clouds and rain. The only listeners apart from the television audience were the gendarmes and the homeless crowded under the famous colonnade surrounding the square.

"We have not listened to your calls, we have not been shaken by wars and injustices around the world, we have not heard the cries of the poor and our gravely ill planet," the Pope said.

"We did not stop our daily activities, thinking that in a sick world we would always remain healthy. Now that we find ourselves on a stormy sea, we plead with you: wake up, Lord!"

"The time has come to distinguish the important from the ephemeral. What is needed from what is unnecessary. At this time we see many comrades on the journey who have given their lives."

The Pope paid tribute to the "ordinary people", usually overlooked, on whom "our lives rest" and who "are today performing decisive acts for our history - doctors, nurses and nurses, supermarket workers, cleaners, carers, drivers, policemen, volunteers, nuns, priests - and all - and there are many! - who have understood that no one can save themselves".

Francis also praised the "hosts of people" who daily "show patience and breathe hope into others, taking care to spread shared responsibility instead of panic".

Immediately after the Pope, President Sergio Mattarella delivered a message to the nation, referring to Thursday's failed talks with the ***European Union***.

- In recent days ***the European*** Central Bank and ***the*** European Commission have taken important and correct financial decisions backed by the ***European*** Parliament. The Council of Heads of State or Government has not yet done so. We expect it to do so in the coming days. May everyone fully understand, before it is too late, the danger that hangs over ***Europe***," said the Italian President.

Coronavirus killed 969 people in Italy on Friday, more than half of them died in Lombardy. This is the darkest day since the beginning of the epidemic. In total, there are already more than 9 000 dead.

There were also 4,400 new infections compared to Thursday, bringing the total number of COVID-19 patients in Italy to 66,400.

The only reassuring news is that the 'epidemic growth rate', the ratio of the number of new infections in the last 24 hours against the number of total infections from the start of the epidemic to the previous day, has been decreasing since 20 March.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (81%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Terrorist Organizations (70%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (65%)

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Time to turn off the money tap. Budget rules are for good times [Interview].***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHM-9KH1-F09W-F0M0-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 27, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 1779 words

**Byline:** Hubert Orzechowski

**Highlight:** - We are at war with a virus and should temporarily suspend financial rules. The whole world is increasing expenses on a massive scale. Even Germany has abandoned its austerity policy - says Prof. Marcin Piątkowski, an economist from Kozminski University.

**Body**

The situation is serious. In the pessimistic scenario, we will not succeed in defeating the virus and the fight against the epidemic will lead to a long-term economic crisis.

Fortunately, this is only one possible scenario and, in my opinion, an unlikely one. Often, the same people who, a few weeks ago, were comparing the coronavirus to seasonal flu are now threatening that we are facing armageddon. I agree with neither, because I saw with my own eyes what was happening in China. Unfortunately, we slept well enough, both in Poland and in the West, to prepare for an epidemic. But slowly there is light at the end of the tunnel. There is no longer any country in the world that would underestimate the threat. The whole world is at war with the virus and it is only a matter of time before we deal with it. The question is at what cost.

Not so long ago, some people were praising the idea of a 'balanced' budget. Such a budget would not make economic sense in a normal economic climate, and would already be fundamentally harmful in the current crisis.

Fighting the crisis is no time to economise. Like in a war, you have to throw all your weight into the battle. I know and respect the people who wrote the spending rule. However, a global pandemic situation did not occur to any of them. We must make maximum use of the existing exceptions to the rules and, if that is not possible, suspend them temporarily. All the Member States of the Union are doing the same, and the ***European*** Commission has already given an indication that the Union's rules will be flexible. This is a good thing. The health, safety and welfare of Poles are more important than rules.

Poland has already done a lot to deal with the crisis economically. I have a good opinion of the actions of the NBP. The central bank has shown that it is capable and willing to do whatever is necessary to avert the crisis. Liquidity support for banks to help them sustain corporate financing is crucial. Buying government bonds on the secondary market is also an important instrument that has long been used by the ***European*** Central Bank or the US Federal Reserve. We have been missing it, and it is essential. Even if we did not use it, the very possibility of using it gives a signal to the markets that the NBP can intervene and keep the cost of servicing our public debt down. That is why we have our own central bank, to use it in such moments.

This is crucial for the second part of the anti-crisis package, i.e. the government's fiscal and liquidity measures. It looks pretty good because it tries to respond proactively to what is happening to our economy.

I do not think so. Of course, there is no bottomless pit and Poland cannot suddenly, colloquially speaking, print money left and right. But we are not short of fiscal ammunition. We are far from the constitutional threshold of 60% of the national debt. We still have over PLN 250 billion in reserves. It remains to be seen whether we will need this money. Let us hope not, but it is not as if we are about to run out of money. The key will be how effectively we will spend the money from the "anti-crisis shield", which has just been finalised. The coming month will largely determine what the health of Poles will look like and whether there will be a chance for our economy not to slip into recession and to sustain an unprecedented period of 29 years of uninterrupted growth.

Health care is undoubtedly the number one priority. Until we build a system that ensures full health security and reassures Poles that nothing will happen to them, this crisis will not end. We need to prepare the whole country for the fight against the virus, to ensure 100% availability of equipment and tests. At the same time, there is an urgent need to build a full infrastructure, by the end of the holidays at the latest, that will enable Poles to be tested en masse to identify all those who are infected with the virus (those must be isolated immediately) and those who are already immune to the coronavirus and can return to work without endangering themselves or others. Everything else matters less. Without this we will not fix the economy quickly. A few billions well spent on health care can save us tens of billions to deal with the crisis.

Ideas to support the liquidity of companies and support employment are far-reaching. Banks have already announced that they will give credit holidays to companies for three months. This is a good and necessary move. I am glad that there is such a consensus. Fiscal spending and business support also need to be planned for three months for now. An epidemic really does not have to be a disaster. In China, an epidemic was declared on 21 January. Two months have passed and the country has already largely come back to life. I see no reason why this should not also be the case in Poland. We may even be able to return to normality more quickly, as there is much to learn from China and other Asian countries. Then we should observe the situation. If the measures taken to date are not sufficient, we can gradually reach for those 250 billion zlotys of additional ammunition. I hope, however, that we will not need to use it.

We are neither Switzerland nor America, but we are already a reliable economy for the markets. The financial markets trust us, as can be seen by the lowest debt servicing costs in history. Poland also already belongs to a section of market indices grouping highly developed countries, which we have earned over the last 30 years by becoming ***Europe's*** leader in economic growth.

Credit rating agencies maintain high ratings and international financial institutions give our economy a commendation. In a word, we belong to the part of the world that can flex its muscles in the fight against the coronavirus. Significantly, compared to the crisis in 2009, most of our debt is in our own currency. This means we don't have to ask for loans abroad. We have reserves ourselves. And we have already fulfilled 80% of our borrowing needs for this year, which is a good signal to the markets. It is best to pre-finance spending for the whole year straight away, including new spending under the 'crisis shield', and focus on fighting the virus.

This is said by those who always have one prescription. When things are bad, save money. When it is good, you have to save too. For me, that is ideology, not economics. We could have had a better budgetary policy in recent years, but it is not true that we wasted that period. Increased public spending has accelerated economic growth, reduced inequality and reduced poverty. This is why we have a budget, so that we can use it for such purposes, and not so that we can forcefully pay off debt for no apparent reason. A myth has also arisen in Poland that over the last five years we have benefited from some kind of boom. Anyone can check that the global economy has grown more slowly over this period than in 2010-14. Last year was the worst in a decade. But at the end of the day, we end the period with public debt at 47 per cent of GDP, which is lower than it was a decade ago. This gives us plenty of room to react during the black hour we are experiencing now.

We should have a fully built-up infrastructure for universal testing of Poles suspected of being infected with the virus. Poles must have the conditions necessary to return safely to normal life. In addition, we need to introduce mass temperature measurements, as this is the easiest way to identify potential patients, use shift work and implement new hygiene protocols in businesses, including keeping a physical distance. In short, do what South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore have done. We have little time for such mobilisation. After Christmas, it will become clear whether the country has risen to the challenge. This is a sine qua non, because if workers on a Warsaw metro or motorway construction site are afraid to come to work, even though the site is not a rock concert and it is fairly easy to ensure safety at work, what are we even talking about?

Because it is a good example of a great investment that should not hold back. And in addition, it is crucial for the long-term development of Warsaw and Poland. Such investments should be working at full speed again. Ideally, the scope of these investments should even be increased and co-financed by the central budget. This is what China does, for example. These and other investments, both central and local, should be the flywheels that help the economy to recover from the crisis.

Until the Third Republic, with few exceptions, we rarely had a good economic policy. This was especially true in the Second Republic, because in 1938 the income of the average Pole in relation to the West was lower than before the First World War. In response to the Great Depression, we made fundamental mistakes. We cut spending instead of increasing it, we raised interest rates instead of lowering them, we stuck to the rigid parity of the zloty to gold instead of cutting it, which killed our exports. Now, fortunately, things are different. It is very good that the government is not listening to the handful of economists who think that we need to save now. This is not the time for that. You have to throw all your strength. That is what is happening for now.

What was done then was exactly the opposite of what should have been done. Monetary policy strangled the economy. High interest rates defended the exchange rate of the zloty and fiscal policy consisted of reducing deficits. It is good that we have learnt something since then and are not making that mistake.

Before 2009, for example, we were taught in economics textbooks that only banana republics print money. Then came the crisis and the US Fed printed over two trillion dollars. Now it is also clear that after the epidemic, many old paradigms will change again. From the Polish point of view, what is happening in Germany is very good news. It wasn't so long ago that Berlin was imposing draconian austerity measures on Greece or Portugal, and was itself making huge savings. And now? In the last two weeks, the Germans have changed their attitude by 180 degrees and announced a package of several hundred billion ***euros*** to combat the crisis. This is, after all, also important for us, as it is our largest trading partner. The decisions of Angela Merkel's government are of great importance to us.

The Union, including Poland, has not taken the time to prepare for this crisis. There is currently too little EU solidarity and too much national pettiness, which is very dangerous. This should be changed immediately. No Member State should feel it is being treated less well during the crisis. The same should apply to candidate and neighbouring countries. There should be a kind of anti-virus NATO. We need to have warehouses of masks, respirators, tests and field hospitals ready to go. If another wave of crisis comes, everyone in ***Europe*** will once again be on their own.

Dr. Marcin Piątkowski - Professor at Kozminski University in Warsaw, author of the book "***European*** growth leader. Poland's road from economic periphery to successful economy".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices (70%); Film (69%); Medical Devices + Equipment (68%); Securities + Other Investments (67%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (70%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%)

**Load-Date:** March 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***RPO: health minister's decrees without basis in COVID-19 specustaw This violates the constitution***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHV-8R31-JCVT-R18C-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 27, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 918 words

**Byline:** Adam Bodnar, Ombudsman

**Highlight:** - I do not question the bans introduced from the point of view of combating the COVID-19 outbreak. However, it is my duty to point out that this should take place within the framework of the legal order, which not only citizens, but also representatives of the authorities are obliged to observe," writes Ombudsman Adam Bodnar

**Body**

\* The ban on movement around the country, the quarantine ordinance and the restriction on religious practice are all issued in contravention of the "coronavirus" speculation passed 3 weeks ago.

\* And this means that they are unconstitutional, which allows for restrictions on citizens' freedoms, but only if they are prescribed by law.

\* That is why we have emergency laws, to use in a crisis situation. They give the authorities a clear basis for action.

In a statement to Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, the Ombudsman writes: - I do not question the bans being introduced from the point of view of combating the COVID-19 outbreak. However, it is my duty to point out that this should be done within the framework of the legal order, which not only citizens but also representatives of the authorities are obliged to respect.

The ROP reminds that the state has ready tools to act in states of emergency. The Constitution states that in situations of special threat a state of emergency may be declared: martial law, a state of emergency or a state of natural disaster. For each of these states of emergency there is already a special law, on the basis of which a decree may be issued, which is subject to public announcement (Article 228 of the Constitution). In this way, the constitution ensures that even in an emergency, the clear order and rights of citizens are preserved: if they need to be restricted, it is only on the basis of laws.

Today, according to the ROP, there are grounds to use the tools of the emergency law. However, the authorities decided to solve the problem with the usual legal tools - by quickly adopting a brand new law. On 2 March, the Sejm adopted a "coronavirus" specustaw (on special solutions related to preventing, counteracting and combating COVID-19, Journal of Laws item 374). However, this law - notes the ROP in its address to the Prime Minister - is not now respected. The Minister of Health issues regulations to which he has no right, because the MPs did not give him the right. Therefore, he restricts the rights and freedoms of citizens without a basis in the law and thus, unfortunately, violates the Constitution.

The Minister of Health cannot prohibit movement around the country by regulation. The Specustawa has only given him the right to temporarily restrict the manner of movement. The manner - not the movement at all.

The same problem applies to quarantine, including quarantine for returnees from abroad. Putting a person in isolation for 14 days is a restriction of their freedom, and here the constitution is clear: freedom can be restricted, but by law. And the specustawa gave the power to manage quarantine - BUT to the whole Council of Ministers, not to a single minister.

The Minister had no basis for restricting religious practice and indicating how many members a religious congregation could have at any given time. Freedom of religious practice can be restricted, but again - on the basis of a law. The Specustawa speaks only of prohibiting the assembly of the people, and this does not give grounds for placing restrictions on the exercise of the constitutional freedom to manifest religion. No executive authority, including the Minister of Health, has the right to regulate the limits of the freedom to manifest religion.

In this way, without any statutory basis, the authorities limited three important freedoms of citizens - freedom (Article 30 of the Constitution), freedom of movement within the territory of the Republic (Article 52 of the Constitution) and freedom of conscience and religion (Article 53 of the Constitution). And the constitution is clear here: these are too important rights to be decided by a minister.

The unconstitutional ban on movement within the territory of the Republic of Poland also has a direct impact on the possibility of holding elections. In fact, the Minister for Health decides whether local by-elections can be held if a person who has the right to vote and wishes to vote has been quarantined or cannot move to the place of voting.

Rules passed in this way will not allow those who break them to be punished (although such responsibility for exposing others to liability should undoubtedly be borne). For liability can only be incurred on the basis of properly enacted legislation. If not, punishment will not stand up in court. This is because judges are subject only to the constitution and statutes (article 178(1) of the Polish Constitution), and not to executive acts issued in violation of statutes or the constitution.

Secondly, it cannot be excluded that persons who suffer damage as a result of the application of regulations issued in this way will wish to exercise their constitutional right to compensation for damage caused by unlawful action of public authority (Article 77(1) of the Constitution).

Finally, the adoption of emergency regulations must be notified to the Council of ***Europe***. A number of countries have already done so: on 16-23 March notifications were sent in relation to COVID-19: Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Moldova and Romania. The lack of adequate recourse to the derogation (repeal) mechanism on the grounds of the ***European*** Convention may lead in the future to the assertion by the ***European*** Court of Human Rights of a violation by Poland of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Convention, if it has implemented measures that go beyond the provisions on possible limitations of human rights.

Both restrictions on the rights and freedoms of the individual and partial, simultaneous temporary suspension of some of them, which is what we are actually dealing with at the moment in Poland, must meet the criterion of proportionality and strictly correspond to the requirements of the situation, emphasises the Ombudsman.

We look forward to receiving your letters. Write to [*listy@wyborcza.pl*](mailto:listy@wyborcza.pl)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (80%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Espionage (62%)

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

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A tragic day in Italy. Nearly a thousand people died at COVID-19. "We have not yet reached the peak".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHV-8R31-JCVT-R18G-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 27, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 169 words

**Byline:** WB, IAR

**Highlight:** 969 people have died in Italy in 24 hours due to the coronavirus. This was reported by the civil protection agency there. This is the highest daily number of COVID-19 victims since the beginning of the epidemic. In total, 9134 people have died in Italy due to the virus.

**Body**

- We have not yet reached the peak of infections," said the head of the national health institute Silvio Brusaferro. At the same time, he added, there were "signs of a slowdown" in the number of infections. - When the decline will start and how sharp it will be depends on us, he said, referring to the lockdown introduced by the government.

The increase in new infections is now 7.4 percent, the lowest since the pandemic began to take its toll. In 24 hours, 5959 people were infected, up from 6153 the day before.

There are about 6,500 people currently infected with coronavirus among medical staff. They account for about 8% of all infections in Italy.

The number of infections in the country has risen to 86498. This is more than in China, where the total number of infected is 81340.

In total, more than 26 000 people have died worldwide from the coronavirus. In total, around 575 000 infections were registered. More than 300,000 infections were reported in ***Europe***. Italy and Spain accounted for more than half of the infections on the Old Continent.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Terrorist Organizations (68%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (88%)

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Closing the borders to medical staff too is an embarrassing lack of solidarity***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHV-8R31-JCVT-R18N-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

March 27, 2020 Friday

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**Length:** 269 words

**Byline:** Dr Adam Baran

**Highlight:** I would like to draw attention to the problem of closing the border with Germany without making exceptions for medical workers, above all doctors.

**Body**

Even if, from an epidemiological point of view, one can try to understand such restrictions, at the same time we are witnessing the death of the ***European*** spirit and an embarrassing lack of solidarity even before the actual arrival of the virus.

The medical care of the three German states: Mecklenburg, Brandenburg and Saxony (hospitals, medical practices) along our western border is largely based on Polish employees. There are hospitals or wards where up to 80% of the staff are Polish doctors who live in Poland and commute to work in Germany. You don't need much imagination to realise the nightmarish collapse of the medical care system in these areas!

The Czechs also planned to close the borders completely, but they very quickly grasped the strategic importance of such a decision and allowed medical workers to continue working without quarantine.

We are living at a difficult time of daily trials and examinations, and such an attitude on the part of Poland is unethical, scandalous and also simply unwise, as it is certain that we too will soon need help from our German neighbour.

"Being decent" is not patriotic songs and appeals. I am, along with patients and other staff, appalled by the effects of this decision and I am humanly ashamed.... Could it be that Warden P. is right?

Perhaps it would be worth giving this problem more publicity?

Many thanks and best regards,

Dr. Artur Baran, nephrology and dialysis practitioner, Löbau/Zittau, long-term regular reader and subscriber to "Wyborcza"

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Do you want to share your experiences? Write to: [*listy@wyborcza.pl*](mailto:listy@wyborcza.pl)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Indictments (78%); Investigations (76%); Celebrities (63%)

**Industry:** Amusements + Gambling (73%); Traveler Safety + Security (70%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%); Organic Chemicals (65%)

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Juncker: The budget must be increased! It is urgent***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YN2-2S41-F09W-F1X7-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

April 11, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 1686 words

**Byline:** Beatrice Delvaux, Le Soir

**Highlight:** - ***The European*** budget, which is the instrument of solidarity par excellence, is currently too modest, and increasing it by 13-14 percent, as proposed by the Commission, is not enough to equip the ***EU*** with anti-crisis instruments, says the former head of the EC.

**Body**

Jean-Claude Juncker, head of the ***European*** Commission until December 2019, former prime minister of Luxembourg: It's an agreement that everyone has agreed to - otherwise it wouldn't be called that. And that is good news. But now we have to wait until the dust settles to assess in detail the decisions taken.

- Maybe not that much. But Delors made his call at the right time, because ***Europe*** was in danger of sliding into a crisis without end. In my view, ***the EU*** is not under threat either in its essence or in its cohesion, which, however, we must strive for every day.

I trust that when we emerge from the crisis, when the principle of solidarity recognised by all members of the Union finally prevails, we will be better ***Europeans***. I am not guided by naive optimism, which I have always rejected. Quite simply, everything seems to indicate that I may be right. The Member States know that, individually, they do not have the tools to tackle this crisis alone.

Initially, we saw a shift towards the nation state, which is understandable. ***The EU*** and ***the European*** Commission have no competence in the field of public health. However, today everyone agrees that we must apply the principle of solidarity.

It starts with the opening of the ***EU's*** internal borders. The EC has taken a number of measures to ensure that the partial closure of borders would not have unduly harmful consequences. However, the countries which signed the Schengen Agreement 25 years ago decided that they could close their borders overnight. Germany has closed its border with Luxembourg, but not with the Netherlands and Belgium. Closing the border with my country, which employs 200 000 frontier workers who come to the Grand Duchy every day - that leaves a bitter taste. Very bitter.

- When you add up the amounts, there is a substantial intervention fund, and it is impressive. I do not have the details, but I know that compromises sometimes have to be read between the lines. For example, the use of the ***European*** Stability Mechanism (ESM) is to be commended, especially as the hitherto rigid conditions for its use have been made much more flexible.

In addition, the ***European*** Investment Bank, an ***EU*** bank, has intervened, for obvious reasons. The idea of cofinancing the partial unemployment programme promoted by the Commission is a step in the right direction. The Commission should be praised for its decisions a few weeks ago to freeze the conditions of the Stability and Growth Pact. There is a need to rethink the rules for permitted aid to Member States' economies and the decisions of the ***European*** Central Bank.

What could have been done, and what the Finance Ministers did not do, was to add to the agreement the principle of a substantial increase in the ***European*** budget, which is the instrument of ***European*** solidarity par excellence . The current budget is too modest, and the 13-14% increase proposed by the Commission is not enough to equip the ***EU*** with budgetary instruments. The budget must be increased! It is urgent.

In spring 2018, the Commission proposed a new budget for the next five years. Member States were unable to agree on this. At the time, the Commission warned that if the discussion was postponed to the second semester of 2020 , it would not be possible to implement structural and research programmes in the first trimester of 2021.

Furthermore, there is no agreement on the so-called corona bonds. Admittedly, I agreed that this was not the time to take a final decision on this, as the issue of their management cannot be resolved in the next two or three months.

However, it is wrong to reject the idea of crown bonds, which would be one of the instruments for solidarity. We need to send out a signal that we agree with the new instruments. We need to show determination in implementing them. This would be a good signal to the countries of the South, Italy and Spain. Let us not abandon the idea of crown bonds!

- I am well aware of these worn-out opinions, which are constantly being repeated, even if they are seriously out of date. During the previous term of office of the ***European*** Commission, budget deficits were significantly reduced in the ***euro*** area, to 0.7%. At that time, many Member States came out of the excessive deficit procedure, and even the level of public deficit was reduced.

So to say today that you cannot give a budget 'bonus' to Italy or Spain because they did not try hard enough is inappropriate. You cannot today sanction someone who is in budgetary difficulties. I see the problem differently. Coronation bonds are not about spreading old debt over everyone and shouldering the burden of the past, but about financing future debt that will allow Member States to respond to the crisis.

I hate the situation where every time - every time! - when problems arise in ***Europe,*** we fall into the same easy geometry: we see two blocs in the ***EU, the*** reckless countries of the South - Spain, Italy Greece - in the other, the virtuous countries of the North. This is sterile.

The new President of the Commission has announced that she will do everything - as I have done - not to weaken the North-South, East-West divide. When it comes to respect for the rule of law, unfortunately we remain - and here I point to Hungary - in this division. However, in budgetary matters, we have fallen back into the easy way and the old patterns.

- I see the danger, but I see the measures to reduce the risk. In the night between Friday and Saturday, the finance ministers found the answer to the crisis. The populists, mainly Italian, Salvini et consortes, silently dreamed that this would not happen. However, if some countries in the North continue to ignore and insult the countries of the South, the populists there will win the argument. You have to have solidarity and sometimes you have to keep quiet. Do not be guided solely by the opinion of your nations, but by the good of the whole of ***Europe*** and the people whom the ***European*** project is intended to serve.

- Among other things. I do not quite understand the reasoning of the Dutch Government when it says that certain Member States should rethink their budgetary policy. Of course, that is welcome in the Netherlands, but such words are inappropriate today. And at this particular moment in the South, they are provoking negative reactions. It would be better to make it clear to the Dutch public that the idea of crown bonds is not about spreading the old debt over everyone, but about sharing the costs that will have to be paid for the recovery of the ***European*** economies.

The idea of issuing EU bonds is slowly making inroads, but it will take time to put into practice, especially as Heads of State or Government can now only debate by video-conference. This way of working does not facilitate quick solutions and decisions.

- The French and Germans always give the impression that they are leading the debates and imposing their solutions. But that is no longer true, especially not this time. Other governments have simply shared the comments made by France and sometimes Germany.

No, we do not lack leaders. We have over-mythologised the qualities of the leaders of the 1980s and 1990s, and things were less harmonious then than we think today. It is true that Kohl and Mitterrand always ended up making pro-European choices. That spirit remains, but is expressed with less enthusiasm. And the Commission, although accused of all the wrong things, has, in this crisis, despite a poor start - I am thinking of the closure of borders - done everything that was expected of it. Suspend the Stability Pact, significantly change the rules on sovereign debt - who would have believed that a few months earlier? It was the Commission that proposed cofinancing partial unemployment. I am not one of those who amuse themselves by criticising the Commission just to distract attention from their own failings.

- Yes. Michel should now play his part and he will. I know that he is currently consulting the governments on this issue. The criticism levelled at him is unfair. Who could regulate budgetary matters? We had Donald Tusk - could he solve this problem? No. I have not been successful either. We made proposals, but nothing came of it. Let us leave Michel alone, let him work.

- I have always said that public health, especially political action in the face of epidemics, should be a Community competence. The EC proposed this during the Convention on the ***European*** Constitution, but the Member States did not want it. They said it was the responsibility of the nation state.

It now appears that this urgently needs to be changed so that the Commission, in the area of health, does not just play a coordinating role but can act. This will require a change to the Treaties, but it is already certain, given what we have experienced, that if the Commission had competence in the field of public health, many mistakes could have been avoided.

- This is the will of some countries that want to be in solidarity with their neighbours. Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and others have taken in patients in serious condition. Why does solidarity work better in border regions? Because people know each other. And that is why it pained me to see Germany closing its border with its neighbours. For me it was a big surprise!

- Neither Moscow nor Beijing, in particular, have ever hidden their desire to influence ***European*** economies. That is why the Commission, under my chairmanship, implemented an investment screening system, which many Member States did not want - as usual - but it worked in the end. We have adopted a new discourse towards China: we are friends, but we are rivals and we compete with each other, so we have to protect ourselves against foul play. Now China has rushed to Italy and other Member States' aid. China wants to profit from this crisis. However, given the actions of the ***Eurogroup*** countries, the improving border situation and cross-border assistance to patients from neighbouring countries, I think that the enthusiasm towards China or Russia will subside. ***Europeans*** do not know that the EC, on behalf of the ***EU,*** organised the delivery of medical equipment to China in January this year, as well as substantial financial aid to Beijing.

- I assume that the agreement of the Finance Ministers has received the preliminary agreement of the Heads of State or Government and that the ***European*** Council will not need to return to this. I leave it to Charles Michel to decide when to call a meeting of the Heads of State. Let him act!

translation. JK

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[***Oh, God, how good it is that we have President Kaczynski!***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-PVJ1-F09W-F198-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

April 11, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 1826 words

**Byline:** Grzegorz Wysocki

**Highlight:** Yes, we have a pandemic. We have cutbacks and redundancies in companies, a growing number of victims and bans, and an Easter that's so miserable. But fortunately we also have President Kaczyński! ALL PAGES. Opinions of the week reviewed by Grzegorz Wysocki\*

**Body**

Rest assured: it is not me who is so delighted, but Ms Lichocka, who is otherwise well-known. However, before we talk about Our Magnificent Leader, with whom crossing troubled waters is almost a pleasure and only a slight nuisance, a few paragraphs about what is less pleasant.

Many authors are today proclaiming the end of an era, or even the end of the world. Paweł Lisicki is one of them. In his [*introduction*](https://www.dorzeczy.pl/kraj/135196/koniec-pewnej-epoki.html) to the festive issue, the editor-in-chief of Do Rzeczy writes that we are facing "the saddest Easter ever": "Empty streets, hurriedly passing single passers-by, many of them wearing masks. Just as depressingly, the churches are deserted or simply closed - a particularly poignant sight during Holy Week'.

However, it is not Easter that preoccupies Lisicki above all, but the enumeration of lasting effects of the current crisis. In first place - the renaissance of the idea of the nation state. Lisicki, like many other right-wing authors, claims that in the clash with the pandemic the ***European Union*** turned out to be "a weak, slow organism". Not so the nation states. With particular reference to the Polish government, which against the background of other ***European*** governments "looks like an oasis of prudence" and "certainly of consistency".

[*Sign up for "Wyborcza's" opinion newsletter. You will receive it every Friday*](http://wyborcza.pl/0,166389.html)

In turn, Jerzy Baczynski describes [*"Dark Easter"*](https://www.polityka.pl/tygodnikpolityka/kraj/1951768,1,ciemna-wielkanoc.read): "The first such holiday in our lifetime. Paralysed by fear and prohibitions, completely stripped of the spring and family atmosphere. [...] Images of deserted metropolises, deserted railway stations, airports, galleries make a surreal impression - a world without people, abandoned shells of some fallen civilisation".

As you can easily guess, the editor-in-chief of Polityka is a far cry from Lisicki's praising of PiS governments during the plague: "The epidemic has shown how much the PiS governments wasted the past years and overhauled the reserves. [...] PiS, which is now coming out of the blue, demolished the state: neglected and underinvested education and health care, a standstill in investments, fought local governments, paralysed judiciary, spoilt relations with neighbours and the ***European Union***, ignored and despised opposition'. And also: "We have a double trouble in Poland today: an attack by a virus and an attack by means of a virus. The reaction should be similar: do not let yourself be infected, isolate the pathogen. And hope that you produce antibodies'.

Two editorials for the opening of two Christmas issues of a weekly - two completely different worlds, two distant planets. There are virtually no tangential ones. It seems to be nothing new, but surely such a simultaneous reading cures one from thinking that after the pandemic the supposedly Great Polish Community will be reborn, and the division into two tribes will have to be considered null and void.

In the same Polityka weekly Mariusz Janicki collects in one synthetic text all [*"PiS's tricks for the crisis"*](https://www.polityka.pl/tygodnikpolityka/kraj/1951606,1,wirus-propagandy.read). The publicist proves that those in power use many tricks which he invented and perfected in the past years. An example? "Idealization and infantilization. In times of crisis such as now, two phenomena, both beneficial for the authorities, deepen in the electorate. It leads to the elevation of those in power and, at the same time, to the reduction of citizens to a kind of supplicant, expecting help and relying on what they hear from those "better informed". There is a peculiar social return to childhood: people ask what they have to do and want something to be explicitly forbidden and commanded. Democratic competition under such conditions is de facto suspended".

Other ploys of the Law and Justice party described by Janicki include using a double narration (there is a terrible epidemic in Poland and there is nothing to be afraid of, so you can safely run to the polls on 10 May), making voters believe that the Law and Justice party does not do politics, but only "carries out a supra-political state mission", or skilfully ignoring those views of the public, which the party considers unimportant (e.g. those in power do not mention for some reason that a large majority of Poles want the elections postponed).

In the interests of fairness, I must also mention a good (I say this without irony) text by Łukasz Warzecha. In the article [*"Giving up freedom out of fear",*](https://www.dorzeczy.pl/kraj/135590/oddac-wolnosc-ze-strachu.html) the publicist of "Do Rzeczy" writes about the fact that the pandemic will cause not only a global economic crisis, but also a global crisis of freedom: "Now the pattern of Washington's actions after the attack on the WTC and the Pentagon is being repeated in many countries: with the fear of the virus paralysing thinking and the conviction that one must agree to everything as long as the pandemic is prevented from developing, more laws radically restricting civil liberties are being introduced. In Poland, many people share the mistaken belief that changes to the codes [...], introduced under a law motivated by the fight against an epidemic, will only be in force during its course. Not at all - none of these changes are temporary'.

Warzecha opposes the logic of "it's not time to split hairs because there is an epidemic". Warzecha opposes the logic of "no time to split hairs because there is an epidemic" and demands the right to ask questions about the coherence of regulations or their sense. To put it briefly and loftily: Warzecha would probably not take this comparison as a compliment, but he has written an article in the spirit and mood of Naomi Klein's "Shock doctrine".

"In times of crisis, we are faced with two extremely important choices: first, between totalitarian surveillance and civil rights, and second, between nationalist isolation and global solidarity". - wrote, in turn, Yuval Noah Harari in a text [*published in "Wyborcza"*](https://wyborcza.pl/magazyn/7,124059,25826569,yuval-noah-harari-koronawirusa-nie-pokonamy.html). And also: "Instead of building a regime of surveillance, it is not too late to rebuild the trust of citizens in science, public authorities and the media. Of course, we should also use the benefits of new technologies, but these technologies should strengthen the position of citizens, not weaken it".

In fact, I have only recently written in [*"Dziennik czasów zarazy" ("Journal of the plague times")*](https://wyborcza.pl/0,128956.html?tag=dziennik+czas%F3w%20zarazy) ( [*"Gazeta Wyborcza"*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75410,25844916,kosmiczny-absurd-mozesz-spac-z-kobieta-ale-nie-mozesz-isc.html)) critically about some of the bans introduced by PiS. For example, about the two-metre distance that we have to keep on the pavement also with our wife/husband. Of course, those who explain that this is all about simplification for police officers, who, seeing several people on the street, do not have to inquire each time whether they are a couple or not, are right. And sure, there are more important issues - especially when the vast majority of time is spent in voluntary isolation. But I would still insist that there is plenty to talk about and ask about, because it is precisely the difficult times that are the perfect opportunity for many rulers to introduce various absurd laws through the back door and, as a result, to replace freedom as much as possible with security (or rather: the appearance of security).

Gazeta Polska, on the other hand, is severely lacking. The Christmas issue does not contain a column by Robert Tekeli, whose texts I always read with masochistic attention. I hope this is just a week's holiday in the middle of the pandemic. Especially as Tekieli in the latest edition - a cross between a mad preacher and a self-styled epidemiologist - moved me to my core.

Suffice it to recall that in recent weeks [*he has scolded the godless Italian*](https://niezalezna.pl/314026-koronawirus-i-biskupi-bez-wiary) bishops who dared to close churches ('Esteemed bishops of northern Italy, the shopping centres are full and you have dammed up the river of life flowing from the pierced side of the Lord Jesus. I wash you in His Blood. Wake up!"), he informed his readers that God was telling us during the plague that he loved us (if only in the way that the plague itself was "the consequence of the world's departure from God") and that if we did not wake up, the Egyptian slavery would be repeated (in a specific way: "they will lead the most beautiful actresses on a rope"). In short, I am looking forward to more, although I am not sure I will be able to bear more.

I would add that "Gazeta Polska" has recently become - relatively speaking, because relatively speaking, but nevertheless - the most optimistic of the weeklies. The government is doing great and the opposition is only getting in the way. Finally we have a strong state here, whereas during the Platforma period we had a weak one. Everybody is praying, the clubs of 'Gazeta Polska' are helping as much as they can and on top of that, they are working on a vaccine, which will certainly be created soon! And in general - it is not too bad, the next days bring hope, and in some time it will be beautiful.

In his [*introduction,*](https://www.salon24.pl/u/tomaszsakiewicz/1035417,pora-na-wielkanocny-poranek) Tomasz Sakiewicz mentions that during the plague "we have the opportunity to experience true togetherness" and that there are many heroes of these days (he mentions doctors, health workers, priests and monks). But the editor-in-chief of the weekly addresses his thanks "first to the journalists and our media workers". Obviously for providing readers with "the most important information and analyses". Sakiewicz writes that "it is a real miracle" that in this very difficult time "there has been an increase, and a great increase, not only in the ratings of Telewizja Republika and our portals, but also we have managed to maintain most of the sales of 'Gazeta Polska', 'Gazeta Polska Codziennie' and 'Nowy Państwa'."

And if that wasn't enough, the latest issue features an unusual Roman crucifix that once stopped a plague and other cholera crosses. Karawaki, as they are called in Polish "cholera crosses", have also become part of Polish religious culture. Tomasz Łysiak, the author of the text [*'Krzyż morowy'*](https://www.gazetapolska.pl/22066-krzyz-morowy-potega-karawaki), recalls an old text from which it appears that pious people "during the plague put up karawaki by villages and towns so that the plague would pass over them, and prayed on books with the same name".

As long as we are talking about "Gazeta Polska", it is time for the highlight, i.e. the column by Joanna Lichocka, MP, announced at the very beginning. Already the title of the text is as meaningful as it is compelling: [*"You can count, count on the president"*](https://www.gazetapolska.pl/22046-umiesz-liczyc-licz-na-prezesa). Lichocka writes extensively about how servile the journalists of TVN or 'Gazeta Wyborcza' are towards the PO politicians, and then she enumerates even more extensively how great (probably not only in her opinion, but objectively) PiS is and how many wonderful things it does during the pandemic.

It is also about the elections and about Gowin: "Postponing the elections indefinitely carries the risk of instability. Trying to unstable the ruling coalition is now playing with the country's security. We do not know how the epidemic will develop [...], so the political class should, in the name of community interests, agree to complete the electoral process to elect the president for the next term". In the correction, one word is missing from the above sentence (it should read: 'President Duda').

But best of all, the crème de la crème of Lichocka, at the end anyway: "This is a great time to thank the Lord God that the leader of the ruling camp is a politician of such ability as Jaroslaw Kaczynski". Lichocka knows she sounds like from 'The Teddy Bear', although that doesn't change much, because 'say it yourselves, am I not right, can't you see it again with the naked eye after the recent political events around the election date? The leader of the Law and Justice party - I'm willing to bet - will lead the country safely through this time".

Grzegorz Wysocki

Grzegorz Wysocki is a columnist for Gazeta Wyborcza and former head of WP Opinia. Reads paper books and newspapers, watches TV series.

\*You can receive this newsletter prepared by Grzegorz Wysocki and Piotr Głuchowski every Friday. Sign up for it [*HERE*](http://wyborcza.pl/0,166389.html).

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**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Mining + Extraction (73%); Harbors + Ports (71%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (71%)

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[***MEP pinches EU European Union***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3RD1-DY2B-S37G-00000-00&context=)

Fact Poland

April 11, 2020 Saturday

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**Section:** Page 7; No 86

**Length:** 81 words

**Byline:** Tjak

**Body**

- If the EU does not act, it may not survive - said Law and Justice (PiS) ***MEP*** Patryk Jaki (35) on TV wPolsce. - The EU should fight against the coronavirus, fight for hospitals and patients, for help for entrepreneurs. ***Europe*** today does not need windmills and electric cars, but respirators and help for entrepreneurs,' he added. In his opinion, the EU must decide to redirect more funds to the fight against the plague and show that it can support individual countries.

**Graphic**

Patryk Jaki (35 l.)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Journal

**Journal Code:** FAK

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Investigations (80%); Indictments (69%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (54%)

**Industry:** Amusements + Gambling (89%); Organic Chemicals (80%); Traveler Safety + Security (64%)

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[***Another agency confirms the rating of Poland. However, recession is upon us***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YN2-2S41-F09W-F1X5-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

April 11, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 508 words

**Byline:** Hubert Orzechowski

**Highlight:** S&P, one of the most important rating agencies, confirmed the rating of our economy as stable. Polish rating is A- for lending in foreign currency

**Body**

According to the agency's analysts, a recession will not be avoided in 2020 and the epidemic crisis will seriously affect our public finances. But according to S&P, we have enough fiscal and budgetary space to mitigate the shock that will hit our economy.

As a threat to our credit rating, the agency sees a scenario in which the economic collapse associated with the pandemic will be longer and deeper than anticipated. Then the rescue action of our government, such as the PFR "crisis shield" for companies, may not be enough, and the anti-crisis measures may negatively affect our public finances.

However, in an optimistic scenario, anti-crisis measures will not contribute to fiscal imbalances. This will happen if our economy quickly returns to growth.

Poland has a diversified economy, an educated workforce, membership of the ***European*** Union, a relatively developed internal capital market and low public and private debt. These are the main advantages of Poland cited by S&P, thanks to which our rating was maintained at A- for foreign currency lending.

However, the coronavirus pandemic will cause the Polish GDP to fall for the first time since 1992. In 2020, our economy will shrink by 2%, due to falling exports, consumption and investments. However, next year the Polish economy should see a significant rebound, as S&P predicts that our GDP growth may then even reach 5%. In the following years, it will return to "normal" growth, i.e. 2.5-2.7%.

However, this will not come without costs. The public finance sector deficit will jump to 6.1% of GDP and public debt will also increase, but "only" to 50% of GDP, so it will not exceed the constitutional limits, which are set at 55 and 60% of GDP. However, even a high deficit of the public finance sector should not be an obstacle in the opinion of American analysts, as they predict that the ***European*** Commission will turn a blind eye to non-compliance with permissible debt ratios enshrined in the Stability and Development Pact. Besides, already in 2021 the deficit in public finances may significantly fall, i.e. to the level of 3.1% of GDP.

S&P is yet another rating agency which assesses Poland well. Earlier, our country [*was*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,25827259,fitch-potwierdza-rating-polski-z-kryzysem-mamy-sobie-poradzic.html) praised [*by, among others, Fitch.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,25827259,fitch-potwierdza-rating-polski-z-kryzysem-mamy-sobie-poradzic.html) This year, according to the agency, our economy will avoid recession and will end the year with GDP growth at the level of 1.8%. This is a very good forecast, as experts of the American bank Morgan Stanley predict that the Polish economy will shrink this year by as much as 5.6% of GDP.

According to the Fitch agency, as early as next year, our economy will return to the average growth of the last 30 years and at the end of the year, it will reach a GDP growth rate of 3.2 per cent. Of course, with worse public finances. The deficit in the public finance sector is expected to reach 5 per cent this year, and 3.3 per cent next year. Our public debt will rise to 54.3 per cent this year, i.e. it will be close to one of the statutory prudential thresholds.

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

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[***Olga Tokarczuk: Something is testing us. Nature, God, something impersonal, chance says: "I'm testing!"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-PVJ1-F09W-F181-00000-00&context=)

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**Length:** 3981 words

**Byline:** Michał Nogaś

**Highlight:** This time is a test for us and for our loved ones. It may turn out that, despite all the praise and declarations, family is not the most important and beautiful thing, that for many the sight of a loved one and being with them all day long, without a break, will become unbearable.

**Body**

Michał Nogaś: When we talked a year and a half ago, you said that the world would finally have to stop. Because people have already realised that an hour lasts a minute, we live on the run, we cannot look at ourselves and the world from a distance. You said, "Something has to happen." When we spoke a year and a half ago

Olga Tokarczuk: - I meant what many of us felt - somewhere deep down we knew that we had reached a wall and something had to happen. I think, however, that most people in the world didn't even think that a pandemic could stop and paralyse the world. It had been a long time since anything truly dramatic had happened, so our imagination went to sleep. If, on the not so distant Christmas Day after all, Cassandra had sat down at the table with us and said: "In three months' time you will be standing in queues, two metres apart, wearing masks, and most of you will have locked yourselves in your homes", no one would have believed her. But we also lacked imagination in that we didn't allow ourselves to think that this global, busy, full of people world wouldn't just go on indefinitely under the old rules.

Maybe imagination needs to be exercised in special classes in the same way as the body is exercised in physical education classes?

Have you already found yourself in this situation, new to all of us, of confinement, isolation, enforced stoppage?

- The epidemic found me just before I left on a long-planned, long promotional tour. I was supposed to be on the road for well over a month and not be finished until just before Easter. I was all packed up when it turned out that the trip had to be cancelled. Not all at once; I myself was under the illusion that it was a temporary disruption. My Spanish publisher reassured me that nothing terrible was happening. However, like a domino effect, as the epidemic spread, more and more places fell by the wayside.

In a way, I was relieved. I've been living an almost non-stop high-pressure life lately, with too much going on and I was getting really tired. I'm used to working from home; my husband laughs that we live in an office with the ability to sleep. After the first week of resting, reading, I took to work - a bit of a pity, because I could have treated this time as special, like when I was a child, when one could be bored with impunity or simply had more time for everything. But, I seem to have a compulsion to do something.

This time we are going through, and which will still last, although no one can predict how long, will be of any use to us?

- If I were to try to find a metaphor for what we are experiencing right now, whatever the latitude, I would say that we are being tested. Something is testing us.

I don't know, is it fate, a demon, Nature, God, something impersonal, chance? It tests us, and on very many levels. It says: "I am testing!

On an individual level, we discover those needs of ours that we have already forgotten - peace, privacy, detachment, reflection, boredom. Sitting closed in our homes, we can take a close look at ourselves and our boundaries.

Where is the point from which we start to carry ourselves, how much we can bear, where is our centre? To what extent am I really living my life? Is it still me, or are there some rituals and behaviours imposed on me and internalised?

This time is a test for us and for our loved ones. It may turn out that, despite all the praise and declarations, the family is not the most important and the most beautiful, that for many the sight of a loved one and being with him or her all day, without a break, becomes unbearable. That their own children are annoying. That work is something that you have to force yourself to do and that you actually hate. There will probably be many such bitter discoveries waiting for us. I am sure that this enforced and long confinement will become unbearable for sensitive people with psychological problems. On top of that, there is the anxiety about loved ones who do not live with us - parents, for example. In fact, they are the biggest victims of lockdown - often living alone, vulnerable to infection, physically weak and helpless in the face of technology.

A friend called me, complaining that she missed physicality, someone's voice, someone's touch. That since she's been sitting alone at home, the world has become a bit unreal for her. I can also imagine what must happen in multi-storey high-rise buildings and blocks of flats, where everyone lives together, in families of many people, with children of school age.

I also think of the hard times doctors and nurses have to endure when they are on the front line alone, and how postmen and couriers delivering parcels and packages must feel. It really is not easy to cope. But - it is amazing - people have become nice to each other again. They smile at each other from a distance when they walk their dogs.

And the dog has become a precious ticket to freedom.

But I also see baffling temptations manifesting themselves in otherwise rational, cool people who have overnight become local Cassandras taking satisfaction in spreading ominous, possibly worst-case scenarios. I wonder what the mechanism is, where does this need for apocalypse come from? Or do I get angry with them because I fear they might be right?

[*Why Olga Tokarczuk distinguishes between 'human beings' and 'non-human beings'. If you saw her dog...*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75517,25596502,olga-tokarczuk-przyszedl-czas-zeby-wpisac-do-konstytucji.html)

However, the Pollyanna syndrome seems to be predominant, that is, the tendency to look for some good things in this situation. I have to stay at home, but I have time to read and tidy up. Can't I go out into the city? But I get to spend time with my family. Can't go to work? I'll clear up the backlog from home and do something else around the house.

[*What books does Olga Tokarczuk read when she is not writing?*](https://wyborcza.pl/ksiazki/7,154165,25471977,jakie-ksiazki-czyta-olga-tokarczuk-gdy-nie-pisze-rozmowa.html)

But this test also takes place at a collective level.

- Therefore, we will find out through it what kind of society we really are. Whether we are capable of compassion. Whether we can be responsible for ourselves and others. Do we adapt and respect norms, for example the two-metre rule when we walk in the street? When the crisis starts, will we be able to show solidarity, or is solidarity just a slogan that we put on our banners as a postulate precisely because it is what we lack most? Will we, as a society, be able to oppose the crazy ideas of those in power and will we go like sheep to the polls? Or will we send our postmen to the front?

In front of our eyes, however, this test - perhaps the most important test - is also being passed by the state and its institutions, and we will see how much the narratives of power are worth. Only now will we find out whether the state institutions are efficient, well managed, whether they have an idea of how to combat the virus and can creatively deal with the crisis situation. Do they even imagine this new thing that will come after the crisis? I think many important politicians are really afraid of whether they can cope.

Poles have always had a problem with the state, haven't they?

- After all, for many generations it was a state of invaders or occupiers. To this day the state is treated as an oppressor, a collector of tributes, a platform for overambitious misfits. Our political culture has never developed a multi-generational respect for state institutions and authority. At the same time, those in power themselves see the state as their own farm to be seized at the next election. And so it goes. The state is not seen as a guarantor of security, law, justice and tolerance, but primarily as an apparatus of coercion. At the same time, people are looking around and seeing how other countries are reacting, and once again you can hear what we carry deep down inside - the conviction that we are good for nothing. That in Germany the state supports, that in Sweden it helps.

It seems that our political class, and especially those in power, are focused on other problems...

- Oh, how I would still like to have someone in power in my life whom I trust and respect, who has competences and a vision for the future. Someone who genuinely cares about the common good, and not about retaining power at any cost, even - as now during the elections - over dead bodies. I dream of an authority that would treat citizens with respect and genuine tolerance, trying to reconcile different, often conflicting needs. I know, I hear myself. It sounds naive, but naivety is not always stupidity, it often expresses some intuited natural ideal obviousness.

I am tired of the kind of politics we have in Poland. "Fishing in murky waters, pushing particular goals with an ironic smile. Tiny night-time coups d'état. Shameless cynicism.

And nobody knows how to stop this game.

- She has become so cynical that one no longer knows what to do. People who have devoted themselves for a very long time to power and its rituals, who have specialised in Machiavellian thinking, combining, counting percentages, lose touch with reality at some point.

Their psyche suffers, their way of thinking distorts, as the people they manage cease to be living individualised beings for them and become pawns in the game.

It seems that they can be controlled, shifted endlessly. People who remain in power for a long time, who live only in power, and who are deprived of all other spheres of life, lose themselves in this madness. I am reminded of Enver Hoxha, who, driven by paranoia, built bunkers every few dozen metres on the Adriatic coast.

When you talk about passing the test, you cannot forget that we will also find out if and what kind of community we are.

- We will see what kind of society we managed to build after 1989. Is it a solidary society or, on the contrary, a deeply unequal one, in which the rich will have access to paid medical care and quarantine in private centres in the Masuria region, while the poorer will stand for hours in queues to see doctors and continue to drive trams or work in supermarkets?

This time will also be a test for what is important and valuable to us. I was very moved by the news that the German state has earmarked large sums of money to support artists, as Antek Komasa-Łazarkiewicz very matter-of-factly described at the beginning of April, reporting on his own case of a financial parachute. In Poland, [*the issue was*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75410,25850921,glinski-podal-planowana-kwote-na-odbudowe-kultury-to-suma-rowna.html) not discussed at all for a long time, [*and*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75410,25850921,glinski-podal-planowana-kwote-na-odbudowe-kultury-to-suma-rowna.html) now the [*minister has announced 20 million on an ad hoc basis, with an additional 50 million in compensation for culture as a whole once the epidemic subsides, which is actually unknown.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75410,25850921,glinski-podal-planowana-kwote-na-odbudowe-kultury-to-suma-rowna.html) This is very little if one compares these figures with the billions of zlotys given just a few weeks ago to government television.

Culture in Poland is just the flower of the crop. Meanwhile, there is no industry in Poland stronger than culture. It is thanks to culture that national identity has survived at all. Not thanks to mines or agriculture. It is thanks to culture that we were present on the world map during the communist era, that our films won the hearts of audiences throughout the world, that Polish artists took part in the global circulation. It is thanks to culture that we are able to think creatively and creatively.

When you say 'new', what do you mean?

- I am talking about thinking, about how we are not fully aware of how we are shaped by the various metaphors we unknowingly use when thinking about the world.

The metaphor of the short quilt comes to mind, one of those metaphors that function as a matter of course. Experts still talk about it on television. I hear that support is needed, but in order to give it to someone else, it must be taken away from someone else, because there is not enough money for everyone. This is one of the most common stories played out by politicians, which skilfully antagonises different groups.

I wonder whether this is really the case. Does this kind of thinking not distance us from the desire and effort to think of other ways of finding resources? Besides, are we really that poor a society? After all, as far as I recall, Poland has ambitions to soon be among the 20 largest economies in the world, and it is already somewhere around 25th place. So maybe it's just a habit of mind of people who have been catching up with ***Europe*** for several decades?

The thinking of the poorer ones.

- Indeed. I remember once talking to people who work in the forest in charcoal production. It is hard work, not very well paid. They were soaked with soot, soaked with smoke, and they kept saying: 'After all, nothing is free, nothing is free'. They repeated it like a mantra. They believed this truth, unaware that it was one of the biggest lies of all, because, by a strange coincidence, it is true that the richer you are, the more things you get for free.

There are many such snares of thought. My favourite one, which I fight, is 'Don't begrudge the roses while the woods burn', teaching us a false pragmatism. When I talked about training the imagination, this is exactly what I had in mind.

This metaphor comes up particularly often when we talk about animals, about their fate. So there are always more important things - children, hunger, wars. It is idealistically assumed that when we have dealt with what is "really important", then it will be time to take care of the animals.

However, this is not possible, it is a trap and an illusion, because a change in attitude to animals is a fundamental premise for new thinking, a kind of passport on the journey to new times. So when I say 'new', I mean a change in our relationship to animals, a rejection of factory farming, a condemnation of the madness of hunting, a ban on persecuting wild animals.

The most bizarre and dramatic human behaviours, which used to 'fit in' with the ecosystem, have now simply blown the system apart due to the scale - that is, because there are so many of us and our appetites have grown. Scientists are quite clear about the common source of many major epidemics like AIDS, ebola, MERS, SARS - the cruel treatment of animals. The coronavirus passed to humans at so-called wet markets in Asia. Whoever saw these fairs will not forget them for the rest of their lives. For me it is one of the clearest proofs of the fall of man - animals are abused, tortured, killed in the cruellest of ways. I hope that the pressure of world public opinion will order this nightmarish business to be closed down, and not only in China, because unfortunately, this phenomenon is also common throughout South-East Asia, from the Indochinese peninsula to Indonesia and the Philippines.

I think what we do to animals is a dark metaphor for what we do to the world in general.

We are clearly seeing the dangerous effects of globalisation. The virus has spread around the world, where hundreds of millions of people travel. You wrote about this incessant movement, about the need to move, in [*"The Poles", which won the Nike Award and the International Booker Prize.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75517,23441095,bieguni-olgi-tokarczuk-w-tej-powiesci-znajdziecie-swiat.html)

- That is what it is. It is essential to rethink the existing formula for tourism - this is the second 'new' challenge. Every now and then, reality writes new chapters of "The Poles" on its own, and right now it is creating a dramatic ending. Today, this book can be read as a novel from a world that has passed away. For however optimistically the situation ends today, we are unlikely to return to travel as it was before this epidemic.

Tourism has become a curse for the Earth today. I once found myself in Cancun, Mexico - a huge hotel complex on the ocean coast. It is a different kind of hell, just as terrible. People, enclosed in so-called resorts, are grouped in huge hotel blocks, fed in gigantic canteens, cut off from nature and local culture. They spend their days in pools and on water slides, in a slight daze of free drinks.

Tourism is an industry that prepares the world it sells. Generalised worlds, kitsch attractions, souvenirs made in China, the same everywhere, pretend local cuisine, mechanical sightseeing, charters to and from.

Only the really rich can afford the real world. A very wealthy man told me that, to get away from the ubiquitous tourists, he went trekking in North Korea. Is that not possible? Yes, it can. He told me that they had to spend a lot of money on bribes, bribing officials and buying visas, but they had a lot of fun. After all, they were in a place where no ***European had ever*** set foot. And there were no other tourists. Even travelling divided us into better and worse.

Knowing life, the less well-off, those who have been saving all year for last minutes, will stop travelling. The business world will continue to circle the globe.

- And I think, and this will also be 'new', that we will learn to live remotely to a greater extent. The definition of presence will change, we will become less physical. It will turn out that you don't have to fly to the other side of the world for a two-day conference, that you can take part in it in your own kitchen. Technical possibilities of such remote participation will quickly develop and all the deficits in this type of communication, which are still perceptible today, will disappear. This is the seed of a completely new culture.

Here, unfortunately, there is also a danger of unequal access to this new world. This can already be seen today in the example of remote schooling. It is incredibly sad that now, during the lockdown, the fundamental inequality in access to knowledge and education has been fully revealed.

Some children sit at home with a laptop on their lap, connected to a fibre optic cable and with access to their parents' extensive library. Others have nothing, no plug in to the world, except state television to tell them how it is.

- In the name of survival. In the name of personal comfort (because people are happier in an equal society, say studies). In the name of God and Christian values. And also out of fear - revolutions broke out precisely because people asked: in the name of what should they share? I think that Poland is a country founded on deep inequalities, and this lies somewhere very deep, and miraculously survived even in the declaratively equal communist times. The division between the nobility and the peasants is still alive and bursts out in the language in various proverbs and sayings, also in our unconscious thinking and perception of others.

I tidy up my shelves and read some old books, for example "Folk Culture of Slavs" by Kazimierz Moszyński. Published in the interwar years, it is a great compendium of knowledge about our ancestors. The author considers there the aesthetic needs of the Polish people and writes: "First of all, it is necessary to emphasize the very large scale of fluctuations as to the degree of aesthetic sensitivity of individual individuals of the people. In this respect, the peasants are quite similar to us. And among them, as among us, one can find individuals who react extremely vividly to aesthetic excitement next to others who react hardly at all or not at all". What is astonishing in this tragicomic passage is that "we" and "they" are described in such a way as if there were a species gap between us. As if the aristocratic author, examining the 'individual', is looking at the wild one from the bush. This is a deep crack in our society - both a sense of aristocratic superiority and a peasant inferiority complex format our collective psyche, and we flit between one and the other We are glued together from these two different characters - a Polish variant of Dr Jekyll and Mister Hyde.

After all, the Sarmatians, the Polish nobility, believed that they were even racially different from the peasants.

- That is right. The times of transformation have shown very clearly how quickly we can divide ourselves. People who had made a fortune, who had risen through the ranks of society, largely had a need to show it in a manner similar to that of the aristocracy, which was even emphasised by the "manor-like" character of suburban houses with hunting metaphors on the walls and portraits of ancestors who were often not entirely certain. I never thought that we were a society with any particular solidarity, which might have been surprising in a country where the word was the name of a movement that initiated change.

We will now find out very soon whether the state which we have disliked and distrusted so much for generations and which we have allowed to be hijacked by the ruling team will be up to the task. I would look carefully at how our neighbours - more developed democracies - are coping with the crisis. I simply do not trust this government, which has insisted on holding elections in a dramatic situation, even though there is only one candidate campaigning uninterruptedly.

It has already become clear, and it is not just the Hungarian example, that a pandemic can become a perfect pretext for those in power to consolidate power even further.

- Such situations are extremely tempting for satraps of all kinds. But on the other hand, you cannot simply juxtapose what is happening with the 1930s. That time fascinates people now in many ways, you can see it in fashion, design. Maybe this is where the collective unconscious manifests itself? But things are different, there are other variables at work, such as the climate crisis. The Internet has made us a new society, where people are constantly communicating with each other, and almost everyone has a portable camera in their phone. Many things are happening for the first time.

Some may have forgotten how, before the outbreak of the pandemic, Greta Thunberg appealed to all the mighty of this world, and to us ordinary people too, for moderation. We should limit our consumption and stop flying so often just to see the Mona Lisa from a distance. Her words were received with pity by businessmen and politicians.

This pandemic has punctured the balloon of impossibility and helplessness. At all the conferences on the need for action to protect the climate, all those influential men in expensive suits who flew in on private jets kept saying: no can do, no, it is impossible, it will not work. Suddenly it became clear that radical moves were possible and even necessary, such as lockdown. I think we will become more radical and look for more radical solutions. Change is still possible, we don't have to live in despondency and a sense of impotence.

In a column in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung , you wrote that [*'new times are coming' and about* ***the European*** *Union that 'at this difficult moment, it has become clear how weak the idea of community is in practice'.*](https://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/7,35771,25838652,caly-felieton-tokarczuk-dla-faz-po-polsku-opublikowala-na-fb.html?_ga=2.169690018.2022300542.1586425183-1901223262.1566829603)

- When I speak of the Union, I think first and foremost of the idea of community in this small peninsula called ***Europe***. It is inhabited by different cultures speaking different languages, sometimes with a common, sometimes with a separate history. These cultures developed nation states in the 19th century. And yet they managed to reunite, to open their borders, to allow people to meet and to be with each other. This is my ***Europe***, and I feel no less connected to it than to Poland or my Lower Silesia.

One of the biggest disappointments of recent weeks has been the closure of borders. The first atavistic reflex was against the community; a regressive return to the past and a false sense of security. I understand the sanitary role of such a measure, but it disturbed me that no thought was given to deciding to close only the most infected regions, cutting off Lombardy and the big cities where the virus is rampant. Instead, everyone has immediately cut themselves off from each other, and this has aroused every possible resentment and animosity: Poles from Germans, French from Spaniards... What is more, national interests, sometimes understood in a completely idiotic way, immediately prevailed. For example, the Poles did not want to let Estonians returning home from the West pass through their territory. A ship had to be sent for them across the Baltic.

One day the borders simply came back. It amazed me how this old national order lies shallow beneath the surface and how easy it is to set it in motion. I am afraid of a situation in which everything we have built up over the years is suddenly going to come crashing down. I am also afraid of the growing xenophobia that has returned with the virus, for example when an Asian man who had lived in Poland for years was beaten up simply because he had slanted eyes, and when the pandemic began in China.

I am convinced that once the pandemic has passed, the Union will have to pass the most important test in its history. Either the Union will become even more integrated or it will cease to exist.

When will the world as we know it return to normal? Will it ever succeed?

- We need to redefine the meaning of the word 'norm'. I fear that there is no going back to the way things were. We will remember the world before the epidemic as a bygone era.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (70%); Film (69%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Terrorist Organizations (67%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (69%)

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

**End of Document**

[***France. Eight million workers in partial unemployment***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YN2-2S41-F09W-F1XH-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

April 11, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 350 words

**Byline:** IAR, MA

**Highlight:** So-called partial unemployment has risen dramatically in France in the past week. It affects workers in companies that are unable to function normally because of the coronavirus outbreak.

**Body**

French labour minister Muriel Penicaud reported on social media that eight million workers were in this situation. This would mean an increase of three million in seven days. In most cases, employees of private companies are affected. According to the French labour minister, seven hundred thousand companies are affected, to varying degrees, by the quarantine.

Workers who have to benefit from partial unemployment are compensated by the state with 70 per cent of their gross salary and 84 per cent of their net salary. More than twenty billion ***euros*** have been earmarked for this purpose, in the hope that a massive wave of redundancies can thus be avoided.

Apart from restaurateurs, the services and hotel industry and tourism, the transport and automobile industries are still being hit hard by the wave of the crisis. In the Ile-de-France capital region, one in five of the more than one and a half million workers is partially unemployed.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, 93 000 790 cases of coronavirus infection have been identified across the country, and 13 000 832 people have died since the first of March. In the last 24 hours, there have been 635 deaths. However, it is optimistic that, as Chief Health Inspector Jerome Solomon said on Saturday, the number of patients in serious condition is decreasing for the third consecutive day and the number of people cured is increasing.

Very bad news regarding the labour market has also been coming from the United States for three weeks. As [*we reported on Thursday, the number of new applications for unemployment benefits reached 6.6 million in the week*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,25859260,amerykanie-nadal-masowo-traca-prace-liczba-nowych-wnioskow.html) ended 4 April 2020. This is a drop of 261,000 from the previous week, when a real record was set, with almost 6.87 million people applying for unemployment benefits.

However, if we add to this the number of benefit claims filed between 15 and 21 March (3.3 million), it turns out that in just three weeks a total of almost 16.8 million unemployed were added (over 10% of the labour force). As the US media point out, such dismal labour market data has never been seen before.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Weapons + Arms (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (67%); Chemistry (67%); Arms Control + Disarmament (64%); Medicine + Health (64%); Espionage (63%); Torture (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%)

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

**Load-Date:** April 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Number of coronavirus infections in Italy exceeds 150,000 Saturday's statistics worse than Friday's***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YN2-2S41-F09W-F1X9-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

April 11, 2020 Saturday

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**Length:** 1199 words

**Byline:** Bartosz Hlebowicz, Florence

**Highlight:** On Saturday, 4,700 new infected people were registered - 750 more than on Friday. 619 people died (570 the day before). There was also a slight increase in the number of people who recovered (on Friday - 1985, on Saturday - 2079).

**Body**

At the same time, the number of infected people who require hospitalisation is decreasing. Today it amounts to 28,144 and is 98 lower than on Friday. There are also vacancies in intensive care units, with 116 fewer patients today. There are now 3,381 people in ICUs across Italy, almost 700 fewer than on April 3, which was the worst day (4,068 patients). 68,744 patients are in home isolation.

Since the outbreak, the number of infected people diagnosed in Italy has exceeded 152 000, of which 32 500 have overcome the coronavirus and 19 500 Italian citizens have died. A similar number of deaths is recorded in the United States. However, while in Italy around 600 people died every day in the last period, in the States there are around 2 000 deaths per day.

Lombardy is invariably the region most affected by the epidemic. In this region currently more than 30 thousand people are infected (out of 102 thousand in whole Italy), and since the beginning of the disease 10.5 thousand people have died here. It is mainly Saturday's data from Lombardy that "spoil" the statistics and make them pessimistic, because they show that the epidemic has not stopped at all, as it was assumed in recent days, and is still very dangerous.

On Saturday, 544 new infections were detected in the region, compared to 300 fewer on Friday. More people also died on Saturday - 273 (Friday - 216). According to Giulio Gallera, health assessor for the Lombardy region, in the province of Milan, where statistics are the worst in all of Italy, the number of sick people has doubled in the last 24 hours (520) compared to Friday (269). At the same time, the media show that in the last two days Milanese have crowded out for walks, as if forgetting that "today we have an epidemic". In the city of Milan itself, the number of infected has also doubled (262 on Saturday, 127 on Friday, and almost 5,400 since the outbreak).

Fortunately, the number of vacancies in intensive care units is also increasing in Lombardy (28 more on Saturday).

- Absolutely, the epidemic is not over. We must not think that the worst is over. The data is not stable," warns Gallera.

The Lombardy authorities have said they will not implement that part of the new government decree, which provides, among other things, for bookshops and paper shops to open from next Tuesday. They will remain closed in Lombardy.

After Lombardy, the second most affected region by the coronavirus is Emilia-Romagna, where 13,500 people are infected. Only two other regions have more than 10,000 patients: Piedmont (12.1 thousand) and Veneto (10.7 thousand). The situation is best in the south: Sardinia has slightly less than 900 infected, Calabria - less than 800, Basilicata - 280, Molise - slightly less than 200.

During the traditional evening civil protection press conference, it was reported that the number of volunteers supporting the fight against the virus in the whole of Italy has reached a record high - more than 20 600. The sad statistic of deaths among doctors is growing - by Saturday the coronavirus had already killed 109 of them. More than 14 000 medical workers are already infected.

Across Italy, investigations are ongoing in social care homes - in many of which the numbers of infected and dead are alarming. The most high-profile case concerns Milan's Trivulzio. The prosecution suspects that the facility's management failed to maintain proper security measures during the transfer of patients from hospitals in mid-March, when authorities in the region, already declared a 'red zone', were in dire need of spare hospital beds for COVID-19 patients.

Patients from Milan's hospitals began to be transferred to the Pringe ward at the nursing home on 12-13 March. The authorities of the institution forbade the staff to use masks and other protective measures - so as not to cause panic. It quickly became clear that among the patients transferred to Pringe were infected. Twenty of them had symptoms of COVID-19. Six of them have died to date.

There were also the first infections among the sanitation workers at Trivulzio. In the meantime, patients from Pringe were moved to other rooms and buildings in the nursing home, and with them, the virus. The movement of staff between buildings and wards was unrestricted, with no separate passages marked out. So far at least 110 residents of the nursing home in Trivulzio have died since the beginning of March.

According to the National Institute of Health (ISS), [*it is very likely that since the beginning of February, 37.4 per cent of deaths in nursing homes in Italy - 1,443 out of 3,859 - are the result of coronavirus.*](https://www.ilmattino.it/italia/covid_19_case_riposo_morti_ultime_notizie_8_aprile_2020-5160648.html)

The public prosecutor's office is also investigating deaths and coronavirus infections in the town of Alzano Lombardo - as it turned out, today the largest outbreak centre in Lombardy, and indeed in the whole of ***Europe***. The outbreak here occurred much earlier than was thought, and the prosecution believes that the catastrophe could have been avoided.

The elderly and ailing began presenting themselves with strange symptoms to the emergency room in Alzano (a town near Bergamo) around 10 February. They were all elderly and already ill with other chronic illnesses. Most of them came from Nembro and nearby municipalities. Doctors diagnosed pneumonia or acute respiratory failure. It was only on 22 February that it was decided to test the patients for coronavirus. When the tests proved positive for two patients a day later, alarm was raised. The hospital authorities immediately decided to close the emergency room.

After two hours, the emergency service was reopened. As it turns out, the "closure" consisted mainly of telephone consultations with the Lombardy health authorities. Most likely, disinfection had not been carried out in the facility. The document made available by the hospital authorities (dated 3 April) only states: "Measures were taken in accordance with the protocols in force at the time". Over the next few dozen hours, the number of infected people began to rise exponentially.

As the daily Corriere della Sera notes, when the first case was discovered in Codogno hospital (a few days earlier than in Alzano), the hospital was closed the same day and the emergency department was disinfected for three days. In Codogno, therefore, one patient was enough to raise the alarm (and be taken seriously).

Why were tests not carried out earlier in Alzano? As the hospital authorities explain, "none of the patients admitted to the hospital at that time met the conditions set by the Ministry of Health to be considered a suspected case". The ministry's protocol at the time was that a person who came from Wuhan and came into contact with people in the live animal market there could be considered a "suspected case".

In fact, none of the old men from Nembro and Alzano in that region made the journey to and from Wuhan. And here again the difference between Codogno and Alzano is revealed. In Codogno, there was [*a doctor who dared to break protocol*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25785041,codogno-miasteczko-ktore-jako-pierwsze-wypowiedzialo-wojne.html), considering that saving the patient's life was more important than any rules. In Alzano, idiotic rules - at least that is how it looks from today's perspective - were used as an alibi for not taking action. The result? 1895 infected patients and 479 hospital staff in Alzano by 3 April.

**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 (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Espionage (65%); Arms Control + Disarmament (62%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

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

**Load-Date:** April 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Italian government will provide up to 24 billion euro to save jobs. As part of the fight against coronavirus***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-7HC1-JCVT-R2HW-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

April 26, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 321 words

**Byline:** IAR, WBG

**Highlight:** In May and probably in June, there will be no layoffs in Italy: neither group layoffs nor individual layoffs, according to a government decree called the "April Decree". The document sets out the general rules for the functioning of the state in the second phase of the fight against COVID-19, more precisely "the phase of coexistence with the coronavirus".

**Body**

In the second phase of the fight against coronavirus, which will be in force in Italy from 4 May, the government is ready to provide ***€24*** billion to save jobs. Nunzia Catalfo, Italy's labour minister, confirms that the government will extend until September the possibility of using the so-called special leave, i.e. 15 days off, paid at 50 per cent. Working parents whose children cannot go to kindergarten or school will, in turn, receive ***€600*** a month to hire a babysitter.

VAT payers, i.e. the poorest ones, as stressed by Deputy Development Minister Stefano Buffagni, can expect up to ***€800*** in support from the state in May. The government also intends to help those who are already behind in their insurance tax payments. - We are aware that some companies are not able to get off the ground, emphasises the deputy minister.

There will, in turn, be financial incentives for importers and manufacturers of masks, which are needed even more with the opening up of the economy. At the same time, however, there will also be an upper limit on their market price. - This is like a war economy, with an invisible enemy. Everything must be done so that the enemy does not become stronger - emphasised the Deputy Minister.

260 people infected with coronavirus have died in Italy in the past 24 hours, 155 fewer than on Saturday. This is the lowest number of deaths from coronavirus in a 24-hour period since March 15. Civil Protection said in a communiqué that more than 2,300 new cases were found on Sunday, 33 fewer than on Saturday. Currently, 106,000 people are being treated for coronavirus. 78 percent are passing the disease lightly at home.

The number of hospitalised people in Italy has also been falling for more than two weeks. There are now more than 21,000 patients in hospitals, nearly a hundred fewer than the day before. The number of patients in intensive care units has also decreased. In total, 197 000 people have been infected with the coronavirus since the start of the epidemic, more than 26 000 have died and 64 000 infected people have recovered.

**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 (69%); Medicine + Health (68%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (65%)

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Former judges of the Constitutional Tribunal defend prosecutor Wrzosek***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-7HC1-JCVT-R2JM-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

April 26, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 350 words

**Byline:** Maciej Orłowski, Justyna Dobrosz-Oracz

**Highlight:** Former judges of the Constitutional Court and a former member of the General Prosecutor's Office express their support for prosecutor Ewa Wrzosek, who wanted to investigate the organisation of elections during a coronavirus outbreak. In three hours her superiors discontinued the investigation she had initiated.

**Body**

Ewa Wrzosek of the Warsaw-Mokotów District Prosecutor's Office [*initiated the proceedings on Thursday following a notification from a private individual*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,25893918,prokuratura-wszczela-sledztwo-w-sprawie-wyborow-prezydenckich.html).

- It was aimed at explaining whether the persons who have the authority and ordered these elections - starting with the director of the Post Office - did not exceed their authority, did not fulfil all their duties and did they accept that by their behaviour they could bring about danger to the life and health of many people. Not only voters, but also, for example, members of election commissions," [*she told "Wyborcza"*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,82983,25896562,prokurator-wrzosek-nie-jestem-zadna-bohaterka-wykonuje-swoja.html). Perhaps she would summon for questioning, among others, the PiS president Jarosław Kaczyński.

But that is not going to happen. The superiors swiftly swung into action. The [*decision to discontinue the investigation was made on the same day by Edyta Dudzińska*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,25895298,sledztwo-w-sprawie-wyborow-umorzyla-przelozona.html), deputy head of the Regional Prosecution Office, who was not at work on Thursday. She was supposed to appear in the prosecution office suddenly, after office hours.

Mirosława Chyr of the Warsaw regional prosecutor's office said in a statement to PAP that "the investigation was discontinued due to the fact that the final date of the elections is unknown and is still being worked on by parliament". [*And national prosecutor Bogdan Święczkowski ordered disciplinary proceedings to be initiated against Wrzosek*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,25896749,naruszono-niezaleznosc-prokuratora.html).

On Sunday, former members of the Constitutional Tribunal and a former member of the General Prosecutor's Office stood up in defence of the prosecutor. In the letter, sent to "Wyborcza", they express their solidarity with the prosecutor and thank her for her "courage, knowledge and steadfastness". Below we publish the full text of the letter (title from the authors):

"In the application of the law, you defend the constitutional values of the ***European*** state: the rule of law, checks and balances, respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. You prove your loyalty to the principles enshrined in your oath as a prosecutor.

You have served the Republic well in difficult circumstances.

You cultivate and put into practice ethical principles: live by the law, be decent and do not lose your good name for the accolades and benefits of power.

You have risen to the challenge which, in a constitutional democracy, is co-determined by the Public Prosecution Service.

Thank you for your courage, knowledge and steadfastness.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (92%); Human Rights Violations (78%); Terrorist Organizations (75%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (62%); Chemistry (62%); Espionage (62%); Investigations (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Military Weapons (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%); Citizenship (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Harbors + Ports (74%); Mining + Extraction (74%); Destinations + Attractions (63%)

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Some uncomfortable questions for the Prime Minister of the Polish Government***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-7HC1-JCVT-R2J2-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

April 26, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 362 words

**Byline:** Appalled

**Highlight:** Over a month ago, the German government signed an agreement with private facilities. This increased the number of beds with ventilators and expert medical assistance by 40-50 percent. - a reader polemicises against Prime Minister Morawiecki's claim, which was made during a meeting with internet users.

**Body**

On Tuesday 21 April, late in the evening, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki held a virtual meeting with internet users. It's a good thing I was lying down while listening to it, because I would surely have fallen off my chair with a big bang. In the 40th minute of the 9th second it falls from the Prime Minister's mouth: "(...) also in Germany I read with great sadness about some of the recommendations concerning ventilators, qualification for a ventilator or not".

So I will ask the Prime Minister of the Polish government a question: "Prime Minister Morawiecki, where did you read about this? If you are already citing sources, then, as when writing your thesis, please give them. What right do you have to present my country and its people in such a bad light?

What right do you have to project an image of Germany onto Polish citizens - myself included - as a country plunged into a pandemic and unable to cope. What right do you have to try and strike fear into the hearts of the Polish people by presenting a situation that has nothing to do with reality?"

I have lived in Germany for years. And I know the German language as well as the political and economic situation very well. Not only can I listen and read, I can do it with understanding.

The situation is as follows. There are public and private hospitals in Germany. Over a month ago, when the pandemic began to unfold in ***Europe***, the German Government signed an agreement with private facilities. This increased the number of beds with ventilators and expert medical assistance by 40-50%.

This way, we still have a stock of spare beds with medical equipment in Germany. There has never been a situation where a doctor has had to make the dramatic decision that Morawiecki is talking about, as to who should be given a ventilator and who should not.

Dear Readers. Like you, I am a citizen of Poland, although not an inhabitant. I observe with horror what is happening in Poland.

I know that you have closed your borders. Do you feel after Morawiecki's statement that they will open soon? I say definitely not, because Morawiecki has already told you in half-words that there is a terrible pandemic in Germany, so it cannot be done.

And even if those borders ever open, remember that they can close them again at any time and no one will explain why.

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

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (92%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (70%); Awards + Prizes (69%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Medical Science (69%); Medicine + Health (69%); Physics (69%); Writers (69%)

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

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Italy: partial lifting of security measures from 4 May. Funerals for up to 15 people***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-7HC1-JCVT-R2JH-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

April 26, 2020 Sunday

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**Length:** 209 words

**Byline:** WBG, IAR

**Highlight:** Italy, which is the third largest outbreak of coronavirus in the world, is slowly preparing a plan to return to normality. In the past 24 hours, 260 people infected with coronavirus have died in Italy, 155 fewer than on Saturday. This is the lowest number of deaths from coronavirus in 24 hours since March 15.

**Body**

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in a press teleconference presented a plan to unfreeze the economy and lift restrictions after May 4. However, he stressed that social distancing, the wearing of masks and gloves would remain in force. So what will change in Italy?

Prime Minister Conte said that a joint effort had managed to contain the development of the pandemic. - You have all shown, north and south, strength, courage, a sense of responsibility and togetherness. Now we are all entering a new phase of living with the virus, he declared.

In Italy, many things will change: from 4 May, family visits will be possible, as well as funerals with no more than 15 people. Parks and green areas will be opened. Some manufacturing and construction will start, as well as most service points. Restaurants and bars will be able to start selling takeaways. On 18 May, all shops, museums, libraries, art galleries and exhibitions will open. Athletes will be able to start training. Restaurants, bars, hairdressers and beauticians will open on 1 June.

Italy is the third largest outbreak of coronavirus in the world, and the first ***European*** country where Sars-CoV-2 has appeared. More than 197 000 cases have been detected there so far. 26,000 people have died.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (93%); Investigations (70%); Children (69%); Indictments (69%); Celebrities (65%)

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (90%); Organic Chemicals (88%); Mining + Extraction (74%); Movie Industry (67%); Traveler Safety + Security (65%); Amusements + Gambling (64%)

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Commission European Commission will it go toe-to-toe with Berlin?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R22R-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 362 words

**Byline:** bart

**Highlight:** Tension is rising between the Commission and Germany. Following the Federal Constitutional Court's ruling that undermined the ruling of the ***EU*** Court of Justice, Brussels is threatening Berlin with counter-strike proceedings.

**Body**

The case is unprecedented not only because of the ruling of the German court judges, who a week ago questioned the CJEU's decision granting ***the European*** Central Bank the right to purchase bonds of the ***eurozone*** countries without restrictions. Berlin has been threatened with the consequences of the Karlsruhe court ruling by the head of the ***European*** Commission herself, Ursula von der Leyen, who is German.

- I take this case very seriously. ***The EU*** is a community of law and values that the Commission will always respect and defend," Ms von der Leyen said, announcing that the Commission was reviewing the case and considering all scenarios, including anti-infringement proceedings. - EU law takes precedence over national law. CJEU rulings are binding on national courts. As far as EU law is concerned, the last word always rests with the Court of Justice of the ***EU*** in Luxembourg, she said.

That is what von der Leyen's deputy, the Czech Vera Jourova, who is responsible in the Commission for upholding EU values, including the rule of law, said in an interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on Sunday. - This must be clear: the primacy of ***EU*** law applies in our Union. CJEU rulings are binding on all national courts, she said, stressing that this applies to all ***EU*** members.

She thus referred to the discussion in Poland. The Law and Justice party has long questioned the moves of EU institutions, which have criticised the ruling camp for violating the rule of law and dismantling democracy. When in early April the CJEU suspended the new Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court, the Law and Justice government decided that the Constitutional Court, which is subordinate to the party, would veto the decision. The ruling in Karlsruhe was seen by PiS politicians as a signal that this is the way to oppose EU rulings.

German media, on the other hand, stress that the ***European*** Commission's reaction to the Karlsruhe tribunal's verdict was very quick, which, together with von der Leyen's commitment, shows that the Union intends to fight in a dispute over competences. "This case concerns the core of EU sovereignty. The Commission is ready to defend the ***European*** community of law against any attack" - writes the "Süddeutsche Zeitung"

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Torture (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Medicine + Health (68%); Racism + Xenophobia (64%); Immigration (62%); Arms Control + Disarmament (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (65%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (61%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Organisations want a green economic stimulus. It is about 580 billion PLN and 240 thousand jobs***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R21V-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 585 words

**Byline:** past, press material

**Highlight:** - Modern technologies are becoming a great opportunity for a green economic impulse, important for a faster exit from the crisis - assesses Maciej Witucki from Konfederacja Lewiatan. Together with the expert organisation Forum Energii, they call for the adoption of the "Energy Impulse for Poland" package. It is a plan to launch almost PLN 600 billion of investments supporting the economy and the fight for climate protection.

**Body**

The recovery from the coronavirus outbreak "presents us with a choice: fight desperately to go back to what we had before - or try to create something much better" - Frans Timmermans, the [***European***](https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/which-world-do-we-want-after-covid-19/1455092/?utm_source=PRESS_COP24%2B2019%2B2020_MediaList&utm_campaign=480b557501-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_15_02_46&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_391a7473f1-480b557501-207429873&mc_cid=480b557501&mc_eid=5c1d954e5b) Commission's deputy head of the Green Deal, and Bertrand Piccard of the Solar Impulse Foundation, [*wrote in a commentary published in* ***European*** *media in*](https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/which-world-do-we-want-after-covid-19/1455092/?utm_source=PRESS_COP24%2B2019%2B2020_MediaList&utm_campaign=480b557501-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_15_02_46&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_391a7473f1-480b557501-207429873&mc_cid=480b557501&mc_eid=5c1d954e5b) April.

This was one of many voices calling for recovery from the pandemic and the crisis it caused not to mean a return to harmful practices, but an opportunity to build more sustainable, nature- and climate-friendly economies and societies. This includes investments in green energy or making aid to companies conditional on plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In France, for example, [*aviation is to stop competing*](https://www.railjournal.com/passenger/high-speed/air-france-ordered-to-curb-competiton-with-rail-in-france/) with much greener trains.

Now, an initiative to get out of the crisis for the benefit of the climate has also appeared in Poland. The Energy Forum and the Confederation of Leviathan have published a report on the "Energy Impulse for Poland" package and are calling for its introduction. The package aims to mobilise available public and private funds for the country's energy modernisation. The implementation of the proposed package would trigger investments worth 580 billion PLN and, as the organisations calculate, would translate into the creation of 240,000 new jobs. "However, the economic crisis does not push away the problems of polluted air and climate change". - they write.

The implementation of the package would translate into a number of benefits - protection of climate and clean air, job creation, reduction of electricity bills, improvement of energy security. - For too many years, clean energy, climate and the environment have been treated as side topics, reserved for activists, and generating dangerously high costs for business - assessed Maciej Witucki, President of the Lewiatan Confederation. In his opinion, in the face of the pandemic, "modern technologies additionally become a great opportunity for a green economic impulse", important for a quicker exit from the crisis.- Investments in RES, energy efficiency, modern waste management, modern transport, are also an opportunity to develop our competitiveness in areas where the global cards are not yet fully dealt - he convinces.

The "Energy Impulse for Poland" package provides for increased use of state public funds and EU funds in 12 areas, the organisations report. They point out that in the new ***EU*** budget perspective a very large part of the funds will be earmarked for measures related to combating climate change and mitigating its effects. The use of these funds may be part of the impulse needed to recover from the recession.

Among these, they single out those that "require urgent support now". These include thermal modernisation of buildings, low-emission transport, modernisation and expansion of the electricity grid. Others are long-term measures, which, however, according to experts, should be initiated now. Among them, they point to the development of offshore wind energy, support for companies producing equipment related to renewable energy or building the competences of future employees in these sectors right now.

The authors of the report point out that Poland is obliged to take action to change the impact of its economy on the environment and climate. In their opinion, the implementation of the proposed package "is a milestone in this direction".

The full report is available at [*forum-energy.* ***eu***](https://forum-energii.eu/pl/analizy/impuls-energii).

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (70%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (63%); Mining + Extraction (63%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Germany will fall to the bottom to bounce back quickly***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R22M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 939 words

**Byline:** Michał Kokot

**Highlight:** Germany faces its worst economic collapse in 30 years this year. But economists predict that it will quickly emerge from the crisis unscathed, further distancing Italy and France.

**Body**

The Institute for Economic Research (ifo) published data on Monday showing that more than half of Germany's hotel and catering companies laid off some of their employees in April.

In tourism, the figure was 43%. But redundancies are also taking place in the automotive sector, which is the pride of the German economy, with 39% of companies affected. The largest scale of redundancies affected companies in two states of the rich southern part of Germany - Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, where BMW, Daimler, Audi, Porsche and Bosch have their headquarters.

"This is the largest decline since January 1991". - writes the Federal Statistical Office in a report, presenting economic data for March. At the time, production contracted by 9.2 percent and exports recorded a decline of 7.9 percent.

This is one of the reasons why Germany is facing significantly lower tax revenues. This year - by at least ***EUR*** 100 billion, next year - by 80 billion.

The hole will also be acute because of the planned abolition of the solidarity tax, which brought in ***€19*** billion in revenue last year. The Bavarian CSU is demanding its abolition before the summer even begins.

Among the ideas to guarantee additional revenues is the increase of the income tax - currently 45%. - The social-democratic SPD, which is co-ruling the government, is pushing it through.

All in all, one in five Germans in the country is expected to be directly affected by the crisis - in fact, this is how many people have already declared a drop in income as a result of the crisis.

And in a survey for Kantar, 2.1 million Germans said that the crisis had led them into an "existence-threatening" economic situation. This is admittedly only 2.6 percent of the German population, but the media are astonished that this is despite the gigantic aid programme launched by the federal government. At the end of March it adopted a package worth 750 billion ***euros***.

The programme, the world's largest, is expected to cushion the impact of this year's expected recession in Germany, estimated by the ***European*** Commission at minus 6.5 per cent of GDP. Next year, according to the same source, Germany is expected to bounce back and the country's economy will grow by 5.9 per cent of GDP.

The reason for economists' optimism is precisely the unprecedented amount of cash the government is about to pour into direct subsidies, financial guarantees and tax cuts. The bailout measures amount to a total of 34 per cent of national GDP. Hardly any other country in ***Europe*** can match the scale of this assistance: The French will allocate the equivalent of 14.6 percent of GDP to fight the crisis, the Spanish - 11 percent, only the Italians, arguably the most affected by the virus, declare support equal to 32 percent of their GDP.

Germany has an additional advantage - it still has considerable reserves and its finances are not burdened with such a large debt. It currently stands at 75% of GDP, which will rise to around 86.5% once the aid programme is implemented.

Meanwhile, Italy's aid programme will increase its debt from 135% to 159% of GDP. In Greece, it is expected to be even higher, exceeding 200 percent of GDP. Economists warn that such a high debt could easily turn into another crisis in the ***eurozone***, the effects of which could be even more severe than the one a decade ago.

- It is more likely that it is German companies in distress that will survive the crisis than even the healthiest companies in southern ***Europe***, stresses Carsten Brzeski, an economist at ING, in an interview with German TV station ARD.

As if to confirm his words, on Monday Volkswagen published its figures for April: although car sales in Germany were down by two-thirds then, they were still higher than in other ***European*** markets. On average across ***Europe, the*** decline was 83 percent, and where the pandemic was strongest - in the UK, Italy, Spain and France - sales virtually ground to a halt.

Economists agree that if the economic forecasts prove true, the economic gap between Germany and the countries of the South will widen even further. France is already speaking with one voice with Spain and Italy about the need to issue ***Eurobonds,*** which would cover the governments' expenses in fighting the economic crisis. On the other hand, Germans and the Dutch, who are coping relatively well with the effects of freezing their economies, are most resistant to their issuance, and they fear that the main financial burden of rescuing the countries of the EU's South will rest on them.

How quickly the German economy gets back on its feet will depend, to a large extent, on the course of the coronavirus pandemic in that country. It will also have an indirect effect on the condition of the Polish economy, as Germany is our largest trading partner, receiving more than a quarter of our exports.

Meanwhile, on Monday it emerged that for the second day in a row, the reproduction index of the virus exceeded 1 (below this limit, the number of infected people decreases, while a score above it means that the virus continues to spread). On Saturday it was 1.13, while on Sunday it was 1.1. Germany now has almost 20,000 people infected (at the beginning of April there were more than 70,000).

The Robert Koch Institute, which presented the data, stresses, however, that it is not necessary to draw too far-reaching conclusions from it at the moment and that further observation of the situation is necessary. A return of the pandemic would, however, mean - as announced by Chancellor Angela Merkel - a return to the restrictions that have recently been lifted in the country. Larger shops and some schools have recently opened. However, there is still a ban on assemblies, Bundesliga matches are frozen (they are due to return on the 9th, but without an audience in the stands), and restaurants do not serve meals indoors.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (75%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Is Minister Michał Woś a paid agent of a foreign country?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R21M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 364 words

**Byline:** Marek Beylin

**Highlight:** Environment Minister Michał Woś wants, following the example of Putin and Orbán, to stigmatise Polish NGOs as foreign agents.

**Body**

"I have set up a working group in the ministry to work on disclosing the funding of NGOs, not just environmental NGOs, because this will benefit the whole of Poland, so that all organisations will have transparency in their finances. They will be able to show whether they are financed from foreign funds or not. Those that are, should inform Poles about it," Woś revealed on TV Trwam on 9 May ([*quote from OKO.press*](https://oko.press/rzad-szykuje-atak-na-organizacje-pozarzadowe/)).

It is about fabricating the impression that civil organisations in Poland are critical of the government because they are paid for by the wicked West. If it were not for this money, no one in Poland would oppose the PiS government, the best possible government. Such were the intentions of the Russian and Hungarian satraps when they introduced similar laws.

Woś's action has a purely propagandistic dimension, which is proven by the fact that every NGO is obliged to publish its sources of funding in an open report. Everyone can check who financed whom and to what extent.

But that is not the only reason why Woś and the government should knock themselves on the head. For the Minister of the Environment has overlooked the fact that the whole of Poland is financed by Western money, i.e. the ***European*** Union. As the Ministry of Finance states on its website, for 15 years we have received a net amount (after deducting the contributions paid) of 105 billion ***euros***. The EU also generously supports environmental protection, which is the responsibility of Woś's ministry. The operational programme "Infrastructure and Environment" (in the years 2014-20) over ***EUR*** 3.5 billion have been allocated to this, and if support for cleaner energy is added to environmental protection, the total comes to over ***EUR*** 6.3 billion.

It follows that Woś is able to function and live a prosperous life as a minister not so much because of his talents but because of the massive streams of 'agent money' from the EU making Poland, including his department, richer. The same applies to other ministers and the Prime Minister of the PiS government.

So if Woś wants to fabricate an image of anyone as a "foreign agent", he should start with himself and his government colleagues. So let him put signs on the buildings of the ministries: "Subsidiary of an EU agent". And he himself and other ministers could wear badges saying "Keeper of the West". This would be in line with Woś's project, only more consistent.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Terrorist Organizations (68%); Weapons + Arms (64%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

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

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The richest countries are not doing the best with pandemics at all. Why have Croatia and Greece been more successful?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R22P-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 611 words

**Byline:** Marta Urzędowska

**Highlight:** The Croats remember the experience of war, the Greeks the financial disaster. Such experiences teach the discipline that today allows them to deal more effectively with the coronavirus, the New York Times assesses

**Body**

While the new coronavirus is spreading around the world, an interesting phenomenon can be observed: rich countries are not coping with the pandemic any better than poor ones. It turns out that although they theoretically have more money, greater ability to mobilise resources and powerful state mechanisms to support society in a crisis, they come out rather poorly in the fight against the virus. This paradox was analysed by the journalists of the New York Times.

It is hard not to notice that the countries most affected by the pandemic in ***Europe*** are Great Britain, France and Italy, which are among the largest ***European*** economies. In contrast, smaller, poorer countries - such as Croatia and Greece - reacted rapidly and effectively: they introduced appropriate restrictions, persuaded people to comply with them and kept the virus under control, so that today they are gradually lifting the restrictions.

"The New York Times, quoting experts, analyses the reasons for this success. It is possible that the societies of these countries developed in the past the ability to cope with difficulties and discipline resulting from dramatic events they experienced so recently that a large part of the population remembers them well. Thus, compared to the war (in the case of Croatia) or the economic catastrophe (in Greece), today's shutdown of economies, the sacrifices forced by a pandemic or the uncertainty of tomorrow do not seem as dramatic as to societies used to peace and prosperity. That is why the Greeks or Croatians are more resilient, adaptable and disciplined, because - to put it simply - they know that things could have been worse.

In Croatia, many people still remember well the Balkan conflict of the 1990s and having to barricade themselves in their homes for weeks on end, with sirens blaring and a constant sense of danger. In Greece, where everyone remembers the huge debt crisis of a few years ago, today's vision of rising unemployment and financial difficulties is not news.

- Yes, people are afraid. But the discipline we have learned helps us adapt and creates a kind of forced unity," explains the 45-year-old Croatian quoted in the daily, who recalls that in the 1990s he had to run to the top of a nearby hill and set off a siren to warn of an air raid. - I was a child, but I remember well how we used to play football while watching missiles falling from the sky, he recalls. He is sure that the way Croats have responded to the pandemic has its roots in the war and earlier times - communism.

According to an Oxford scale of severity of restrictions introduced during a pandemic, Croats are at the very top. But it is having an effect: only 86 people have died here so far, which means that 2.1 people per 100,000 die of the infection, compared to 137 per 100,000 in New York.

- Croatia reached for the maximum restrictions and the authorities reacted very strongly - explains Thomas Hale, a professor from Oxford, who reminds that in the countries of Eastern ***Europe*** restrictions are more often stronger than in the west of the continent. - It is possible that people in these countries are less rebellious and more ready to accept them - he adds.

As a result, Croatia was one of the first countries to start lifting some restrictions as early as 27 April.

Greece ended the lockdown of its economy shortly afterwards, on 4 May. The death toll from the coronavirus in the country is also relatively low, with 151 people dying from the infection. Greeks, despite the threat of recession, show great optimism in polls. They believe that the last debt crisis, during which their economy shrank by a quarter, has given them the resilience to recover this time too.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Espionage (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (90%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The permits for the Baltic Pipe gas pipeline are complete. The green light has been given by Stockholm***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R23W-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 419 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** Sweden has granted permission to lay the Baltic Pipe pipeline, which will carry gas from Norway to Poland via Denmark, in its waters. This was the last missing permit for this gas pipeline.

**Body**

The Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation has granted permission for the Baltic Pipe gas pipeline to be laid in the waters of Sweden's exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea. The Swedish government's decision was approved on 7 May, but Polish company Gaz-System only announced it on Monday.

The Baltic Pipe offshore gas pipeline, which is to carry Norwegian gas from Denmark to Poland, will be around 275 km long, of which 85 km will be in waters under Swedish jurisdiction.

"We are very pleased to receive the construction permit from the Swedish government and appreciate the efficient processing of our application. This decision shows that the Swedish government recognizes the importance of the project not only for Poland and Denmark, but also for the entire ***European*** Union in the context of strengthening cooperation between ***EU*** countries and, above all, becoming independent from natural gas supplies from Russia," - Gaz-System CEO Tomasz Stępień said, quoted in the company's announcement.

The decision of the Swedish government marks the end of procedures related to obtaining administrative permits for Baltic Pipe. In October last year, the Danish government issued permits for the laying of two sections of the pipeline in waters under the jurisdiction of Copenhagen, and Gaz-System received a permit for laying Baltic Pipe in Polish waters three weeks ago.

The coronavirus outbreak has not disrupted the timetable for obtaining the latest administrative approvals for investments.

Gaz-System also has agreements to cross the Baltic Pipe with Nord Stream's offshore gas pipeline systems from Russia to Germany.

Gaz-System also already has a complete set of permits to build the onshore extension of Baltic Pipe in Poland. And energinet.dk, Gaz-System's Danish partner, also already has a complete set of permits to build the onshore part of the Baltic Pipe in Denmark and at the connection to the Norwegian export pipelines in the North Sea.

A week ago, Gaz-System announced that it had signed a contract with the British subsidiary of the Italian engineering company Saipem for the laying of the Baltic Pipe gas pipeline from Denmark to Poland. Earlier, Gaz-System concluded a contract with the German company ***Europipe*** for the supply of pipes from which the pipeline will be laid.

The first works and preparation of the construction facilities by Saipem to be carried out later this year. In the first half of next year, work will be carried out on strengthening the seabed for Baltic Pipe, and the laying of the gas pipeline from Denmark to Poland is expected to start in the second half of next year.

According to the plan, the commercial operation of Baltic Pipe is to start on 1 October 2022.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices (94%); Medical Devices + Equipment (80%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Employment Services (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (67%); Rubber + Silicone (63%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Number of fatalities in Europe has jumped sharply. Some people were killed "indirectly" by the coronavirus [CHART OF THE DAY]***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R212-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 714 words

**Byline:** ab

**Highlight:** According to the latest official statistics, the coronavirus outbreak worldwide has already killed approx. 284 thousand people. A significant increase in the number of deaths in many ***European*** countries is also indicated by data from the ***European*** agency ***EuroMOMO***.

**Body**

***EuroMOMO*** interacts with the EU's ***European*** Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the World Health Organisation. It collects and presents weekly data on the number of deaths in parts of ***European*** countries. Specifically, [***EuroMOMO***](https://www.euromomo.eu/graphs-and-maps) cooperates with 24 countries or regions of ***Europe*** (e.g. from Germany, statistics are provided by only two Länder - Hesse and Berlin), including those heavily affected by the coronavirus, e.g. Italy, Spain, Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands or France. Poland does not provide data there.

***EuroMOMO*** data are helpful in assessing how much havoc the epidemic has caused. In the last few years, around 50 000 people died every week in March/April in the countries surveyed. This year, around 86-87 000 people each lost their lives in the two worst weeks. Now the number of dead people is falling, although it is still the highest since at least 2016.

It is of course natural to link the significantly higher number of deaths in many EU countries to the ongoing epidemic. However, the answer to the question as to how many of these 35 000-40 000 'additional' deaths were victims of the coronavirus is very difficult to find. On the one hand, it is known that some countries include in this group also people who died without being tested, but only suspected of being infected [*(e.g. Belgium classified deaths in nursing homes in this way)*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,25902235,wlochy-hiszp.html). On the other hand, in some countries the health care system was so strained that it was not always possible to save people with, for example, heart attacks or strokes (and in "normal" times their chances of survival would have been much higher). One could say that these people were also "indirectly" killed by the coronavirus.

Italy is a case in point. The statistics office there last week presented [*an interesting analysis of*](https://www.istat.it/it/files//2020/05/Istat-ISS_-eng.pdf) how many people had died between 20 February (the first death caused by COVID-19) and the end of March. This is a time when the epidemic was just developing, but even so the conclusions are interesting. Well, this year, nearly 91,000 people died in Italy during the period studied, while on average between 2015 and 2019, around 65,500 people lost their lives during this period. So are these "excess" approximately 25.5k deaths victims of coronavirus? Well, no - around 13,700 people died from COVID-19 in Italy during this period. So why did another 11,500 or so people die?

The Italian statistical office presented three possible outcomes here. The first - that some of these people were ill with COVID-19 but were not diagnosed. The second - dubbed the 'indirect' coronavirus effect by the office - that the infection caused other health problems, such as cardiovascular. Finally, the third - that it was the overstretched health system in the most affected regions of Italy.

Incidentally, one could also ask whether the restrictions related to the epidemic have not, to some extent, "lowered" the mortality statistics. In other words, in a theoretical scenario, if on the one hand we did not have the epidemic, and on the other hand we had wide-ranging restrictions on, among other things, mobility or the provision of work - whether because of fewer car accidents or accidents at work - there would not be many fewer people dead than usual at this time of year.

As we wrote, ***EuroMOMO*** data shows that the statistics of dead people in ***Europe's*** worst affected countries are returning to "normal". Ignacy Morawski, a SpotData analyst, even pointed out that in some countries - including France - there are even fewer deaths than would be expected. However, the data from England is particularly worrying.

Please note, the data below do not show the number of people who have died. This is a statistical indicator called the z-score (Z-score) - the more it is above or below zero, the more the data is skewed.

The official figures, current as of the afternoon of 11 May, show that 803 people have died in Poland from coronavirus. Of course, it is difficult to say whether this is the full number - there are sometimes reports of the death of a person who has not been tested for coronavirus but had symptoms similar to those characteristic of COVID-19.

However, the analysis of [*konkret24.tvn24.pl*](https://konkret24.tvn24.pl/zdrowie,110/jak-epidemia-wplynela-na-statystyki-zgonow-w-polsce-analiza-konkret24,1015645.html) indicates that in recent months in Poland, despite the ongoing epidemic, even fewer people died than in previous years. This could be related, among others, to the mild winter (fewer victims of flu and other infections), as well as a smaller number of road accidents.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Terrorist Organizations (73%); Medicine + Health (70%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Espionage (61%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (69%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (62%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Democracy ends not with a bang, but with a whimper [OPINION]***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R203-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 2699 words

**Byline:** Anna Wójcik, Miłosz Wiatrowski

**Highlight:** For a fourth year in row, Poland saw a strong decline in its democratic rating published annually by a U.S. think tank Freedom House as part of its "Nations in Transit" report. This year's issue, which covers the developments in 2019, downgraded Poland from the category of "consolidated democracies" to "semi-consolidated democracies", i.e. states which are particularly vulnerable to an authoritarian turn.

**Body**

Anna Wójcik and Miłosz Wiatrowski are the authors of the chapter devoted to Poland in the "Nations in Transit 2020" report assessing the state of democracy in the Eastern ***Europe*** - Eurasia region, published last week by the Washington D.C.-based think tank Freedom House. They are not responsible for the grades assigned to Poland as part of the report, which have been prepared and confirmed internally by the Freedom House experts.

Ever since Law and Justice came to power in Poland in 2015, a heated debate has been raging on about whether Jarosław Kaczyński and his allies are trying to dismantle democracy in the country. For some pundits, the decision in November 2015 to ignore the lawful appointment of several judges to the Constitutional Tribunal and to replace them with new appointees recommended by the Law and Justice party was sufficient to claim that Poland embarked on a march towards authoritarianism. Others, however, are still looking for a smoking gun five years later, unsure whether the ruling camp poses a real threat to democracy.

For both sides, democracy is a binary term - either it exists, or it does not. On one end of the spectrum, democracy is pronounced dead at the first instance of irregularities in the application of the doctrine of separation of powers, on the other end - democracy is in place for as long as there are free and fair elections. Such an approach, while understandable from an emotional standpoint, is erroneous.

From the beginning of the 1990s, the Polish raison d'État has been defined by our political class as equivalent to "the return to normalcy". Poland was finally meant to be normal - or the same as the mythical, homogenous "West". This doctrine of "normalcy" has been central in defining the political goals of Poland in almost all domains.

Economy? We demand normalcy in the form of free market. Foreign policy? Our goal is to get back to normal - return Poland to the West, join the ***EU*** and NATO, and finally sit in our rightful place - the one that was taken from us by the Iron Curtain. Political regime? We want what is normal - democratically elected President, a Prime Minister backed by the parliamentary majority, and so on.

This totemic use of a mythologized West, coupled with a dire economic crisis which dominated the transitional period, and a near-immediate shift towards politics driven by personal animosities between former "Solidarność" allies, deprived Poland of a number of key public debates over our political goals, societal aspirations and shared definitions of the public good.

Theoretically, Poland has a semi-presidential political regime, with a President enjoying strong democratic legitimacy thanks to his election in universal suffrage. In practice, besides short periods of cohabitation, his role has been mostly symbolic, despite a relatively broad scope of presidential competences enshrined in the Polish constitution.

In the economic sphere, until 2015 any attempts to question the prevalent neoliberal, free market model introduced during the period of shock therapy in the early 1990s were seen as either naive or simply malevolent, and never given much thought.

When it comes to foreign affairs, the horizon of our imagination could not transcend the doctrine of the need to "join the table" and "become part of the conversation". The accession to NATO and the ***EU*** are undoubtedly in the Polish raison d'État. At the same time, the conception of which vision or shape of the ***European*** integration is in the Polish interests hardly ever went beyond the belief that our strategic objective is to join the group of countries in charge of making such decisions. There was very little debate about what Poland should bring to the table and what should it take from it, other than more ***EU*** funds.

Such a weakly defined consensus, built more on a vision of an imagined "West" than on the political, economic and social realities of the Western ***European*** countries, left ample space for contestation based on efforts to make these experiences more real. The mass migration of Poles to richer ***EU*** member states after 2004 made this chasm between the real and the imagined more readily apparent to a large part of Polish society, but it had a relatively little impact on the political elites.

The current ruling camp has successfully weaponized this gap between the "West" inhabiting the Polish liberal imagery and the more complex reality on the ground.

The Law and Justice politicians regularly emphasize the supposed uniqueness of Poland and the need to defend "our spirit" against the forces of "Western cultural liberalism" which (in their narrative) are leading Western ***European*** countries to the brink of disaster.

At the same time, however, they are regularly referring to examples from the "old ***EU*** member states" to defend the controversial policies undertaken by the Polish government. They mention the fact that an active CDU politician was appointed to the German Constitutional Court last year, they refer to the French model of disciplining judges as not that dissimilar from the "muzzling" law signed by President Duda several months ago, or mention that in the Netherlands judges are appointed by the parliament.

Of course, they refuse to make an effort (most likely for political reasons) to examine how those individual elements fit into the larger institutional and judicial system and, more broadly, the political culture of these countries. The fact that seemingly similar solutions exist in the founding countries of the ***EU*** is enough for the Law and Justice acolytes to brandish the ***European*** Commission's efforts to defend the rule of law in Poland as cynical and politically motivated.

Through such lenses, the Commission is not looking for justice, but revenge - because the current ruling camp is assertively defending the Polish interests in Brussels for the first time since we joined the ***EU***. To add credibility to this theory, the ruling camp acolytes underscore that Law and Justice was also the first government in Poland since 1989 to stand up to neoliberal orthodoxy and to decisively increase spending on social policy, improving the economic standing of many Polish families.

For many liberals,it is easy to dismiss their narrative by pointing to its logical and factual errors and questioning its manipulative bent. However, a more productive way of dealing with the challenge posed by the Law and Justice is to see it as an invitation to engage in a deeper, better thought-through reflexion about the Polish raison d'État, our democratic regime and economic model.

The annual "Nations in Transit" report published by the Washington D. C. based think-tank Freedom House is a useful place to start such an exercise.

Numerous rankings (of freedom of press, ease of doing business, quality of democracy) are oftentimes treated by the pundits as sporting competitions. The talking points are almost universally dominated by things like "by how much we fell" and "how are we doing compared to other countries" (usually neighbors and/or traditional rivals).

As the authors of the chapter describing the political developments in Poland in 2019, we hope that the meticulous material prepared by the Freedom House, its experts and its external contributors can be something more than just an invitation to find solace in the fact that our country is not as bad as Turkmenistan and still nowhere near close to Hungary, or to feed frustration that those pesky Baltic states are somehow better than us.

The way we see it, the report offers a concise yet incisive summary of the most important developments and trends in the region with respect to elements such as national democratic governance, local democratic governance, the electoral process, civil society rights, media freedom, judicial system and the fight against corruption. In a way, it is equivalent to an annual health check of our democracies.

"Democracy" here is understood as an ideal-type. No country analyzed in "Nations in Transit" received a perfect grade of 7 out of 7. Such high notes are also not given to consolidated, traditional Western democracies in the global regime ranking prepared by Freedom House under the name "Freedom in the World".

While no country is perfect, it is useful to measure the distance between the state of democratic freedoms in Poland and the idealized version of democracy. This allows us to zoom out and adopt a wider perspective on whether Poland still belongs to the category of healthy democracies, or rather fits more closely with countries whose democratic institutions are under assault.

Liberal democracy consists of separation of powers and the equal protection of rights of all individuals. The term is oftentimes used interchangeably with "constitutional democracy", since modern day constitutions contain strong guarantees of separation of powers, as well as mechanisms to protect rights and freedoms of each individual.

The ruling camp in Poland governs through law rather than within the limits set by the law. It regularly breaches the Polish constitution and runs roughshod over the principle of separation of powers by granting the executive primacy over the judiciary and by limiting the role that the parliamentary opposition has in the legislative process.

In 2019, it seemed that under the rule of Law and Justice, Poland is turning into an "electoral autocracy", a moniker introduced by the Princeton University political scientist Jan-Werner Müller to describe regimes which are usually not up to the democratic standard, but maintain relatively free and fair elections.

Last year, Poland held free, nationwide ***European*** and parliamentary elections. Their results were confirmed by the still-then independent Supreme Court and evaluated as properly conducted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in ***Europe***. At the same time, the final OSCE report enumerated a number of worrying trends, including lack of pluralism in public media during the campaign and the use of hate speech by some candidates. Nonetheless, the turnout in both elections was historic for Polish standards.

The United Right obtained a strong popular mandate. However, it lost its majority in the Polish Senate, the upper chamber of the parliament. This, in turn, raised hoped that the quality of the legislative process would increase during the new term, with more room for democratic deliberation and pluralism.

After the October parliamentary election, there has been a several-weeks long period of "thaw", aimed at trying out a more moderate image for Andrzej Duda before he runs for reelection in 2020.

However, the rulings issued in Warsaw and Luxembourg over the last two months of 2019 put an immediate end to any Law and Justice flirtations with a more moderate turn. In mid-November, Court of Justice of the ***EU*** issued a groundbreaking verdict in response to prejudicial questions posed by the Polish Supreme Court. In it, the CJEU spelled out the criteria that have to be met in order for any member states' court to be considered as independent in accordance with the ***EU*** law. The ruling also specified the standards of independence that need to be met by national councils of the judiciary and similar bodies responsible for judicial appointments.

At the beginning of December, the Supreme Court used the criteria to adjudicate that the newly created Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court, filled exclusively with PiS-recommended appointees, did not satisfy the requirement of independence as defined by the CJEU. In addition, the Supreme Court ruled that the process through which the new National Council of Judiciary was appointed was defective.

The ruling camp's reaction was swift. The United Right's acolytes presented a draft bill on a new, draconic disciplinary regime for judges. The new bill came despite the fact that the previously introduced system of disciplining judges, also designed by the Law and Justice party, was already considered by the ***European*** Commission to be overly political and thus in violation of the ***EU*** law, which led Berlaymont to initiate proceedings against Poland at the CJEU in October 2019.

While the new proposal, denounced by the opposition and legal experts as the "muzzling bill", led to numerous protests and pleas from the international community, as well as to the spectacular "march of the thousand gowns" on the streets of Warsaw in January, the PiS-controlled Sejm voted in favor of the bill, which was signed into law by president Duda in February 2020.

The new law further encroaches on judicial independence in Poland, without which there can be no rule of law, and thus no democracy. It clearly violates the rights and freedoms of Polish judges, breaching the Polish constitution as well as ***EU*** and international law in the process.

In April, the ***European*** Commission launched a formal procedure against the Polish government for violating the ***EU*** treaties based on the fact that the "muzzling law" does not guarantee the right to fair trial and risks dismantling the judicial independence of Polish courts.

The new disciplinary regime for judges is yet another step away from constitutional democracy and towards a system which has democratic "episodes" - such as elections - without guaranteeing liberal democratic freedoms on a daily basis.

However, the events of the last two months concerning the presidential election clearly show that Jarosław Kaczyński and his acolytes are ready to introduce further changes that would push Poland even further down the authoritarian path.

Even though the deal agreed between Kaczyński and Jarosław Gowin postponed the election (for now), the electoral chaos caused by the Law and Justice's frantic push to organize election at all costs shows that Poland is under threat to slide not only towards, but way beyond "electoral autocracy", and fall all the way down to a regime of "plebiscitary autocracy".

It is not enough to call any vote "an election" to fulfill the democratic electoral rules. Article 127 of the Polish constitution stipulates that the presidential election has to be universal, fair, direct and secret. The postal vote that the government is ineptly trying to organize does not meet any of these criteria. Free elections consist not only of the act of casting a vote. They require a fair electoral process, which includes a campaign period that allows the voters to familiarize themselves with the candidates and their program - a condition that has been blatantly violated over the last month.

There is still a risk that the presidential election will turn out to be nothing more than a referendum on whether Andrzej Duda should remain the president of Poland, as well as a plebiscite on whether Poland remains a democracy or continues its slide towards autocracy.

In "plebiscitary autocracy", voters provide popular legitimacy to the ruling camp that the latter uses to stay in power and ignore the constitutional and democratic norms associated with the rule of law.

It appears that the political regime in Poland risks degenerating in that direction.

The title is a paraphrase of the last two verses of T. S. Eliot's "The Hollow Men" - 'This is the way the world ends. Not with a bang but a whimper'.

Anna Wójcik is a researcher at the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where she prepares her PhD in constitutional law. She coordinates Archiwum Osiatyńskiego and Rule of Law in Poland initiatives.

Miłosz Wiatrowski is an intellectual historian, an economist and a PhD candidate in the Department of History at Yale University. He is an editor at Gazeta Wyborcza's News from Poland.

They have prepared the Polish chapter of the Freedom House's "Nations in Transit 2020" report independently of their affiliations.

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Every day, 400 journalists at Gazeta Wyborcza write verified, fact-checked stories about the coronovirus 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 (87%); Criminal Law (70%); Torture (70%); Cardiology (67%); Journalism (65%); Biochemistry (63%); Distance Learning (62%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (62%); Labor + Employment (62%); Recruitment + Hiring (62%)

**Industry:** Newspaper Publishing (93%); Destinations + Attractions (69%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (61%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

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[***Foreign media on Poland: "Zero turnout in bizarre ghost election"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R1XY-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** Maciej Czarnecki

**Highlight:** "In the fumes of legal absurdity", "Unthinkable". - such comments can be read by internet users around the world after the election Sunday in Poland.

**Body**

We all know this category of news. A football team in Oceania crushed its rival, scoring dozens of goals in 90 minutes. In a banana republic, the leader got 99% of the vote. In another, the leader spoke for eight hours. Journalists are supposedly just reporting the facts, but in reality they are winking at the reader: "Look what things can happen in the world!".

Unfortunately, this is the tone of a dispatch from Poland by the French agency AFP, which is published by media around the world, including France24 in France, the Bangkok Post in Thailand, The Hindu in India and the Taipei Times in Taiwan.

"Election Sunday in Poland will go down in the history books as polling stations remained closed due to the political crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic and turnout will be zero percent," [*- reads the dispatch entitled 'Zero turnout in bizarre ghost election in Poland'.*](https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/1915596/zero-turnout-as-poland-holds-bizarre-ghost-election)

AFP writes that ***EU*** member Poland of 38 million people has found itself in a bizarre position "where the presidential election is formally neither postponed nor cancelled because the government and opposition could not agree on a constitutional and safe solution".

The agency quotes political scientist Stanislaw Mock as saying that our country is "in the throes of legal absurdity", adding that the government "should declare a state of disaster to legally postpone the elections".

The dispatch is popular on the well-known content aggregator Reddit (the equivalent of Poland's Wykop), where it appeared in the improbable-but-true stories section, alongside reports of a woman in Belgium taking a cardboard car to a McDonald's drive-thru restaurant and the Ethiopian army mistakenly shooting down a humanitarian aid plane.

[*The Spanish El Pais blames PiS unequivocally for the electoral chaos in Poland.*](https://elpais.com/opinion/2020-05-10/polonia-en-suspenso.html)

"The Polish ultra-conservative government's insistence on holding presidential elections by mail has resulted in situations and statements previously unthinkable in a ***European*** Union country, from calls for a boycott of voting in this form by prominent figures in recent political history, including former presidents and prime ministers, to ***European*** Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen's statement on 'free and fair' elections in Poland [*and Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders' announcement that the Union would 'closely monitor' the process,*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25928622,bruksela-o-wyborach-w-polsce-uczciwa-kampania-potrzebna-tez.html)" - El Pais" reads.

The daily advises Jarosław Kaczyński to reflect on his responsibility for such admonitions, which are "usually directed at a different kind of government", and reminds him that Polish democracy was won with great difficulty.

"According to analysts, ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski wants the election to be held as soon as possible to ensure victory for ruling party-backed Andrzej Duda. They argue that once the economic consequences of the shutdown due to the coronavirus are felt, it may be harder for Duda to win a second term in office." - [*argues German news agency DPA.*](https://www.dpa-international.com/topic/electoral-commission-poland-14-days-set-new-election-date-urn%3Anewsml%3Adpa.com%3A20090101%3A200511-99-08118)

[*Reuters explains the situation in Poland in a similar way.*](https://www.metro.us/poland-to-announce-new/) It recalls that the issue of elections has provoked heated debate in recent weeks, caused divisions within the ruling camp and accusations from the opposition of endangering the health of citizens.

[*The Washington Post website states that 'this year's election irregularities are far greater than any in the past'.*](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/05/10/we-asked-what-poles-think-about-voting-pandemic-election-scheduled-may-10/) The authors of the text posted on "The Monkey Cage" subpage are Radosław Markowski, a sociologist from the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Hubert Tworzecki, a political scientist from Emory University in Atlanta ("The Monkey Cage" publishes only texts by researchers, mainly political scientists).

Experts remind that the move away from democracy began in Poland with the PiS takeover of the Constitutional Tribunal, followed by the Supreme Court, other courts and the prosecution. They write that despite pressure on the media and civil society, elections have so far remained relatively free.

Now, however, "the PiS government has tried to change the voting method to a postal ballot, with ballots designed and printed without legal basis, while the postal voting procedure - which would be supervised by the Polish Post Office and not the State Electoral Commission - would not meet the standards of secrecy and equality of votes in a democracy, not to mention issues related to the transparency of the vote count and protection against fraud."

Markowski and Tworzecki point out that Poles were sceptical about this vote and that, according to polls, the majority remains committed to democracy. The authors wonder whether this will shake support for PiS.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (71%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Weapons + Arms (70%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Espionage (64%); Securities + Other Investments (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (74%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Greece extends closure of refugee camps, though epidemic in country subsides***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R209-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 726 words

**Byline:** Maciej Orłowski

**Highlight:** Greek authorities have extended the closure of incredibly overcrowded refugee camps, explaining it as a coronavirus outbreak. More than 40,000 people have been in lockdown in the camps since March - with no toilets, clean water or food. Meanwhile, Greeks have been enjoying the loosening of a nationwide quarantine for a week.

**Body**

In the infamous Moria camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, 26 000 migrants are crammed into a facility built for just 2 800 people. Rubbish is strewn everywhere, the sewage system does not work and residents queue for hours for a cold shower. Families crowd into tents, body to body. Scabies and lice are widespread, and food portions are too small to provide people with adequate calories.

Moria is not an isolated case. There are four other similar camps across Greece. Altogether, more than 42 000 people are crowded into all of them. The influx of refugees from the Turkish coast has meant that the authorities have been unable to keep up with asylum applications, and migrants for whom Greece was only a gateway to ***Europe*** have been stranded in the country.

Crowded and underfunded camps are the perfect breeding ground for the coronavirus. [*Already two months ago, the humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) called on the Greek government to evacuate all camps immediately*](https://www.msf.org/urgent-evacuation-squalid-camps-greece-needed-over-covid-19-fears). In a communiqué on its website, MSF stated that locking migrants in camps "has always been irresponsible" and that in the event of an outbreak this decision "is almost a crime".

- In some parts of the camp there is only one tap for 1,300 people and no soap at all," alarmed Hilde Vochten, MSF's coordinator in Greece.

- Five families each crowd into three square metres. This means that it is simply not possible to implement recommended measures such as frequent hand washing and keeping a distance between people, he added.

However, the nationalist Greek government decided to do the exact opposite and closed all camps in March. It claims that so far no cases of coronavirus have been reported in camps on the Aegean islands. However, cases of infection have occurred on the mainland. The sick have not been separated from the rest of the population.

According to a government decree, the camps were supposed to open today. They did not. On Sunday, the day before the scheduled opening, the government issued an announcement extending the closure until 21 May - without giving reasons for the decision. Human rights activists say the government has used the pandemic to create ghettos for refugees.

Meanwhile, a week ago, Greece relaxed, for the first time, the restrictions imposed on its citizens, explaining this by the decreasing number of new cases of the disease. Following the lifting of some restrictions, Greeks can leave their homes without permission and some shops have opened. Final year pupils have also returned to school. So far, 2 700 cases of coronavirus and 151 deaths have been reported in Greece.

In view of the dramatic situation in the Greek camps, other countries have offered their assistance to the refugees. On Monday, a group of 50 asylum seekers - including 16 children - flew from Athens to the UK as part of a family reunification programme. The reunification was originally due to take place in March, but a coronavirus pandemic has thwarted the plans.

Portugal has also pledged to take in around 60 unaccompanied children from Greek refugee camps over the coming weeks. This is just a drop in the ocean - there are currently at least 5 200 such children in Greek camps. Last month, 12 of them were taken in voluntarily by Luxembourg and about 50 by Germany. The Greek government would like ***European*** countries to take in a total of around 1 600 refugees in the coming months.

Although the scale of migration to Greek shores is much smaller than in 2015 and 2016, new refugees are still arriving. On Sunday at dawn, a boat with 19 passengers from Iran and Afghanistan arrived at the coast of Lesbos. Earlier on Wednesday, 51 refugees and migrants arrived on the island. Greek authorities said that upon arrival, the migrants undergo medical tests and are then subjected to a 14-day quarantine.

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Polish Humanitarian Action is helping to tackle the pandemic crisis and is appealing for support for refugees in one of the camps in southern Greece.

- We want to establish cooperation with a locally active organisation to monitor the most urgent needs on an ongoing basis and conduct interventions to improve the situation of refugees and prevent the spread of the disease," explains Celina Kretkowska-Adamowicz from PAH.

If you want to support refugees in Greece, [*donate via the PAH website*](https://www.pah.org.pl/wplac/?form=sosuchodzcy) or directly by bank transfer to: Alior Bank S.A. 02 2490 0005 0000 4600 8316 8772 with the note "SOS Uchodźcy".

**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 (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (73%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Maltese ambassador compared Angela Merkel to Hitler. On the anniversary of the end of the Second World War***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R1XX-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 182 words

**Byline:** past

**Highlight:** Malta's ambassador to Finland has resigned after his Facebook post sparked a diplomatic scandal. On the anniversary of the end of World War II, he compared German Chancellor Angela Merkel to Adolf Hitler. The ambassador had to apologise to the Maltese foreign minister for his undiplomatic statement.

**Body**

On Friday, ***Europe*** and the world celebrated the anniversary of the Second World War. The celebrations took place in exceptional circumstances, as large gatherings, celebrations or parades were not possible due to the epidemic. Malta's ambassador to Finland, Michael Zammit Tabona, made a post on Facebook that day that was, to put it mildly, not very diplomatic.

"75 years ago we stopped Hitler. Who will stop Angela Merkel? She fulfilled his dream of controlling ***Europe***!" - the ambassador wrote.

The entry cost Tabona the position he had held for more than six years. According to [*Reuters*](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-malta-germany-envoy/malta-envoy-to-helsinki-resigns-after-comparing-merkel-to-hitler-idUSKBN22M0RG), the Maltese Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that the ambassador had resigned and it was accepted "with immediate effect". Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo stressed that the ambassador's comments did not respect the "friendship and mutual respect between Malta and Germany".

The ambassador's Facebook post has been deleted. According to "[*Deutsche Welle*](https://www.dw.com/en/maltese-envoy-quits-after-calling-merkel-a-nazi/a-53387702)", the ambassador's words were criticised by, among others, the Maltese opposition, as well as the local Chamber of Commerce. It assessed that he had harmed the country's good reputation and applauded his resignation.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (90%); Human Rights Violations (83%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Management Theory + Practice (69%); Awards + Prizes (65%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (65%); Chemistry (65%); Espionage (65%); Medical Science (65%); Medicine + Health (65%); Military Weapons (65%); Physics (65%); Writers (65%); Investigations (64%); Muslims + Islam (63%); Torture (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (93%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (67%); Destinations + Attractions (62%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Lithuania: health ministry orders 4 million iodine tablets for fear of Belarusian power plant***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YWD-TG41-JCVT-R1Y2-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 11, 2020 Monday

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**Length:** 280 words

**Byline:** NPK

**Highlight:** The Lithuanian Health Ministry has announced that around 4 million iodine tablets were purchased in December and have already arrived in the country. These tablets are to be distributed to the population in the coming months, even before the launch of the nuclear power plant in Belarus.

**Body**

As [*15min.It*](https://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/lietuva/lietuva-pasieke-ministerijos-uzsakyti-4-mln-jodo-tableciu-56-1314234) reports, [*Lithuania's*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=Litwa) health said that the country must be prepared for the possible dangers that the launch of a nuclear power plant in Belarus could bring. - I am glad that the ordered potassium iodide tablets have been safely delivered and we will be able to distribute them to people, Aurelijus Veryga said in a statement.

Deputy Health Minister Algirdas Seselgis added that the distribution of potassium iodide tablets to the population is to be one of the preventive measures planned before the power plant in Ostrovets, [*Belarus,*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=bia%B3oru%B6) starts operating. - The tablets will be distributed primarily to Lithuanians who live within 30 kilometres of the power plant. At the same time, we will provide precise instructions on when and how to use this preparation in emergencies, the politician added.

The 4 million tablets cost the ministry around 1.3 million ***euros***. Potassium iodide tablets block the build-up of radioactive iodine in the thyroid gland. However, they do not protect against other radioactive substances that may be released in the event of an accident at a [*nuclear power plant.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=elektrownia+atomowa) The tablets are to be used only in accordance with the instructions provided by the authorities. Residents are to be informed not to use the tablets prophylactically.

The first unit of the [*nuclear power plant*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=elektrownia+atomowa) in Belarus is expected to start operating later this year. For the time [*first load of nuclear fuel has already been delivered to Ostrowiec*](http://belaes.by/ru/novosti/item/2788-na-belorusskuyu-aes-dostavleno-yadernoe-toplivo.html). According to the Lithuanian Energy Ministry, this means that the plant could be operational in about 2.5 months. The Lithuanian authorities fear that the fuel loading will take place before Belarus implements all the recommendations of international experts.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Weapons + Arms (71%); Medicine + Health (67%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Espionage (61%); Medical Science (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Morawiecki in an interview with FAZ: For five years we have been told that we cannot vote on laws***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F1YR-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 684 words

**Byline:** Michał Kokot

**Highlight:** Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki in an interview with German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung calls for a new Marshall Plan in ***Europe*** and defends himself against accusations that the Supreme Court has been hijacked by those ruling Poland.

**Body**

- The organisation of courts is a sovereign decision of each ***European*** Union member state. Poland, in line with the spirit of its constitution, is reorganising the judiciary within the framework of ***European*** agreements to make it fair, transparent and efficient, Prime Minister Morawiecki says in an interview with a German daily, responding to a question about recent changes around the Supreme Court that could lead to Poland being fined by the Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Morawiecki added that he had "not noticed that recent appointments for court president in the Czech Republic or Germany have been so exhaustively commented on and criticised by the ***European*** Commission". He added that he was referring, among others, to Stephan Harbarth, a former politician who became president of the German constitutional court, and Petr Angyalossy, nominated as president of the highest court in the Czech Republic [however, unlike [*President Andrzej Duda's now-appointed Malgorzata Manowska, the*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,25972044,prezydent-powolal-manowska-na-pierwszego-prezesa-sn.html) first president of the SN, Angyalossy was not a high-ranking justice ministry official].

- Poland is open to dialogue, but it must be conducted in a spirit of respect for the law and [the country's] historical circumstances," Morawiecki says in an interview with "FAZ".

He also notes that after the fall of communism, only 30% of judges and prosecutors from the former GDR were vetted and could continue working in the reunified Germany. - In Poland, we never had the chance to clean up our system in such a way," he explains.

Morawiecki stressed that the changes to the judiciary "are happening in accordance with the law and the constitution".

- This discussion reminds me of the arrogant sentence of one of the MPs of the former ruling party who said to the Law and Justice Party in 2014: 'If you win the elections, you can vote on anything you want'. Now we have been told for five years that, despite our democratic and confirmed mandate in 2019, we cannot vote on any laws.

In the interview, the Prime Minister called for a "new ***European*** Marshall Plan where we could turn the disaster of the pandemic into a success and make the ***EU*** stronger". He speaks of countries that need investment in bridges, streets, railways and energy policy because of "the catastrophe of communist times".

Interviewing Morawiecki, Gerhard Gnauck, the Warsaw correspondent of "FAZ", noted, however, that both Poland and the other Visegrad countries will come through the crisis with relatively dry feet compared to the rest of ***Europe***.

- We should beware of divisions, for example between the sick and the healthy," Morawiecki replied, calling such a division "stigmatising". - There is no better or worse ***Europe***, there is a ***Europe*** that urgently needs solidarity and cooperation.

Morawiecki also assures that Poland will have "in a democratic sense direct, equal, universal and secret" elections.

- That is how it has always been and that is how it will always be. It is unacceptable to assume that it could be otherwise. Of course, the epidemic is a challenge, but it has also affected other countries. In Germany and France, there was no presidential election recently [in Germany there is no general election, the president is elected by the Federal Assembly]. Hence the debate is more heated in our country," said the Prime Minister.

Morawiecki evasively answered a question about whether he would work in unison with the president, who could become the opposition candidate.

- Andrzej Duda enjoys very strong support among citizens, he is the favourite in this election. Cooperation with him is very good, which was very important in the face of the pandemic," he said.

Gnauck also asked the head of the Polish government whether the problem was not the faction of radicals in the Law and Justice party (PiS), which Jaroslaw Kaczynski recently mentioned, and who "drag the party into additional cultural conflicts, e.g. related to LGBT and historical politics".

Morawiecki countered: - President Kaczyński said that we have built a very broad political camp and this is the source of our success. Our programme is a modernisation programme. But it does not mean that we will abandon our values. Our priority is wise modernisation, which will not aim at throwing tradition overboard.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Human Rights Violations (70%); Terrorist Organizations (67%); Weapons + Arms (64%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (74%)

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Commission European Commission agreed that large Polish companies should get loans***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F1XM-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 350 words

**Byline:** Leszek Kostrzewski

**Highlight:** On Monday evening, the ***European*** Commission agreed that ***€2***.2 billion (around PLN 10 billion) will go to the largest Polish companies in the form of loans. There is no agreement on the takeover of companies by the state.

**Body**

- The ***€2***.2 billion loan programme subsidised by Poland will enable it to continue supporting companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak. This will help companies meet their immediate liquidity needs and continue to operate, start investments and maintain employment during and after the outbreak, said Margrethe Vestager, EC executive vice-president in charge of competition policy.

Brussels examined the Polish application in terms of its compatibility with ***EU*** state aid law for companies that operate in the common market.

In its communication, the EC admitted that the Polish scheme complies with ***European*** law "because the subsidised loans to companies are limited to essential needs in the foreseeable future", in addition to being limited in size and maturity (four years) and being granted only until the end of the year.

- According to information from the ***European*** Commission, the Polish government has obtained approval for part of the "financial shield" aimed at enterprises employing more than 250 people, with a turnover exceeding 50 million ***euros*** (or a balance sheet total of 43 million ***euros***). The EC's approval allows them to grant low-interest loans that will enable them to maintain liquidity. As a rule, these loans will not be redeemed and must be repaid within four years - says Dr. Antoni Kolek, an expert from Pracodawcy RP.

For large companies, the Polish Development Fund, which manages the "financial shield", has foreseen a total of three types of aid amounting to PLN 25 billion.

The EC's approval concerns only one of them - the PLN 10bn loan.

Brussels has not yet agreed to the second type of aid with a pool of PLN 7.5 billion, i.e. preferential loans on similar terms as for small and medium-sized companies - for a period of three years and partially non-refundable depending on the losses incurred by the company.

There is also no EC approval for the third type of support (also a pool of PLN 7.5 billion) requested by the Polish state.

It concerns investment support by the PFR whereby the state fund takes up part of the shares on market terms or by way of state aid.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (67%)

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

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Call for proposals is launched. To be won from the European Union European Union PLN 3 billion for companies***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F229-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 261 words

**Byline:** KaK

**Highlight:** The Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy has announced that the call for applications for funding from the ***European*** Union is about to start. ***The EU*** has allocated 3 billion PLN for Polish entrepreneurs. Applications may be submitted as early as in June.

**Body**

The [*support prepared by the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy*](https://www.gov.pl/web/fundusze-regiony/3-miliardy-zlotych-z-funduszy-unijnych-na-wsparcie-biezacej-dzialalnosci-firm-w-czerwcu-ruszaja-nabory) is aimed at financing working capital, i.e. expenses related to the current activity of companies. The so-called Fund Package is aimed at small and medium-sized [*enterprises*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=firmy). A total of 3 billion PLN of support has been prepared within its framework.

The Fund Anti-Crisis Package, which complements the government's anti-crisis shield, is our response to the needs of Polish entrepreneurs in a difficult economic situation. Another solution proposed in the package is support for companies' current expenses. The funds come from ***European*** funds: programmes for Eastern Poland, Intelligent Development and regional operational programmes for individual voivodships

- explains Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, Minister of Funds and Regional Policy. She adds that this is a complete novelty and such a solution has not been seen before in the case of [*EU*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=ue) funds. The ministry is to provide the regions with know-how, i.e. a set of rules on how to allocate and settle the subsidy, but the decisions on who will receive the funds will belong to the voivodeships.

As the ministry writes, the subsidies will be available for, among others, paying for utilities (gas, electricity, fuel), renting space, purchasing goods or insuring business activity. The aid is to be granted until the end of 2020, and the call for applications is to be launched in June. [*Grants*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=dotacje) are to be settled on the basis of simplified methods of accounting for expenses, and also persons running one-man businesses will be able to take advantage of them.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Film (68%); Espionage (67%); Military Weapons (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (92%); Mining + Extraction (84%); Retail + Wholesale Trade (74%); Harbors + Ports (68%); Movie Industry (62%)

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***More new cases per million inhabitants in Poland than in other countries Europe CHART OF THE DAY]***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F212-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 693 words

**Byline:** Mikołaj Fidziński

**Highlight:** The number of coronavirus infections is clearly decreasing in many ***European*** countries. Italy and Germany, for example, already have fewer new cases per million inhabitants than Poland.

**Body**

A lot of emotion was aroused by Monday's tweet by Jakub Borowski, chief economist at Credit Agricole bank. Borowski showed COVID-19 new cases curves for nine ***European*** countries, including Poland, Italy, Germany, France and the Czech Republic. The graphs for different countries have different scales, but each shows the dynamics of the epidemic's development. It is clear that most countries, after a significant peak, are now reporting much lower numbers of new cases.

In Poland it is different - our curve of new cases has been stable for about a month and a half. It is flat, but without a clear downward trend. Sometimes it gets better, sometimes worse, but last week was not the best. For seven days - from 19 to 25 May - inclusive, we recorded 2787 new infections in Poland, the highest number during an epidemic if we compare the same periods previously.

What is more, all this despite a decrease in the number of infections in the Silesian voivodship - there were 1596 such infections last week, compared to 1804 a week earlier (from 12 to 18 May). Outside of Silesia 1191 cases were reported in the analysed week, exactly 50% more than a week earlier (although less than in previous weeks). This increase in the last week cannot be explained by the increased number of tests either - about 130,000 tests were carried out last week compared to 131,000 the week before. It is simply that tests were more frequently positive.

In any case, such strongly "uncertain" data and the lack of a clear bump in the number of new cases in Poland, cause concern among some commentators. All the more so if we started comparing ourselves to other countries, with which the coronavirus has so far treated far less mercifully than with Poland. At the moment we have about 10.8 thousand active cases of COVID-19. This is slightly more than Germany (10.3 thousand - with about twice the population of our neighbours), but still much less than, for example, Italy (over 55 thousand - with about 1.5 times the population of Poland). In recent days the number of detected new cases in Italy per million inhabitants "went down" to the level of about 10, comparable to Poland.

We have chosen only Italy and Poland for the above chart for clarity. But of course [*you can compare more countries at once*](https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/new-covid-cases-per-million?tab=chart&year=2020-05-08&time=2020-03-03..&country=ITA+POL+CZE+DEU+AUT+FRA) - below, for example, besides Poland and Italy, also Austria, Germany, Czech Republic and France. You can see very well that Poland "won" the first wave of the epidemic, when we had much fewer infections. For a few weeks now, however, these rates have leveled off, and often daily data show that there are slightly more infections per population in Poland.

Should the dynamics of this epidemic in Poland be a cause for concern? Of course, we should be on guard and follow the recommendations of epidemiologists. However, as virologist Tomasz Dzieciątkowski, MD, PhD, says in an interview with Gazeta.pl, it should be clearly stressed that the epidemic in Poland has never been even close to the situation in many Western ***European*** countries. We are in the flattening phase, let's hope we'll get down from it in the coming weeks, but it largely depends on the Poles' reasonableness.

To be clear - this is absolutely not a phase at which we should panic. Differences in morbidity in Poland and in other ***European*** countries in recent days are less favourable for us, but they are not gigantic. Dr Dzieciątkowski even thinks that we should not compare ourselves to countries with different epidemic situation.

In recent weeks, most of ***Europe has been on*** a fairly even keel, and the situation in Poland is not clearly different. Which does not mean, of course, that it should not be better. Poland seems to be doing less well than many other countries in quickly catching (and nipping in the bud) outbreaks of coronavirus.

Still, the epidemic situation in Poland is, according to official data, far from bad. I do not undertake to assess whether it is sufficient, for example, to lift the restrictions at the rate prescribed by the government. There is a mixture of good news and worse. The good news certainly includes the fact that on Monday the number of recovered people in Poland clearly increased, as the journalist Rafał Hirsch points out. It is worse that, for example, the number of illnesses in Warsaw is increasing.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (95%); Human Rights Violations (78%); Terrorist Organizations (76%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (73%); Chemistry (73%); Medicine + Health (73%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%); Law Courts + Tribunals (62%)

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

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EC postpones decision on Orlen's takeover of Lotos. What concessions will Orlen make?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F20Y-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 280 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight: *The European*** Commission has extended the deadline for its decision on Orlen's acquisition of Lotos to 22 July. This came after Orlen reported a plan of concessions to prevent monopolisation of the fuel market after the deal.

**Body**

***The European*** Commission [*said on its website on*](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/index.cfm?fuseaction=dsp_merger_ongoing) Tuesday that it had postponed from June 30 to July 22 the deadline for a decision on whether PKN Orlen should be allowed to acquire Lotos.

The EC did not explain the reasons for this change. But at the same time, the Commission said that last Friday Orlen had submitted further proposals for commitments to allay Brussels' fears of monopolisation of the fuel market in Poland following Orlen's takeover of its Gdansk-based competitor.

It is likely that the EC decided that it needed time to analyse Orlen's offer, and therefore postponed the deadline for issuing a decision on the transaction planned by the company led by Daniel Obajtek. He himself put it this way on Twitter on Tuesday.

Orlen presented its first commitments, which were meant to allay the fears of EC deputy commissioner for competition Margrethe Vestager, to Brussels in early May. Orlen's vice-president Patrycja Klarecka did not want to disclose what exactly the company proposed at that time.

However, this offer probably did not satisfy Brussels, since Orlen made another proposal.

In April, the ***European*** Commission officially announced that Orlen's planned takeover of Lotos would create problems in the fuel wholesale and retail market and in the market for fuel storage and certain petrochemical products.

By pushing through the acquisition of Lotos, Orlen's CEO Daniel Obajtek may agree to cede to rivals some of Orlen's and Lotos' fuel wholesalers and petrol stations, and possibly some of the production potential of the two companies' refineries.

In such a situation, however, the company created in the event of Lotos being taken over by Orlen would have a smaller market share than the two concerns have now, acting independently.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (80%); Terrorist Organizations (78%); Film (70%); Espionage (65%); Arms Control + Disarmament (64%); Law Courts + Tribunals (64%); Weapons + Arms (64%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (62%); Chemistry (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (75%); Harbors + Ports (70%); Mining + Extraction (70%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (63%)

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Pandemic hits EU interpreters. MEPs have to speak English***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F1YT-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 696 words

**Byline:** Maciej Orłowski

**Highlight: The** coronavirus pandemic has drastically reduced interpreting in Brussels. Many contracts with freelance interpreters have been cancelled and ***MEPs*** and other EU officials are finding it difficult to communicate.

**Body**

A few weeks ago Portuguese ***MEP*** Sandra Pereira addressed a meeting of the ***European*** Parliament's Industry Committee. She began her speech in English by saying that she was sorry that there were no Portuguese interpreters in the room and that she could not therefore speak in her mother tongue.

A similar situation occurred at a meeting of the foreign affairs committee. The chairman, David McAllister, appealed to his colleagues to 'speak in their mother tongue only if a translation is available'. One ***MEP*** later had to ask him to "speak in English as there are no more interpreters available".

[*According to Politico* ***Europe***](https://www.politico.eu/article/coronavirus-covid19-confinement-restrictions-create-havoc-in-the-secret-world-of-eu-interprets/), the EU institutions are one of the largest employers of translators in ***Europe***. In total, around 4,000 translators work in Brussels. Most of them are employed in the three main institutions: ***European*** Parliament, ***European*** Commission and ***European*** Council.

But now, because of the drastic reduction in physical encounters, the closing of borders and the need to adhere to strict rules of social distance, many are out of work.

***The European*** Parliament says it has managed to provide interpretation in all 24 languages of the Union for its plenary sessions - despite initial problems with interpretation from Scottish Gaelic and Maltese, as freelance interpreters from these languages could not travel to Brussels.

However, it is much worse at committee meetings. Because of the need to respect the social distance, only one interpreter can now work in a booth, and not two or three as before. The number of languages available has thus been reduced to eight per room.

As Andrzej Halicki, ***an MEP from the*** Civic Coalition (Koalicja Obywatelska), says in an interview with "Wyborcza", Polish is not available during most of the committees.

- [*Unless, as yesterday at the LIBE committee, a report on Poland is presented,*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25973570,europoslowie-z-komisji-libe-dyskutowali-o-praworzadnosci-w-polsce.html)" he explains. Halicki himself has been in Poland since the beginning of the pandemic, taking part in the work of the ***EP*** remotely.

Some interpreters have lost their jobs simply because many meetings in Brussels have been cancelled. The ***European*** Commission, which used to hold 40-50 physical meetings a day, now holds about five.

The same is true of the ***European*** Council, where many meetings have been 'uploaded' to the internet without interpretation being provided. EU interpreters were not even present during the recent videoconference between key EU leaders French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Of the 4 000 translators in Brussels, only 800 are employed and have stable jobs. The remaining 3 200 are freelance translators, of whom only 1 200 have permanent contracts. According to EU rules, long-term contracts can be cancelled with 60 days' notice, so they did their work in March and April. But the contracts from May have already been cancelled.

The remaining 2 000 translators are freelancers hired for various events. These are in the worst situation.

German politician Terry Reintke of the Green party appealed to the President of the ***European*** Parliament David Sassoles for help for interpreters. "Interpreters guarantee the Union's multilingualism and are essential for the continuity of the institution's work," - she wrote in the letter, which was also signed by several other ***MEPs***.

Another German ***MEP*** Alexandra Geese herself previously worked as a translator in Brussels. As she says in an interview with Politico, many of her former colleagues "are not covered by any kind of social security in any country".

- The Union should be ashamed of itself. We keep talking about the need for solidarity, but we deny it to others,' he says.

Last month, freelance translators took part in an online meeting with representatives of the EU institutions to discuss the problems of their sector. A similar meeting is planned for the end of May. "We solve problems through social dialogue," reads a statement issued after the meeting on 24 April. - We have no doubt that we will deal with this problem too, as we have always done in the history of the ***European*** Union.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (84%); Human Rights Violations (73%); Terrorist Organizations (71%)

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

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EC: 1.5 million unusable masks will be destroyed. Every third one was delivered to Poland***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F230-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 398 words

**Byline:** Łukasz Osiński (PAP)/KaK

**Highlight: *The European*** Commission has decided to destroy 1.5 million medical masks that were previously withdrawn from 17 ***EU*** countries and the UK after some countries raised concerns about their quality. The masks were donated to the countries under the EU's assistance mechanism.

**Body**

17 ***EU*** countries and the UK received 1.5 million medical masks to protect health workers from the coronavirus under the EU support mechanism. The largest number - 616 000 - was allocated to Poland. First, Poland, followed by Belgium and the Netherlands, raised doubts about their quality after they had been delivered. In Poland, too, there have been problems with masks that were bought by state-owned companies. [*The companies may not be reimbursed for the uncertified masks.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25974470,panstwowe-spolki-moga-nie-dostac-pieniedzy-za-maseczki-czesc.html)

The EC therefore decided last week to withdraw them from all countries pending clarification.

The masks will be destroyed as they are not suitable for use by healthcare professionals. This decision was taken after consultation with the distributor and the manufacturer

- [*EC*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=KE) spokesman Stefan de Keersmaecker told PAP on Tuesday.

Although the Commission has suspended further supplies for the time being, he added, it is currently "working with its contracted supplier to resolve the situation in the most appropriate way".

He also informed that the products will undergo quality control tests before future distributions of the [*masks to*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=maseczki) ***EU*** countries. "This week the Commission will receive new samples of the masks, which will be sent for quality testing," - he reported.

According to information provided by the EC, the fourth country to raise concerns about the quality of masks is Austria.

The spokesperson stressed that the Commission attaches the utmost importance to the quality and safety of personal protective equipment used by healthcare workers and citizens in [***EU***](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=ue) member states and the UK. "We are doing everything necessary to get to the bottom of this problem. Protecting our citizens is always our priority" - he pointed out.

The Commission also said it regretted that despite taking measures to avoid this situation and minimise quality risks, the required product standards were not met. "Quality control certificates from the manufacturer were checked before delivery and a verification of the supplier's reliability was carried out. Member States were also able to check quality upon receipt of the products," - the spokesperson reported.

The EU supply of 1.5 million masks is part of the purchase of around 10 million masks under the EU's Emergency Support Facility.

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Coronavirus: all updated information and recommendations on [*gov.pl*](https://www.gov.pl/)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (75%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Terrorist Organizations (69%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (62%); Chemistry (62%); Medical Science (62%); Medicine + Health (62%); Military Weapons (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (61%)

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The law becomes a shield for citizens if it prevents the authoritarian exercise of power***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F1YW-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 496 words

**Byline:** Grzegorz Wrona, Doctor of Laws

**Highlight:** In order for the law not to be an instrument of power but a shield for citizens, a proportional distribution of power is necessary in which no one has a monopoly on its creation and application, writes a reader.

**Body**

The law has a tradition of several thousand years of serving the authorities as a tool for managing the state, and in fact more the people than the state.

The apogee of the use of law as an instrument of power was reached in the Third Reich. The experience of genocide in the majesty of the law gave birth to the concept of human rights.

The law was no longer to serve as an instrument of power, but as a muzzle for it, a shield for citizens. Like every idea put into practice, it turned out to be imperfect and not realised in a hundred percent. However, it has partly changed citizens' expectations about the role of law.

This has resulted in a peculiar paradox in which, on the one hand, the law is expected to protect against the state and, on the other hand, a strong state is expected in relation to citizens.

For the law not to be an instrument of power but a shield for citizens, there must be a proportional division of power in which no one has a monopoly on creating and applying the law. Otherwise, the law returns to its original function as an instrument of power.

It is necessary to distribute power in such a way that each power taken separately is weak and dependent on the others, and only their sum represents the strength of the state.

Law thus becomes a shield for citizens if it prevents (does not allow) the authoritarian exercise of power. In such a conception of law, power and the state, no one obtains a permanently dominant position. He may strive for it, he may compete for it, but he cannot achieve it.

Law, therefore, in the hands of the authorities is an instrument of restraint, and in the hands of the citizens a protective instrument against the authorities. The choice, if you have one, of what role law plays - whether a traditional instrument of power or an idealistic shield for citizens - is a fundamental choice for the system of a given state.

The experience of the post-World War II ***European countries*** provides an example of the choice of the shield path by some western ***European*** countries and the imposed law path as an instrument of power in most central and eastern ***European*** countries.

The attempt to change this division in the early 1990s had a partial effect, which is now being severely tested. The strong tendency of recent years to return to the old concept of law as a tool of power is not meeting with a noticeable response of preserving law as a shield. The lack of political representation at national and ***European*** level results in a slower or faster degradation of the idea of human rights.

However, the lack of a strong alternative to authoritarianism seems to be at odds with the legal culture of at least two generations of ***Europeans***. Their illusory conviction about the constancy of the role of law allows us to hope for a revision of the seeds of authoritarianism. For this to happen, however, it is necessary to call a spade a spade and create a collective expectation about the function of law.

Otherwise, contemporary threats to ecology and population health will pave the way for a return to the traditional function of law as a mere instrument of power, marked by the suffering of millions.

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

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (75%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (69%); Chemistry (69%); Weapons + Arms (69%); Medicine + Health (68%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (90%)

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Dutch Prime Minister did not visit a mother dying in a nursing home. He complied with an order of his own government***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F213-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 482 words

**Byline:** Maciej Orłowski

**Highlight:** Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte has complied with an order from his own government and did not visit his dying mother who died in a nursing home. Due to the epidemic, the Netherlands will only allow visits to such facilities on 15 June.

**Body**

The 96-year-old Mieke Rutte-Dilling died in a nursing home in The Hague on 13 May. The prime minister did not stop work either on the day of her death or afterwards - he still had an important meeting of the crisis team set up to fight the epidemic on 13 May. According to Dutch media, the cause of the woman's death was not COVID-19, although coronavirus infections had previously occurred in her care home.

The funeral of the Prime Minister's mother, attended by her immediate family, took place on Friday and the Prime Minister informed the public of the event on Monday. "In addition to great sadness and all the fond memories, my family and I also feel grateful that we were able to have her with us for so long," - Mark Rutte conveyed in a statement. "We said goodbye to her in the family circle and hope to deal with this great loss in the near future."

- The Prime Minister had complied with all orders of his government," the Chief Minister's spokesman told reporters while replying to a question whether the Prime Minister had visited his mother before her death.

The Netherlands closed all nursing homes to visitors on 20 March. Access to some of them has only been possible since last Monday, and all will open on 15 June.

The Netherlands has introduced more lenient pandemic restrictions than most ***European*** countries. So far, 5 800 deaths from the coronavirus and over 45 000 infections have been reported there. A week ago, restrictions began to be loosened. For a start, the government agreed to open libraries, hair and beauty services, massage parlours and occupational therapy.

The [*news of Rutte's behaviour comes as Britons are inflamed by a dispute over the conduct of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's chief adviser Dominic Cummings*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25968972,architekt-brexitu-dominic-cummings-zlamal-kwarantanne-brytyjskie.html). "The architect of brexit", as he is sometimes called, left London for his parents who live in Durham in northern England despite his quarantine. So far in the UK, anyone caught breaching the rules against coronavirus has immediately resigned.

[*In Poland, on the other hand, the case of Jaroslaw Kaczynski visiting Warsaw's Powazki cemetery at a time when the cemeteries were closed to all other citizens is still fresh*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,25867869,kaczynski-odwiedzil-w-sobote-nie-jeden-cmentarz-ale-kilka.html). On April 10, the president of Law and Justice entered the cemetery with an entourage and entourage to lay flowers on the grave of his mother and the symbolic grave of Lech and Maria Kaczyński.

Kazik Staszewski recorded the song Your pain is bigger than mine as a protest against the Law and Justice party president's standing above the law. On the [*15th of May, Kazik's song unexpectedly won the Radio Three charts*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75410,25968137,listy-przebojow-trojki-nie-bylo-bez-marka-niedzwiedzkiego-kultowa.html), which enraged the Law and Justice activist s. [*Text messages were sent to make the song disappear from the airwaves. When this did not work, the listing was annulled, a forgery was announced and the truth was investigated*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,25911376,kaczynski-i-duda-modla-sie-pewnie-by-ich-bol-nie-byl-juz-wiekszy.html).

And at the same time the singer himself was taken to task. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, in a lengthy Facebook post, suggested that Kazik was harming the national community by criticising Kaczynski's entry into the cemetery.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (81%)

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Draconian penalties for criticising Orbán. Hungarian police issue fines to participants in anti-government protests***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F21W-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 699 words

**Byline:** Michał Kokot

**Highlight:** The highest fine for taking part in a demonstration in front of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's residence has so far been the equivalent of around 10,000 zlotys. The high fines have deterred Hungarians from further protests.

**Body**

Small protests, gathering dozens of participants at a time, began five weeks ago in front of Buda Castle (the former Carmelite monastery), where the seat of the Hungarian government is now located. They were initiated by two opposition MPs in protest against government orders to release hospital beds for potential coronavirus patients.

This issue is still very controversial in Hungary today. The government ordered the emptying of up to 60 percent of the beds in state institutions, forcing many patients with planned operations to be sent away. At the time, however, there was no indication that the need was so great. The media reported deaths of people who had been released from hospitals because of their deteriorating health. The emptying of beds across the country was also reported on Facebook by an activist from the opposition Momentum party, who was detained and questioned by the police for this reason a few weeks ago.

Opposition MPs encouraged Hungarians to come to the Prime Minister's residence in their cars and honk their horns to express their opposition to the government's decision to unnecessarily send patients with scheduled operations home.

The police intervened only in the second week of the demonstration. At that time, some drivers were fined for unjustified use of their horns and opposition MP Bernadett Szel, an organiser of the demonstration, was also fined for the offence.

In the third week, the police tactics changed. Officers no longer punished for traffic offences, but for failing to comply with the conditions of home isolation to which all Hungarians are obliged during the state of emergency still in force in Hungary (this offence carries much higher penalties in Hungary). Leaving the house is only allowed in Hungary under strict conditions, and the police decided that the reason given by some of the demonstrators - 'to express my political views' - did not count as one of them. - was not one of them.

However, the real repression started only in the fourth week of the demonstration, when 49 protesters received fines. The fines ranged from 150 thousand forints (about 2 thousand zlotys) to 750 thousand forints (about 10 thousand zlotys). To make it easier to identify the protesters, the police also set up cameras on the square that day to record the protests.

As a result, as another of the co-organisers, opposition MP Ákos Hadházy, admitted, last Monday's protest had to be cancelled because no one wanted to take part in the demonstration any more due to the high fines the police had imposed the week before.

It is unclear whether the protest will resume after the state of emergency ends, when some of the restrictions on movement may no longer apply. Viktor Orbán, who rules through decrees thanks to the indefinite state of emergency, has announced an end to it. A bill to this effect was submitted to parliament on Tuesday and is expected to be voted on in the next session next week. Justice Minister Judit Varga said in a Facebook post on Tuesday that the lifting of the state of emergency could take place on June 20.

The Orbán government's imposition of an indefinite state of emergency has been criticised abroad, including by the ***European*** Commission. This form of government reduces the parliament to a marginal role.

The government has in recent weeks issued decrees indirectly hitting the opposition, such as the one on the possibility of depriving local governments of the legal title to land on which large investments are planned. In this way, the town of Göd near Budapest, ruled by a mayor from the opposition Momentum party, was deprived of a third of its tax revenue (the land on which the foreign investor's factory was to be built was transferred to the superior administrative unit where the prime minister's party, Fidesz, is in power).

That external pressure had an impact on the lifting of the state of emergency was indirectly admitted by Minister Varga recently. - Instead of providing support, the opposition assembled an unprecedented disinformation campaign in Hungary and abroad together with the foreign liberal mainstream media, Varga said, and called on those "who are responsible for it to apologise to the Hungarian people".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Medicine + Health (70%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Medical Science (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

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

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Poland and Lithuania agree to cooperate on the construction of a submarine cable***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F22B-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 588 words

**Byline:** Andrzej Kublik

**Highlight:** Polish company PSE and Lithuanian LitGrid have signed a cooperation agreement on the construction of the Harmony Link submarine cable. This is a key element of the system which is to make the Baltic States independent of the Russian energy system.

**Body**

LitGrid, the electricity transmission network manager in Lithuania, announced on Tuesday that it had signed an agreement with PSE on cooperation in the construction and operation of the Harmony Link submarine cable.

The cable laid at the bottom of the Baltic Sea is to form a key part of a new energy transmission system which will make it possible, through Poland, to integrate the Baltic States' energy systems with those of the rest of the ***European*** Union. This will complete the synchronisation of the Baltic States' energy systems with the Russian BRELL system created in Soviet times and will make the Baltic States, which joined the ***EU*** 16 years ago, fully independent of Russia.

"Its [Harmony Link] construction will be a turning point in the synchronisation project, and we will get closer to Lithuania's strategic goal of energy independence from Russia and connection to the electricity transmission networks of continental ***Europe,***" - Daivis Virbickas, CEO of LitGrid, said.

This investment will also support the EU economy in recovering from the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

In June last year, the heads of government of Estonia, Latvia and Poland, as well as the president of Lithuania and the then president of the ***European*** Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, signed a political roadmap of steps to achieve energy integration of the Baltic States with the rest of the ***EU*** by 2025.

According to this plan, the Harmony Link is also to be constructed by 2025. Preparations for the investment began last year, and in March this year PSE and LitGrid jointly launched a tender to carry out seabed surveys in the areas where the cable will be laid.

The agreement signed on Tuesday establishes the division of tasks between PSE and LitGrid. According to the agreement, PSE is, for example, to be responsible for the purchase and construction of the so-called converter stations that will be installed on the Lithuanian and Polish sides of the Harmony Link.

The onshore Harmony Link facilities in Poland will be owned by PSE, while in Lithuania they are to belong to LitGrid. The shares in the submarine cable, on the other hand, are divided equally between PSE and LitGrid, which also means equal sharing of investment costs.

The cost of the entire Harmony Link project is estimated at ***EUR*** 680 million by the manager of the Lithuanian energy transmission network. And this is only a part of the investments related to the project of integration and synchronisation of the Baltic States' energy systems with the rest of the ***EU***. No wonder they are seeking the support for these investments promised by the Union.

On Tuesday, PSE, LitGrid and transmission network managers AST of Latvia and Elering of Estonia [*jointly applied to*](https://www.pse.pl/biuro-prasowe/aktualnosci/-/asset_publisher/fwWgbbtxcZUt/content/wspolny-wniosek-operatorow-systemow-przesylowych-polski-i-panstw-baltyckich-o-dofinansowanie-budowy-infrastruktury-energetycznej-ze-srodkow-cef?safeargs=696e686572697452656469726563743d66616c73652672656469726563743d68747470732533412532462532467777772e7073652e706c253246626975726f2d707261736f7765253246616b7475616c6e6f736369253346705f705f69642533443130315f494e5354414e43455f6677576762627478635a5574253236705f705f6c6966656379636c6525334430253236705f705f73746174652533446e6f726d616c253236705f705f6d6f646525334476696577253236705f705f636f6c5f6964253344636f6c756d6e2d32253236705f705f636f6c5f636f756e7425334431) the European [*Commission*](https://www.pse.pl/biuro-prasowe/aktualnosci/-/asset_publisher/fwWgbbtxcZUt/content/wspolny-wniosek-operatorow-systemow-przesylowych-polski-i-panstw-baltyckich-o-dofinansowanie-budowy-infrastruktury-energetycznej-ze-srodkow-cef?safeargs=696e686572697452656469726563743d66616c73652672656469726563743d68747470732533412532462532467777772e7073652e706c253246626975726f2d707261736f7765253246616b7475616c6e6f736369253346705f705f69642533443130315f494e5354414e43455f6677576762627478635a5574253236705f705f6c6966656379636c6525334430253236705f705f73746174652533446e6f726d616c253236705f705f6d6f646525334476696577253236705f705f636f6c5f6964253344636f6c756d6e2d32253236705f705f636f6c5f636f756e7425334431) for ***€1***.2 billion in support from the CEF financial mechanism for investments related to the synchronisation project.

Under this proposal, support for Poland is to amount to ***EUR*** 521 million, for Lithuania ***EUR*** 462 million, for Estonia ***EUR*** 111 million and for Latvia ***EUR*** 100 million.

In preparation for synchronisation two years ago, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia received a total of ***€323*** million from the CEF to expand their electricity transmission networks. And last year PSE and LitGrid received ***€10*** million from the CEF to support the preparation of the Harmony Link project.

This undersea cable will be the second 'energy bridge' between Poland and Lithuania after the LitPol Link, which was commissioned in 2014.

The Harmony Link will be the fourth of the large infrastructure projects to integrate the Baltic States with the rest of the ***EU*** through Poland. These include the ViaBaltica road route, the RailBaltica rail link and the GIPL gas link.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Resources + Personnel Management (94%); Suits + Claims (86%); Recruitment + Hiring (84%); Employment Services (76%); Securities + Other Investments (76%)

**Industry:** Market Research (76%); Organic Chemicals (75%)

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Italy. Costly fiancé hug. 20-year-old to pay 400 euro fine because they do not live together***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F21H-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 290 words

**Byline:** NPK

**Highlight:** Coronavirus in Italy. A 20-year-old man was fined ***€400*** by the police because he embraced his fiancée in the street. According to the police, the couple had to keep the required distance between them because they do not live together on a daily basis.

**Body**

According to '[*La Provincia Pavese*](https://laprovinciapavese.gelocal.it/pavia/cronaca/2020/05/25/news/abbraccia-la-ragazza-per-strada-si-prende-una-multa-da-400-euro-1.38887274)', the situation occurred on Monday in the centre of Pavia in Lombardy in northern [*Italy*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=w%B3ochy). Officers spotted a young couple hugging in the street. Although they both had masks on their faces, the police officers decided to ask them some questions.

The 20-year-old admitted to police officers that he did not live with his fiancée and was fined for this reason. According to Italian law, people who do not live together must keep a distance of about two metres from each other. The couple could have walked side by side at a distance, but they should not have embraced each other or walked hand in hand.

The man has been fined 400 ***euros*** (about 1806 zloty). Embracing his fiancée will cost the 20-year-old less if he pays the fine within a month. It will then be reduced to 280 ***euros*** (about 1264 zloty).

As the Italian newspaper notes the embracing woman was not punished by the officers. According to the [*police officer,*](https://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/0,114916.html?tag=policja) the fiancée was surprised by her partner's gesture and is not responsible for the fact that he violated the rules.

Further easing of restrictions related to the coronavirus outbreak was introduced in Italy on Monday. Gyms and swimming pools were opened in line with the government's decision, while bars and restaurants were also opened earlier. Some restrictions are still in place in Lombardy, which is the region most affected by the outbreak.

"La Provincia Pavese" also adds that there has been an increase in the number of patrols by plainclothes policemen who draw attention to people holding hands or walking too close together. The journalists stress that most often the officers only instruct passers-by and ask them to keep their distance or wear a mask.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (90%); Human Rights Violations (82%); Terrorist Organizations (77%); Law Courts + Tribunals (74%); Securities + Other Investments (68%); Espionage (64%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (63%); Chemistry (63%); Medical Science (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Physics (63%); Writers (63%)

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

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Government wants suspension of budget spending cap. Finance minister cites benefits***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F215-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 338 words

**Byline:** kamrak

**Highlight:** The Council of Ministers adopted a draft law amending the Public Finance Act. The amendment extends the catalogue of events that trigger the suspension clause of the stabilising expenditure rule (SRW) for the duration of an epidemic and defines paths for its automatic return to application.

**Body**

The adopted provisions adjust the stabilising expenditure rule to the situation related to the state of the epidemic. According to the amendment, depending on the macroeconomic situation, the return to the SRW is between two and four years.

- We are adjusting the SRW to the changing conditions. Without the proposed changes, the launch of measures under the anti-crisis shields would have to be balanced with the reduction of other expenditures within the entities covered by the SRW - said [*Tadeusz Kościński*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=Tadeusz+Ko%B6ci%F1ski), the Finance [*quoted in the ministry's official communiqué*](https://www.gov.pl/web/finanse/mechanizm-wyjscia-i-powrotu-do-stosowania-srw-przyjety-przez-rm).

Kościński emphasised that the changes introduced are to make it possible to support the economy with additional funds in the event of the introduction of one of the states (martial, exceptional, natural disaster) or the announcement of a state of epidemics on the territory of Poland.

- The introduced modifications did not change the construction of the SRW. There was an expansion of the catalogue of situations activating the exit clause to include a situation that no one had anticipated before, i.e. the state of an epidemic. In addition, an automatic mechanism for returning to the SRW was specified. It should be noted that the exit clause existed in the SRW from the beginning, which is in line with the requirements of the ***EU*** directive for fiscal rules - informed the Minister of Finance.

The provisions of Article 112d of the Public Finance Act regarding the application of SRW have been adapted to the current epidemic situation. Thanks to the changes it will be possible:

"The solution adopted by the Council of Ministers is consistent both with the recommendations concerning the promotion of economic growth with a specific fiscal framework and allows for the application in Poland of a solution analogous to the so-called general exit clause introduced in the ***EU.*** The EU regulation assumes departure from compliance with the rules in the scope resulting from actions taken to counteract economic effects of the epidemic. This means a more flexible approach of the ***EU***, in the face of the EU-wide recession, to the increase of expenditures necessary to support the health care systems, population and the economy," - we read on the website of the Ministry of Finance.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (77%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Medicine + Health (68%); Weapons + Arms (68%); Awards + Prizes (62%); Espionage (62%); Medical Science (62%); Physics (62%); Writers (62%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (69%); Organic Chemicals (68%)

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Kempa on EP report on the situation in Poland: It slanders the Polish state***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F1XT-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 250 words

**Byline:** mk, IAR

**Highlight:** "The report is biased and fits into the narratives and expectations of liberals and the left. The report, which was discussed in the ***European*** Parliament on Monday, was written by Solidarity ***MEP*** Beata Kempa. The author of the document is the chairman of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee, Lopez Aguilar, who gave a negative assessment of the situation in Poland in terms of the rule of law.

**Body**

Law and Justice ***MEPs*** reject the theses contained in a report on Poland prepared by the chairman of the ***European*** Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee. The document on the state of the rule of law in Poland was presented on Monday afternoon by Spaniard Lopez Aguilar.

The report speaks of the politicisation of the justice system in Poland, of the lack of equal opportunities for election campaigning at a time of pandemonium. There is also criticism of the way in which the laws on the ban on abortion and sex education are being handled.

- It should be viewed in the category of slandering the Polish State on matters which either did not occur, or which are, in fact, contradicted in the document. It is biased and fits into the narratives and expectations of liberals and the left. It does not meet the requirement of reliability," commented Beata Kempa, ***MEP for*** Solidarity Poland.

According to ***her***, it is no coincidence that the report is being written at a time when negotiations on the future EU budget after 2020 are ongoing and ideas are being put forward to link funds to the rule of law and to impose sanctions.

- It is supposed to be a kind of a truncheon, a prelude to calling on other countries to link these issues invented by liberals with the transfer of funds under the upcoming financial perspective, i.e. to launch a new instrument that would concern Central and Eastern ***European countries*** such as Poland or Hungary, or others that were behind the Iron Curtain," said Beata Kempa.

**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 (67%); Espionage (61%)

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A politically weakened Macron rushes to the rescue of the French car industry***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600M-C461-F09W-F234-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 884 words

**Byline:** Piotr Moszyński (Paris)

**Highlight:** President Emmanuel Macron announced on Tuesday a plan to rescue the French car industry after the losses it suffered from the coronavirus outbreak. The plan has three goals: reigniting demand for cars, investing in the production of electric cars and providing support to the companies that have suffered the most.

**Body**

Official figures indicate that the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic in France is slowly but steadily receding. However, the landscape that emerges after its passage is truly apocalyptic. This includes the car industry. It is one of the key areas of the French economy, and the Renault, Peugeot and Citroën brands are, as President Macron put it in a speech on Tuesday, "part of the French identity".

National pride alone cannot change the cruel facts, however. As a result of the restrictions imposed because of the epidemic, both production and sales of cars in France have fallen by 80%. 400 000 unsold cars are currently parked in car parks near factories and dealerships, and if nothing changes, by the end of June there could be half a million of them.

Such a deep crisis in this area of manufacturing and trade means that 400 000 jobs directly linked to vehicle manufacturing and 900 000 in manufacturing and service companies indirectly dependent on it are at risk. 250 000 workers in this sector have received stoppage benefits amounting to 70% of their previous salary. The state can be proud that it has saved them from unemployment and allowed their companies to keep their skilled workforces ready to start work as soon as the crisis has passed, but the cost has been enormous.

Clearly, therefore, the President is keen to get this whole sector - which, moreover, plays a key role in technological innovation - up and running again as soon as possible. Especially since Emmanuel Macron's political situation does not look rosy either. The latest polls show him with 33% support, while in parliament an increasing number of members of his LREM party are leaving the party and forming their own clubs.

Although the dissidents declare that they are still in the parliamentary majority, this potentially threatens the presidential party with the loss of this majority. After the most recent departures, the party formally no longer has a majority, with 282 MPs remaining in the LREM club, while the majority in the National Assembly is 289 votes. However, it can still count on the solid support of the coalition formations.

The first of the main points of Macron's rescue plan is aimed directly at consumers. It assumes stimulating demand for cars, especially those powered by clean energy, i.e. mainly electricity. Individual purchasers of such cars will be able to count on the state contribution of 7 thousand ***euro***, and companies - 5 thousand ***euro***. Greater emphasis is also to be placed on the installation of electric vehicle battery charging points. The President hopes that by 2021, there will be about 100 thousand of them in France. Even housing communities will be able to join in their installation.

Emmanuel Macron expects French electric car production to exceed one million units by 2025.

The second point of the plan is to significantly increase the investment effort for the production of electric cars. From 1 June, people wishing to exchange their old car for a new electric car will be able to count on a subsidy of ***EUR*** 5 000. In the case of an exchange for a new car with a petrol or diesel engine, the subsidy will amount to ***EUR*** 3 000. There is also a gentle persuasion to hurry with such exchanges. The financial incentives will only cover the first 200,000 vehicles.

In total, the state will allocate one billion ***euros*** to measures of this kind. In addition, multi-million euro subsidies and investment funds will be mobilised, including for car equipment manufacturers.

The third highlight of the plan is support for companies in the car sector, which have been hardest hit by the epidemic. Macron proposes a kind of "pact between the state, companies and workers". The state is ready to provide ***€8*** billion in aid to the sector, but this will be on condition that companies that have relocated their production to other countries return it to French territory. This is intended to build "industrial sovereignty" and, of course, reduce unemployment.

In the first comments after the announcement of the presidential plan, one can sense a rather reserved enthusiasm. Some specialists point out that production of electric cars requires less labour than in the case of classic cars. It may therefore prove illusory to pin serious hopes on the reduction of unemployment.

One also hears comments that there are already 315,000 electric cars on the road in France, so the announcement to launch 100,000 charging points for their batteries is perhaps not ambitious enough.

Commentators are also suggesting that changes in the way not just the car sector, but the economy as a whole, operates need to be much more profound for the rescue plan to be successful. The most illustrative summary of the problem is to recall that at Renault two engineers cost the employer more than three engineers at Mercedes.

In any case, optimists will stick to Macron's announcement on Tuesday that France should in time embody the vanguard of clean energy cars in the coming years.

And malcontents remind us that, for the time being, Renault is announcing its own plan on Friday to tighten its belt by ***€2*** billion, which may involve closing some production sites.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (78%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Human Rights Violations (69%)

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

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***'Ndrangheta on the dole. How the Calabrian mafia swindles state benefits***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600D-CX61-JCVT-R3BV-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

May 26, 2020 Tuesday

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**Length:** 801 words

**Byline:** Bartosz Hlebowicz, Florence

**Highlight:** For months now, 101 members of the Calabrian 'ndrangheta in the province of Reggio Calabria have until recently been collecting a poverty allowance. Another fifteen have applied for the allowance and are awaiting a decision from the office. This is the second case of its kind this year. In total, the criminals have defrauded the state budget of almost ***€1***.4 million.

**Body**

Reddito di cittadinanza, literally "civic income", is an additional allowance for the poorest which is a flagship achievement of the 5 Star Movement realised during the first government of Giuseppe Conte, when the Movement ruled Italy with the help of Matteo Salvini's League. Thanks to the promise of the allowance, the Movement won the 2018 general election, outright demolishing the other parties in Italy's poor south.

As it turns out, those who did not need it at all, but who know better than anyone how to steal from the state, also reached for help from the budget.

The case was discovered by the Reggio Calabria fiscal police during Operation Mala civitas. Investigators examined a list of 500 criminals convicted of mafia activities in recent years in the area between Vibo Valentia, Gioia Tauro, Reggio Calabria and Locri.

The law prohibits the granting of benefits to people who have been convicted within the last 10 years. How is it that the Italian State pays benefits to criminals, including those who have illegally amassed huge assets and who have had properties worth many millions withdrawn by court order?

Well, in order to apply for the benefit, it was enough to present, along with the application, a self-made certificate of no criminal record. And mafiosi would show such a document to tax offices and employment centres deciding on the granting of reddito di cittadinanza.

Investigators intend to check whether the failure to detect the cover-ups can only be blamed on clerical carelessness or whether, in some cases, the criminal achievements of petitioners have been "overlooked" deliberately.

Among the "poor mafiosi" who have received aid from the state are members of the clans that control Gioia Tauro, ruling in Reggio Calabria (the Tegano and Serraino clans) and the Locri, Siderno, Caulonia and Canolo areas.

Even the sons of Roberto 'Bebè' Pannunzi, known as the Italian Pablo Escobar, benefited from the Italian State's assistance. Pannunzi was active in the cocaine market for 30 years and was one of the main partners of the Colombian cartels - he could import up to two tonnes of cocaine a month into Calabria. He was caught several times (in Spain and Colombia) and escaped from prison once. He has been serving a 30-year sentence in Italy since 2015. He has become famous for boasting that he doesn't count money, he weighs it. It is hard to believe that he did not share the income from this lucrative occupation with his children.

His son and successor Alessandro, moreover, assured clients after his father's arrest: [*"We are at your disposal. We are with you until your death. You can count on us in every case".*](https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/05/20/news/boss_reddito_cittadinanza-257129962/.)

To clear communication channels, Alessandro even married the daughter of one of Medellin's drug producers. In 2018, he went to prison for trafficking in illicit substances. He got out after a year and. applied for a poverty allowance, which he quickly received. Interestingly, the official was not bothered by the criminal nature of the activities of Alessandro and his family, nor by his conviction, nor even by the absence of an address on the application of the "unemployed" mafioso.

This is the second time this year that mafiosi have been caught in benefit scams. In January investigators found that 237 fraudsters with addresses in Locri were draining state coffers. Among them were fake seasonal workers who presented certificates that they had worked enough time in the fields to claim unemployment benefits, even though they had not actually spent an hour at the harvest. Among the "poor" there were also members of mafia clans, even those who at the same time were serving sentences or undergoing trials, both rank-and-file "subcontractors" and heads of mafia families, owners of luxury villas and cars (one even had a Ferrari).

Investigators spoke of "a whole army of employees who 'forgot' to indicate high-income family members on their tax returns (e.g. officially residing at another address), which would of course prevent the benefit from being granted. As a result, in less than nine months, the fraudsters defrauded more than ***€870***,000.

The investigation in Locri, concluded in January, prompted investigators to widen their scrutiny. They first established a list of 500 residents of Reggio Calabria, Locri, Palmi and Vibo Valentia deprived of the right to vote for mafia activities, and then examined their financial situation, discovering that 101 of them were collecting poor people's allowance. Now the Italian tax authority (INPS) will have to recover more than 516,000 ***euros*** defrauded by them. It has also blocked further payments, saving the state budget from defrauding another 400,000 ***euros*** that were due to be paid out in the coming months.

Misleading public authorities to defraud them is punishable by two to six years in prison.

According to the Italian social security authority, in April 2020, 177,000 people, or 69,000 families, in Calabria were entitled to the citizenship allowance.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (76%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Terrorist Organizations (65%)

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

**Load-Date:** May 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***What does the virus say about a common Europe? Comparison of 27 anti-scratch shields***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-YMY1-JCVT-R0VK-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 953 words

**Byline:** Piotr Maciej Kaczyński

**Highlight:** Analysis of 27 crisis shields shows that ***Europeans*** are surprisingly consistent in their response to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Body**

The author is an expert at the Centre for International Relations (CSM) in Warsaw and a member of the Team ***Europe*** expert team at the ***European*** Commission.

A comparison of the 27 aid programmes of ***EU*** countries reveals a surprisingly consistent picture. Yes, ***the European Union*** has no health or epidemiological competence and can at most coordinate the purchase of medical equipment. Yes, the Community's institutions are heavily constrained by treaties, something about which we in Poland know more than the average. But a united ***Europe*** is not just common ***European*** institutions. A united ***Europe*** is an organism consisting of 27 states and 445 million citizens. An organism which is both diverse and effective in action. It combines dozens and hundreds of different solutions specific to individual countries and regions. The message conveyed by the aid plans of ***European*** countries has been remarkably consistent. ***Europeans*** everywhere have responded similarly to the crisis.

The message from the national plans is that we are all focused on defending jobs. This objective is absolutely unequivocal across almost the entire continent - in the ***EU*** and beyond in the UK, Norway and Switzerland. The crisis into which the world has fallen has many faces: from the riots in the US, where an army of 40 million people out of work was created "out of nothing" in two months, to the gigantic pandemic problems in Brazil, to authoritarian regimes that are tightening their grip on their societies. We see this in Hong Kong, Russia or Turkey, for example.

Here in ***Europe, the*** reactions and dilemmas are very similar. Yes, the ***European*** mills grind slowly, but that is precisely because it takes a while to get 27 countries to agree. But once the mills are up and running, they have enough power to change reality: since mid-April, disagreements and mutual recriminations have given way to constructive cooperation. It has turned out that a united ***Europe*** is not a dream.

The 'new ***European*** Union' is currently being defined, both in financial terms and in terms of its future competences. The German presidency of the ***EU*** Council (second half of the year) will be marked by decisions on new budgets (the Commission's proposals are for a ***€1***.1 trillion regular budget and a ***€750*** billion pandemic recovery fund), the launch of a conference on the future of ***Europe*** and the adoption of the first report on the state of the rule of law in the ***EU***.

However, the aid programmes to date are as follows: firstly, they assume stabilisation of financial markets, ensuring that everyone is able to repay their loans and, if not, helping them to do so. If companies get into trouble, they get preferential loans and sometimes non-refundable grants. These loans are guaranteed by governments or central banks. Commercial banks must not fail - their stability is a prerequisite for any aid measure.

Second, jobs. In the vast majority of cases, governments pay 60-80 percent of the last salary of an employee in a company whose turnover has fallen by at least 20 percent. Of course, percentages, rates and percentages vary, but those listed here are by far the most popular. Among the interesting conditions are, for example, linking the percentage of salary paid to the minimum wage. This is because in many countries, the minimum wage is regarded as a minimum subsistence level. Sometimes companies that apply for aid are prohibited from paying dividends to their shareholders or bonuses to their bosses.

Self-employed people, artists and micro-entrepreneurs are a separate category. They are often paid allowances to help them get through difficult times with dignity.

In many places, rents have been restricted. Very often, companies have been compensated because the restriction of their economic activity is a direct result of a government decision.

In several countries, those employed in the health professions received special treatment. In Hungary (around ***EUR*** 1 400) and Romania (around ***EUR*** 500), among others, doctors, nurses and paramedics received one-off financial benefits, and in Slovenia, health care jobs were treated as 'unfavourable working conditions'. As a result, nurses are treated like steelworkers and are automatically entitled to allowances of up to 100 per cent of their salary.

Thirdly, tax assistance. Tax settlements and payments are postponed en masse, sometimes taxes are suspended or reduced. States commit to refunding tax deposits more quickly or allow 2019 taxes to be settled together with the current year so that taxes are not paid on last year's profits when companies are currently making losses.

In Slovenia, one of the smallest EU countries, the authorities have decided on an exceptional step: since everyone suffers financially in times of pandemics, and the life-saving services in particular must be helped, those in government should also have their salaries cut. In times of pandemics, the president, prime minister, MPs and all other representatives of the people, as well as members of supervisory boards in state-owned companies, earn 30% less.

Taken together, these three elements - financial aid, fiscal aid and the fight for jobs - make up the ***European*** response to the pandemic. ***Europeans*** are more alike than we think, and they are alike to the crisis. This is an important, soothing thought if we remember what awaits us in the time ahead: recovery from a gigantic economic collapse. Perhaps many of the postponed bankruptcies will come. The whole continent is preparing for it. That is why the Commission has presented a much larger and differently tailored budget than the previous one (or even two parallel budgets).

It is good to know that despite our differences, together we will face the challenges of the future. Together we will rebuild our continent after a pandemic.

[*The full study is available on the CSM website*](https://csm.org.pl/analiza-csm-narodowe-systemy-pomocy-gospodarczej-po-covid-19/)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (74%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (71%); Chemistry (71%); Terrorist Organizations (70%); Weapons + Arms (68%)

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

**Load-Date:** June 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The presidential candidate does not rule out challenging the election***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R21N-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1665 words

**Byline:** Justyna Dobrosz-Oracz

**Highlight:** Taxes must be reduced immediately, says Mirosław Piotrowski. - How much? - we ask. - I will not take part in the quiz. Justyna Dobrosz-Oracz checks what the presidential candidate knows.

**Body**

Justyna Dobrosz-Oracz talks to Mirosław Piotrowski, presidential candidate

Justyna Dobrosz-Oracz: Jarosław Kaczyński has issued an alert. Is fear in the eyes of PiS? Is this a game of polarisation?

Mirosław Piotrowski: I don't think so. As I know my colleagues from PiS, they are very excited and uncertain now. And this is because they are losing the Catholic, right-wing, conservative electorate. It is drifting away from them. I hope that to me. I have founded a party, the Real ***Europe*** - ***Europa*** Christi Movement. It is not a pretend Catholic party. I wish my fellow Members all the best, but above all I wish them honesty with their voters.

Video available to subscribers.

Will you want to challenge the result of the presidential election?

- Whatever the outcome of the elections, I intend to ask the Constitutional Court whether these elections were held in accordance with the Basic Law.

The Court? Not the Supreme Court? Election protests are filed with the Supreme Court.

- Protest, but if I were elected president, for example, I would still ask the TK whether the procedure is correct. Of course, I do not rule out challenging the elections to the Supreme Court on the basis of Article 128(2) of the constitution. This is not being said, unfortunately, but Speaker Witek announced these elections on an unconstitutional date.

You proclaimed that "two Jarks have brought our country down to the level of Cambodia". And the June 28 elections are unconstitutional. Then why don't you withdraw from them?

- I am not withdrawing from this game because I love Poland. I care about our country, which is declining more and more. These standards are really reminiscent of Laos or Cambodia. I know what I am talking about, because I was in those countries as part of a delegation to the ***European*** Parliament.

If elections are illegal in your view, why do you want to be an "accomplice to a political crime"?

- No. I would not call it that. I read the constitution. It says there that the Speaker of the Sejm announces elections at least 75 days before the end of the president's term [no later than 75 days before the end of the term]. I am surprised that neither PO nor PiS is raising this. Perhaps they have arranged themselves. But I am not paying attention to it. I am running for office. I represent the people who signed letters of support for me. I will not rule out lodging an election protest. I will certainly ask the Constitutional Court. If the elections were not conducted in accordance with the Basic Law, I will want them to be repeated.

So far, you are not even included in the polls. At the beginning of the campaign, you said: "I'm running because Andrzej Duda is making a fool of Poles". Do you not like the PiS state?

- I voted for Andrzej Duda, who was my colleague in the ***European*** Parliament for a year. But I think he deceived the voters, as did the PiS formation. He presented himself as a Catholic candidate, focused on the family. When I read his interviews, for example in the weekly Wprost, he does not rule out the legalisation of same-sex unions, and is against LGBT-free zones. But above all, he does not care about citizens. He is leading to the fact that taxes are being raised. He does not ask about our finances. He did not ask US President Donald Trump about Bill 447, while half of Poland was living with it. I sent a letter to Trump a few days ago on what to do about it. I simply resent that the President does not ask the government on behalf of the citizens. This does not mean that he should throw himself at its feet like Rejtan, but he should ask. For example, how dangerous the coronavirus is. For example, on a scale of 1 to 10. If seasonal flu is 1.5 and ebola is 8.9, how dangerous is coronavirus?

You twice ran for the ***European Parliament*** on the PiS list, and then quickly left the club after the elections. Why?

- It was not as if I had walked away. We also had certain agreements in writing. And then PiS departed from these conditions and I was pushed out. And later it turned out that this formation changes its political direction. Two years after taking power.

What were the conditions?

- These were the operating conditions, the technical conditions. I was on the foreign affairs committee, from which I was pushed out, and so on. I do not want to talk about the details at the moment.

Father Tadeusz Rydzyk signed the letter of support for you?

- There is a RODO, so I will not reveal a single person who has signed. There are women and men, farmers and professors, and there are religious, including Redemptorists.

You used to be Father Rydzyk's pet. Is that a thing of the past? Were these stories exaggerated?

- I do not know that. You have to ask the people who expressed such opinions. It would be like asking the editor whether she is someone's pet.

Father Tadeusz Rydzyk did not support you. No regrets?

- No. I do not want to be a candidate of one political station. Szymon Hołownia worked in TVN and he said himself that when he started his career, the station was cold. So this is the norm in such elections as the presidential one.

Is the government coping with a pandemic?

- The action taken defies even the logic of the health minister, who has ridiculed those who wear masks, claiming that they do nothing. Is the government coping with the pandemic? Ask how many people have died of coronavirus in Poland, but how many have had an autopsy done. After all, if this is such a serious disease and the whole economy is being blocked, it would be appropriate to carry out post-mortems on at least one or two people.

Do you still want to radically reduce taxes?

- Yes. I want to reduce taxes.

You are throwing out a slogan, without being specific. Which one? By how much?

- First of all, a reduction in VAT. Also income tax. At fifteen per cent. We have 23 per cent VAT, but there are six rates. Let me give you an example. At the moment, when we have a crisis, Bulgaria is reducing VAT from 20 to 9 percent on catering, on books. Bulgaria is tourism. Tourism is catering. Taxes should be reduced immediately. Bulgaria is doing this to bounce back. After the sugar tax, the Prime Minister wants to introduce a tax on the Internet.

We have a pandemic. We have an economic crisis. Do you know how much PIT tax is paid into the state coffers each year?

- YYY. I present all this in my programme.

How much?

- I will not be participating in the quiz at this time.

Professor, this is basic information. Especially when someone has tax cuts on the agenda.

- There is not much coming into the state from PIT for these two months. Lowering taxes stimulates the economy. It is not true that budget revenues will fall. Quite the contrary.

How do you want to reduce all taxes at once - VAT, PIT? What is the state supposed to live on? That is jumping headfirst into an empty pool.

- High taxes are a dominant feature of either very wealthy countries or countries that overspend. Cutting taxes works everywhere. People need to be given a breather. We have some taxes in petrol, in chewing gum. We have it everywhere. This needs to be taken off people's hands. If a man earns 3 thousand zlotys, he brings home 1.5 thousand. I'm for him to bring 2.5 and spend it himself.

Are you in favour of a total ban on abortion?

- Yes. The Real ***Europe*** - ***Europa*** Christi movement, which I founded, has this in its programme statement. I am in favour of a civilisation of life. The protection of life from conception to natural death.

Even when a woman's life is at risk?

- Abortion for people who are non-believers should be an alarm bell.

So you want a total ban on abortion?

- I am in favour of protecting life. Not in favour of punishing people. A woman who has an abortion is herself punished by it.

Would you change the law? Do you want the state to force women to give birth when their lives are at risk?

- The state should not force anything. The state should protect human life.

You are not answering my question.

- I answer. The state should protect human life.

So a total ban on abortion?

- Yes. The protection of life should be guaranteed by law. From conception. In Belgium, where I have been for fifteen years, people who fear that abortion is to be banned will themselves be euthanised in a moment.

What right do you have to force women to be heroic? To decide who is to survive? The life of the unborn child is more important than that of the mother?

- I do not buy into such rhetoric. Life should be protected.

The Lord will never face a choice.

- Where life is not protected, this society is heading towards totalitarianism.

In 2013, you wrote 'The Union as the 'Titanic''. Your dark visions did not materialise.

- On the contrary. I was in the group with Nigel Farage. He, too, said that the Union is like the Titanic. And it has just submerged and is perhaps heading for drowning. Britain has left the ***EU***. Has the ship jumped or has it sunk?

It is certainly not sinking. In times of crisis and pandemic, everyone is counting on the EU aid programme.

- Not everyone. The ***European Union*** has nothing of its own. These finances of which you speak are virtual.

You travel around Poland. Do you see how much has been built with the support of EU funds? How much has Poland received from the Union during its 16 years of presence in the Community?

- I like you very much, but allow me to say that this is propaganda.

How much has Poland received from the EU and how much has it paid in over 16 years? Let us talk on the level of specifics.

- I am answering you now. Poland pays in around ***EUR*** 4.5 billion, but according to official statistics, it takes out three or even four times as much, and everyone is happy.

What statistics? I am quoting data published by the Ministry of Finance. Over ***EUR*** 181 billion - this is how much money Poland received from the EU over 16 years. We paid 58 billion.

- I am talking about annual payments. That does not correspond to actual expenditure and benefits. Germany's Foreign Minister has said that Germany is the ***EU's*** biggest net beneficiary, and by your logic, Germany should be the biggest contributor.

Are you in favour of a referendum on Poland's exit from the Union?

- Not at the moment. I am not in favour of Poland leaving the ***European*** Union. That is how I differ from the Confederation. I believe that this is our Union. Our ***Europe***. My Union. My ***Europe***. Only it has been stolen by communists, socialists and liberals, who are driven by Altiero Spinnelli's idea that the Union must be socialist. The nation states must be abolished.

The nation states are holding up well in the Union. Thank you.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Company Strategy (94%); Insider Trading (74%); Environmental + Wildlife Organizations (71%); Film (69%); Human Rights Violations (67%); Employment Services (61%); Medical Devices (61%); Medical Devices + Equipment (61%); Suits + Claims (61%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (82%); Movie Industry (73%); Organic Chemicals (70%); Harbors + Ports (69%); Mining + Extraction (69%); Chemicals Mfg (65%); Meats (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Poland's climate neutrality by 2050 is achievable. It may also be beneficial***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R20M-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1184 words

**Byline:** past

**Highlight:** billions of ***euros*** will be needed, changes across the economy and, firstly, moving away from coal. But Poland is able to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions enough to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, according to a McKinsey report. The costs will be high, but they will be spread over years. We will also have tangible benefits in the economy.

**Body**

***The European Union*** will strive to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. This means that we will reduce carbon dioxide production to such a low level that it will be completely absorbed. This is a huge challenge, because it means an energy transition, but also changes in many other sectors: transport, agriculture, industry. But it is necessary in order to stop the climate crisis.

The Law and Justice government has agreed to this ***EU-wide*** target, but declares that Poland will reach it "at its own pace" due to its "special circumstances", namely coal-dependent energy. However, the government's current energy plans are far from even approaching this target.

Poland's climate neutrality by 2050 is achievable, according to a [*report by McKinsey, a strategic advisory firm*](https://www.mckinsey.com/pl/our-insights/carbon-neutral-poland-2050). It is one of the first comprehensive studies of a scenario for achieving climate neutrality by the Polish economy. The authors write that Poland's climate neutrality is not only achievable, but may also increase energy independence and generate 300,000 new jobs.

The authors write that the report focuses on the most cost-effective scenario. It assumes that by 2050 we will have reduced our emissions by 91 per cent compared to 2017. The remaining 9 per cent from sectors where decarbonisation (as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is commonly called) is particularly difficult (mainly industry) is to be compensated by CO2 absorption. The scenario assumes a reduction of emissions by an average of 2.6 per cent per year until 2030 and between 5.4 and 11.8 per cent over the next 20 years. However, the starting point is 2017, since when emissions have increased, so an even higher rate will realistically be needed.

The required additional investment outlays would amount to ***EUR*** 380 bln in total, i.e. ***EUR*** 13 bln annually on average - the report's authors calculate. However, they point out the benefits, including reduction of operational costs in individual sectors by ***EUR*** 75 bln, improvement of Poland's trade balance. Of course, the overriding benefit is the contribution to stopping the climate crisis, whose costs in Poland and worldwide will be incalculable.

- The report prepared by McKinsey clearly indicates that the realisation of the vision of Poland's climate neutrality by 2050 is not only achievable, but also brings many benefits. Among other things, the report states that it could "increase economic growth by 1-2 percent and create 250,000-300,000 new jobs". It is a very good introduction to the national and ***European*** discussion on how to implement the vision of a climate-neutral Poland and ***Europe***," said Marcin Korolec, president of the Foundation for Promotion of Electric Vehicles and former minister of environment. He noted that politicians should take this into account when negotiating the EU budget for 2021-2027, which is to focus on green transformation.

The authors write that "emissions in Poland are mainly generated by five sectors and areas of the economy: industry, transport, use of buildings (and especially their heating), agriculture and energy. Decarbonisation must cover all of them.

In industry (22% of emissions), it is necessary to apply new technologies and build low-carbon plants, improve energy efficiency, electrify heat generation and capture technologies. According to McKinsey, we can get rid of 97% of emissions in this sector. However, this assumes the application of technologies for the capture, use and storage of carbon dioxide, which at present operate on a small scale and it is not known when and if their application on the necessary scale will be possible and profitable.

In transport (15% of emissions), what is needed first of all is to make road transport completely zero-emission (it generates 98% of carbon dioxide - the remaining 2% comes from rail and aviation). This requires a switch to electric and hydrogen vehicles. 11% of Polish emissions are connected to buildings, mainly their heating and air conditioning. In order to reduce them, it is necessary, firstly, to improve the energy efficiency of buildings (i.e. to insulate them better), and secondly, to heat them with low-emission alternatives to cookers and boilers or with coal-fired heating plants.

Agricultural GHG emissions (11 percent) are largely not carbon dioxide, but methane and nitrogen oxides, which come from fertilizers and are produced by cattle. The remaining 1/4 of emissions come from burning fuel in agricultural machinery. McKinsey assumes solutions such as optimising fertilisation and reducing ploughing, low carbon machine fuels and reducing enteric fermentation in cattle. An alternative could be to reduce meat consumption and with it livestock farming.

Finally, the power industry, which is responsible for the largest share of emissions, must be low-carbon to make sense of the electrification of other sectors. The scenario assumes a 50% increase in electricity demand by 2050. However, most coal-fired power plants in Poland would be shut down before 2050 anyway. The authors assume that by 2050 as much as 75% of energy production will be the responsibility of wind power plants, most of them offshore. Approx. Solar energy will account for 6%. Renewable energy sources will have to be combined with energy storage technologies.

In turn, 14% of energy would come from nuclear power plants. However, this path assumes that we will have nuclear power in Poland after 2030, which seems unrealistic. The marginal role of gas and coal in the power and heating sector is to remain, assuming that the related emissions are absorbed.

Almost ***EUR*** 400 billion in extra spending may sound scary, but experts explain that there is nothing to fear. That is ***EUR*** 13 billion a year. - Replacing fossil fuels means an additional investment effort, but this should not be a barrier for Poland, especially in view of EU support. Let us remember that hundreds of billions of ***euros*** spread over 30 years actually mean additional outlays of only 1-2% of Poland's GDP. At the same time, the transformation creates an investment impulse in the short term," judges Aleksander Śniegocki, head of the Climate and Energy Programme at WISE ***Europe***.

He points out that "in the energy sector, the transition may in fact be even faster than the McKinsey analysis assumes, given the rather slow upward trajectory of the price of emission allowances assumed in the report".

Izabela Zygmunt, an expert from the Polish Green Network organisation, points out that the necessary money may flow to Poland from the future ***EU*** budget and the Green Deal - but "on condition that we say 'yes' to climate neutrality".

- If we do not do this, it will flow to other countries - those that will undertake to reduce their emissions more quickly, so that the Union as a whole will become climate-neutral, despite Poland's insistence on remaining energy backward. The question of Poland's climate neutrality is therefore essentially a question of whether we want a development impulse and investment, or whether we think we can do without them.

- he says.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (81%); Film (75%); Terrorist Organizations (74%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Torture (69%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Harbors + Ports (75%); Mining + Extraction (75%)

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**End of Document**

[***"Good change" scares its followers with Trzaskowski***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R21K-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1194 words

**Byline:** Rafał Zakrzewski

**Highlight:** In the "good change" camp, they feel that there may be a bad (for them) change in the Presidential Palace. So they scare their followers to mobilise them to vote.

**Body**

It is no longer fear, it is panic that the elections may be lost. Its indicators are the productions of columnists in weeklies supporting the United Right and the daily editions of TVP's 'News'.

Here comes evil incarnate - Rafał Trzaskowski. It is getting closer and closer, so you have to mobilise, our voter, because if we lose, it will be all over - commentators of "Sieci" and "Do Rzeczy" are already warning on Monday, and on Tuesday evening the President of the Law and Justice party announced a state of alert. He paints a terrifying picture of Trzaskowski in a dramatic letter to the members of the Law and Justice party. He demands from them full mobilisation until victory. The hysterical diagnosis of the situation in the PiS media and Kaczyński's letter is to serve this purpose.

Let's take a closer look at what is being threatened by the latest well-meaning weeklies, which are more detailed than the president about the dangers after losing power.

Rafał Ziemkiewicz ("Do Rzeczy", 8-14 June) writes: "We are not facing a choice: a better president or a worse one. We are (...) facing a choice between the continuation of the current government and disaster. Without any exaggeration, Rafał Trzaskowski's presidency is a black scenario for Polish independence". He is echoed by his editorial colleague Piotr Semka: "The election on 28 June and the likely second round on 12 July will be a vote to end the good change or to extend it. This will be the most important choice for the future of Poland.

So what happens if - God forbid - Trzaskowski defeats Duda?

Semka thinks that with Trzaskowski's appointment there will be a return to the PO's style of power from 2007-15. This is obvious nonsense. For many reasons it is impossible: not such Poland and Poles, not such a world, not such a political scene. But the publicist of 'Do Rzeczy' builds his forecast of president Trzaskowski's behaviour on this assumption.

"The takeover of the presidential palace by the Platform may reduce PiS's field of action to a very narrow dimension". - Semka writes further. Trzaskowski proclaims that the president "must not allow the destruction of the community". And it is a simple way - says the publicist - to consider that such a destruction of the community is "every element of the reform programme implemented by Jarosław Kaczyński after 2015". Thus, a conflict with the government of PiS and presidential vetoes of its bills are getting ready. "And PiS will be helpless in the face of these blockades. There is no two-thirds majority needed to override a veto by the head of state."

One would like to shout: finally! After 5 years of destroying the state, institutions and social ties, the march of this writer will be stopped.

Semka writes that there will also be a "blockade of changes in the courts": Trzaskowski will be "able to refuse to appoint new judges to be nominated to the president by the current National Judicial Council".

In his analysis, Ziemkiewicz adds another threat related to the courts: "Trzaskowski, like his entire party, has consistently refused to recognise the Constitutional Court. Thus, he would probably grant the right to interpret the constitution (...) to himself or to some extra-constitutional group, e.g. a meeting of all the still living former judges of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Yes, gentlemen commentators, he must clean up this Augias stable after his predecessor. Legally, of course.

Trzaskowski appears to well-meaning publicists as a "soldier of ***Europeanism***". Semka believes that "in view of the completely different philosophies of approach to Brussels" a constant conflict between the government of the Powis Foundation and Trzaskowski can be expected in this area. Similarly, there will be no harmonious cooperation in other foreign policy directions. "Trzaskowski will certainly listen much more to the opinions of Berlin and Paris than PiS", and for this reason relations with Trump will also deteriorate.

Ziemkiewicz writes about this issue much more harshly: for Trzaskowski "not Poland, but ***the European Union*** is our homeland today", and he himself "feels simply a 'Polish-speaking ***European'"***. This makes him - according to the commentator of "Do Rzeczy" - a threat to the state. - a threat to the state: "he will be guided by his idea of the interests of the ***European*** Union rather than the good of his own country".

Marek Pyza, a columnist from the second pro-government weekly "Sieci", who devotes an eloquently titled article "Extremist" to Trzaskowski, also writes that the KO candidate betrays Polish interests. One - to Berlin, when he criticizes the construction of the Central Transportation Port, two - to Moscow, when he fights against the crossroads of the Vistula Spit. He covers this national betrayal with a cynical demand to use the money saved from these investments 'to fight the effects of a pandemic'.

Under Trzaskowski we are facing a "rainbow Belvedere" - Semka writes about this threat as follows: "Trzaskowski's one-and-a-half-year rule over Warsaw clearly shows that his national presidency would be a period of openness to the demands of feminists and the LGBT lobby."

In "Sieciach" Marek Pyza completes this picture. He recalls Warsaw's declaration in favour of the LGBT community, the Equality Parade under the patronage of the capital's mayor and the toleration - active in this field - of his deputy Paweł Rabiej. He concludes with an accusation of moral extremism: "It seemed that no one could take Robert Biedroni's palm away from anyone, but Robert Biedroni when it comes to extreme left-wing demands in the sphere of morals. However, the KO candidate has done it".

This theme was strongly stressed by the President in his letter to the members of the Law and Justice party: "After the change of the Platform's candidate, a fraudulent attempt was made to convince the society that a representative of the extreme left, whose views have already been clearly expressed in the way he governs Warsaw (during which he became known as a staunch supporter of the LGBT ideology dreaming of being the first to marry a homosexual couple), is being presented as a Catholic, a continuator of Solidarity, and even a person who refers to the tradition of President Lech Kaczyński" .

Ziemkiewicz rallies: "Trzaskowski in the palace would certainly remain a representative of the "total opposition" - condemning everything in its entirety, blocking appointments, or taking oaths of office not from those who were constitutionally elected. On contentious issues, in line with his party's policy, he would ignore the Constitutional Tribunal, referring to the rulings of the CJEU, and de facto renouncing Polish sovereignty. At the same time he would be a typical colonial leader - pursuing foreign interests in his country (...). In cooperation with the Senate and the legal revolt, such a president would be able to bring about complete anarchy and decomposition of the state, comparable to the Saxon times, and then turn for 'brotherly help' to the ***EU*** as a higher instance above the national governments.

This synthetic description must frighten the Duda voter and is intended for exceptional mobilisation. For me, this hysterical-propaganda image is a signal that the camp of power is really scared and has no idea what to propose in this extraordinated electoral campaign. And as Ziemkiewicz helplessly notes, "there are really no sociometric tools to determine how great is the potential of frustration and anger caused by the epidemic, to what extent it can push Poles to want to 'punish' the authorities despite all their explanations that they are doing their best.

One signal, however, is quite visible: the 1.6 million signatures collected in five days for Rafał Trzaskowski's candidacy for President of Poland.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Medical Devices + Equipment (63%); Terrorist Organizations (63%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (61%)

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

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[***The President writes letters. And he is lying as if he were***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R21S-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 816 words

**Byline:** Dominika Wielowieyska

**Highlight:** Jarosław Kaczyński's letter on the election was supposed to mobilise activists to work in Andrzej Duda's campaign. But the PiS spin-doctors probably went a bit overboard, as the alarmist tone gives the impression of desperation and fear of imminent defeat.

**Body**

Maybe the Law and Justice party has found out that the morale of the hardcore electorate has been somewhat weakened by the recent news concerning the health ministry or the friction within the United Right. So first there was a vote of confidence in the government, and then a letter from the president to create an impression of unity and to warm everyone up to the fight.

But the problem is that Kaczyński's writing unwittingly exposes the weaknesses of the ruling camp, because the lies contained therein are easily exposed.

"The actions of the opposition, both at the national level and - in particular - in the local governments, made it impossible to hold the elections on the constitutional dates, namely 10, 17 or 23 May." Kaczyński wrote an untruth. Even a voter with the memory of an aquarium fish knows that the elections did not take place because not only the opposition, but also Jaroslaw Gowin's Accord, regarded them as madness. Planning traditional elections under epidemic conditions is irresponsible. And it is logistically impossible to prepare fully correspondence elections in such a short period of time. Above all, the organisation of elections by the government, bypassing the State Electoral Commission, is a violation of democratic principles. A state of natural disaster should have been declared, instead of introducing the restrictions contained in the law on this state of emergency via side paths. But PiS wanted to hold the elections quickly, because the later they were held, the smaller the chances of the current president. The operation ended in disaster, however, and it is hard to believe that anyone would fall for the president's version.

In his letter, Kaczyński threatens Rafał Trzaskowski: he is a representative of the extreme left. It is difficult to comment on this. One can only sympathise with Robert Biedroni and Adrian Zandberg, who do not exist in the world of the president.

A Trzaskowski victory "would mean a severe political, social and moral crisis". And what is the moral dimension of the current government?

The KNF affair, earnings at the National Bank of Poland, robbing the Polish Red Cross, Marian Banaś's rooms for hours. Or is it rather a sign of moral crisis and decay to organise the sending of postcards to the First President of the Supreme Court with the inscription "Get out...j"?

Kaczyński believes that no reasonable person can any longer count on a constructive attitude on the part of KO or the presidential candidate selected by this formation. And how were successive "anti-crisis shields" passed? Did anyone block them? The opposition worked quickly on them in the Senate, although PiS abused its trust by including in the "shields" various flowers that had nothing to do with aid for companies and employees. The flowers were about envelope choices or avoiding responsibility for purchases of worthless medical equipment.

President Kaczyński speaks of the need for a "Polish community". The war, which he personally has been directing for five years, does not build any community. Even at the party and political level, PiS has burned all bridges and has no one to ask for help in the second round to ensure additional votes for Andrzej Dudz.

PiS, writes the president, guarantees Poland's 'proper international status and position'. Our foreign policy is a constant conflict with the ***European Union***, an anti-German phobia and a vassal attitude towards the USA. "Defending historical truth" is in practice a compromise in connection with the IPN law, which PiS later withdrew from with a crawl.

"Democracy must include a sphere of consensus, including agreement to abide by the law, honour the outcome of the election and elementary loyalty to the people and the state," the letter reads. And who questioned the election result before? It was Jaroslaw Kaczynski who said from the parliamentary rostrum in 2014 that "the elections were rigged". What's more, PiS alerted Brussels on this issue. In Jaroslaw Kaczynski's language, such activity is called "denouncing Poland" and is evidence of the gene of betrayal. Well, unless it is done by PiS, then it is a defence of the rule of law and democracy.

Can loyalty to the state be called slander about the Polish government's complicity in the alleged crime of assassinating the presidential aircraft? After five years, PiS has not produced a shadow of evidence in this case and is responsible for the Smolensk lie that is destroying our state.

The opposition is still defending the old system, defending the privileges of the so-called elite,' the president explains to his activists. But which elites are they referring to? The striking teachers who earn 3 thousand zlotys a month or Law and Justice activists in state-owned companies with salaries amounting to tens of thousands of zlotys?

"Changes are needed in many areas. They are needed - I make no secret of it - also in our ranks," - wrote the president. Maybe Jaroslaw Kaczynski is warning activists that if Andrzej Duda gets bad results in their districts, they will not get away with it. But if PiS members have to be threatened with the consequences, how does that prove their morale and determination?

Or perhaps it is an announcement of settlements at the top of power and a change of government. The chaos in the state will not, therefore, be the consequence of the election of a president from the opposition - something that PiS continues to threaten - but the effect of quarrels within the ruling camp.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (93%); Human Rights Violations (82%); Terrorist Organizations (80%); Espionage (67%); Awards + Prizes (64%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (64%); Chemistry (64%); Medical Science (64%); Medicine + Health (64%); Physics (64%); Writers (64%); Film (63%); Arms Control + Disarmament (62%); Weapons + Arms (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (81%); Professional Services (73%); Harbors + Ports (63%); Mining + Extraction (63%)

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

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[***A clinch in the European Union European Union. Who does not like the EU Reconstruction Fund and why?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R1YK-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 939 words

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

**Highlight:** Polish authorities are outraged at tying economic issues to the rule of law. Hungarians demand more money. And the Dutch and Austrians question the need for additional subsidies. Will the Reconstruction Fund even take off?

**Body**

EU finance ministers discussed on Tuesday a revised draft budget for 2021-27, part of which is [*a Coracis Recovery Fund consisting of 500 billion* ***euros in*** *grants and 250 billion in cheap loans.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,25979149,unijne-750-mld-euro-na-koronakryzys-znamy-szczegoly-planu-ratunkowego.html) ***The European*** Commission is to borrow money for this on the financial markets under guarantees from all EU countries.

According to preliminary calculations, in addition to more than ***EUR*** 26 billion in loans, this project will provide Poland with a total of ***EUR*** 37.7 billion in grants, including ***EUR*** 26.8 billion for 'recovery and resilience programmes' and ***EUR*** 6 billion added to the existing ***EUR*** 2 billion under the Fair Transition Fund linked to the climate neutrality objective.

- We need an agreement on the new budget, including the Reconstruction Fund, as soon as possible. Time is of the essence", argued ***European*** Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis. However, agreeing the entire budget package before the end of July is now seen as an optimistic option in Brussels, because for the time being the individual EU countries - and they will need unanimity - are stuck in their entrenched positions, as evidenced by Tuesday's teleconference of ministers.

- The vast majority of countries consider our proposal a good basis for talks. The support was really high," Dombrovskis said. But in addition to this "vast majority" there were sharp, yet very significant, voices of contestation. - We would still like to know who is going to pay back the EU's Reconstruction Fund debt and at what pace. The Commission's assessment that the focus should be on grants and not on loans is wrong, Austrian minister Gernot Blümel said after the deliberations.

Austria, together with the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark, now form a "club of austerity", which would preferably like a Reconstruction Fund based only on loans and of a size to be estimated at a later date, when the effects of the coronakrisis can be better calculated. In addition, the "austerity club" persists in its call for the EU budget (the ordinary part without the Reconstruction Fund) to be at 1% of EU GNI (gross national income), even though the ***€1***,100 billion proposed by the Commission has "grown" to around 1.12% of GNI as a result of the coronarecessional shrinkage of the interest rate base.

Half a trillion in subsidies in the Reconstruction Fund is an idea put forward in May jointly by Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Emmanuel Macron, so German Minister Olaf Scholz argued on Tuesday that it was a "well thought out proposal". The idea is not to add to the debts of, among others, Italy and Spain, even through cheap loans from the Reconstruction Fund, which would make it more difficult for them to recover.

However, the Hungarians are also rebelling against the project, as the Reconstruction Fund would provide them with 8.1 billion grants and 6.9 billion loans, which is less than Poland in percentage terms of GDP. - The Fund in its present form is unfair to Hungary, because it has been tailored to the needs of the countries of the South. And this may cause additional burdens on smaller and less developed economies - announced Hungarian minister Mihaly Varga.

The heavy disagreements over the Reconstruction Fund are not only about the proportion of grants and loans or the overall size, but also about requirements linked to the disbursement of funds to combat the economic effects of the coronakrisis. The ***European*** Commission proposes that reimbursements for 'recovery and resilience programmes' (this is the main part of the Reconstruction Fund) be linked to the implementation of the annual Brussels recommendations under the "***European*** Semester" focusing on economic and social issues.

"Recovery and resilience programmes" would be negotiated with the country in question and then approved by the ***European*** Commission with the consent of the representatives of most EU countries. The countries of the EU North insist on strong enforcement of the "semester" recommendations, which in the South evokes bad associations with the tough supervision of Greece or Portugal when they benefited from aid loans in the debt crisis.

This year's draft "***European*** Semester" recommendations for Poland, which ***the European*** Commission presented in May (it has to be approved by the ***EU*** Council), include "improving the investment climate, in particular by protecting the independence of the courts". In the analysis preceding this recommendation, the EC singles out Poland for problems with the rule of law and stresses that "further concerns have arisen in connection with recent events in Poland, which pose a threat to the functioning of the Polish and EU legal order".

During Tuesday's discussions on the "semester", Polish representatives - according to our information - fought particularly hard against tying the economy to the rule of law, which, in a pessimistic scenario for the current authorities, could in the future affect the fate of EU funds for Poland.

In turn, the Dutch government of Marc Rutte, in its Tuesday briefing on the ***EU*** budget (and the Reconstruction Fund) to the national parliament, stressed that the disbursement of EU money must be conditional on the rule of law.

The ***European*** Commission wants the EU's debt repayment to the Reconstruction Fund, to be phased in from 2059 - repayment of the EU's debt to the Reconstruction Fund should be financed not from additional contributions but from new budgetary sources - a carbon tax on goods imported from outside the ***EU*** (and produced outside the ***EU*** with lower environmental standards), a digital tax, a levy on large companies (over ***€750*** million annual turnover) for their access to the single market, and the extension of the ETS system, i.e. paid permits for CO2 emissions, to the aviation and maritime sectors.

Although Poland, which is satisfied with the initial calculations of its share in the Reconstruction Fund, is usually reluctant to increase the burden in the ETS, it is not currently rejecting this idea of the Commission out of hand.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (94%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (71%)

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[***Some Germans do not want US nuclear bombs. "Perhaps Poland could host this potential at home".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R1X1-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1631 words

**Byline:** Maciej Kucharczyk

**Highlight:** The topic of US nuclear weapons in Poland returns again and again. Now in the background of Donald Trump's alleged decision to withdraw some American troops from Germany, some of whom could end up in Poland. One German party openly states that the Americans should also take their nuclear weapons. If they actually did this, it would be a political-military earthquake.

**Body**

The latest reason to discuss the issue is President Trump's alleged decision, as described by the US media last week. According to unofficial information, the Pentagon is to withdraw 9,500 troops from Germany by September, out of the 34,500 currently stationed there. Some are to go to other ***European*** countries, including possibly Poland, and some are to return to the US.

This information has not yet been officially confirmed by the White House, the Pentagon or Berlin. The sources are anonymous informants from the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal. However, no one has contradicted them. The only thing they have said is that "no comment will be made on this at present".

Germany reacted immediately to the reports from overseas. Questioned by journalists on Monday, Defence Ministry chief Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer declined to comment. She said she had not officially received any such information from Washington and would not comment on unofficial media reports.

The head of the German Foreign Ministry, Heiko Mass, reacted similarly. Asked about a potential withdrawal of some US troops, he said that if Berlin received such information, it would take note of it. He added that the decades-long close and good cooperation between Germany and the US had become "complicated" after Donald Trump came to power.

Representatives of Die Linke, the left-wing party, who are traditionally opposed to the US military presence in Germany, also reacted to the reports from overseas. - The withdrawal of American soldiers, along with nuclear weapons, would further free our military from participation in the nuclear cooperation programme and the need for the planned purchase of new US-made bombers, said Sevim Dagdelen, the Die Linke party's spokeswoman for military affairs.

In May, the chairman of the Social Democrats in the Bundestag, who together with the Christian Democrats form the current government coalition, also spoke out against the presence of US nuclear weapons in Germany. Rolf Muetzenich stated that it does not increase the security of Germans, but the opposite. As he explained later, Germany in the current arrangement bears the costs of the presence of American nuclear weapons, not only financially, but has no influence on how the Americans might want to use them.

He stressed, however, that he was not in favour of suddenly removing American bombs from bases in Germany. Instead, he would like this to happen within the framework of international disarmament agreements. The latter is particularly important. Apart from Die Linke, no major political force in Germany is making an unequivocal call for the removal of American nuclear weapons from the country. Opposition to its presence has been in German society since the Cold War, but has never translated into any official government action.

However, the US ambassador to Poland, Georgette Mosbacher, had a very interesting reaction to Muetzenich's rather subdued statement. - If Germany wants to reduce its nuclear capability and weaken NATO, then perhaps Poland, which is diligent in meeting its obligations, understands the risks and is on NATO's eastern flank, could host this capability at home, she wrote on Twitter.

However, there is a very long way between the Ambassador's statements and actual decisions on such a sensitive issue.

Germany probably has about 20 B61 tactical thermonuclear bombs, carried and dropped by aircraft. Their explosive power is adjustable, ranging from the equivalent of a few hundred tons of TNT to 400,000 tons, the power of the Hiroshima bomb times 26. They are all at one base, Buechel, in the west of the country. They remain under American protection and control. The bombs are housed in special slide-out magazines under the floors of shelter-hangars (made of concrete, reinforced shelters for usually one aircraft). When needed, they are ejected and mounted on aircraft standing right next to them. The Germans maintain Panavia Tornado bombers at the base, specially adapted for nuclear strikes.

A promotional video of Sandia National Laboratories, currently engaged in upgrading B61 bombs to the B61-12 standard. They can be seen in many shots.

Germany has a problem with the latter. They are already old and need to be replaced in the coming years. However, their successors must be adapted to carry and drop American nuclear bombs, and this is not a simple matter. Germany would ideally like to buy a larger batch of machines, also for other tasks, to replace the oldest ***Eurofighter*** fighters. Serious consideration was given to purchasing the F-35, or to carrying out the process of modifying ***European*** machines to meet the requirements of American nuclear weapons. Ultimately, however, another option was chosen. ***Eurofighters*** and American F/A-18 Super Hornets will be purchased. These are the 'bombers made in the USA' mentioned by a politician from the left.

However, such a decision has caused a great deal of controversy in Germany, because de facto the German state is specifically buying such aircraft from the USA so that they can carry bombs from the USA. Over which Germany has virtually no control.

American nuclear weapons are in Germany under the terms of the alliance's "nuclear sharing" agreement, which dates back to the 1950s. Under this agreement, the Americans make their nuclear weapons available to the allies and the allies maintain forces capable of using them. However, it remains under full US control until the very end, and it is Washington that decides if and when to use it. The other states are formally complicit in planning its use. This kind of arrangement was intended to further cement NATO, and to relieve some of the burden on US forces by shifting tasks to the allies.

Besides Germany, American nuclear weapons are still in Belgium, the Netherlands, Turkey and Italy. Is it at all realistic for Poland to join this list?

So far, the Polish authorities have officially only denied this. In 2015, after an ambiguous statement by the deputy head of the Ministry of Defense Tomasz Szatkowski, the ministry officially assured that no work on joining the Nuclear Sharing programme was being carried out. In February 2019, when the German daily Der Spiegel claimed that in an interview the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jacek Czaputowicz had unequivocally spoken in favour of the presence of US nuclear weapons in Poland, the ministry strongly denied this. It was claimed that the minister said: "we do not wish this at all".

Even if we tried, it is more than likely that many NATO countries would be opposed to such a move. Moving nuclear weapons to Poland, just across Russia's border, would have a very telling message. The very deployment, albeit temporary, of allied troops in our country has already caused controversy. What is more, NATO made a commitment to Russia in 1997 that it would not move nuclear weapons to the territory of future new Member States.

Moscow would certainly react extremely nervously to such a move. After Mosbacher's statement in May, one Russian parliamentarian claimed that it would be tantamount to the second Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, when the world teetered on the brink of nuclear war after Soviet ballistic missiles were deployed in Cuba, right under the US flank.

Moving nuclear weapons to Poland would therefore most likely mean great tensions within NATO. In the current reality, many allies would not be interested in further antagonising Russia.

Regardless, it is conceivable that the allies' resistance can be appeased and Russia ignored, since after its aggression against Ukraine there are few politicians left who believe the Kremlin's declarations about its commitment to peaceful methods of resolving disputes. The question then remains, why would the Americans want to move nuclear weapons to Poland?

At present, all its storage sites in ***Europe are*** far from Russia's borders. Most of them are about a thousand kilometres away, which is beyond the range of the Iskander ballistic missiles that could be used for a quick, surprise attack. Of course, they remain within the range of other missile systems, but ones that are easier to detect in time and to get planes with bombs into the air in advance. Moving them to bases in Poland would place them within Iskander range, increasing the risk of their destruction while still on the ground.

Moreover, the Polish military has no aircraft capable of carrying B61 bombs. F-16s may be adapted for this purpose, but there is no information that Polish ones are. The costs of modification would most likely have to be borne by us. Even if we did, the number of our F-16s will not increase. Even when all the F-35s arrive in a decade, which can also be adapted to carry the B61, there will still be 80 modern and relatively up-to-date combat aircraft. Not that many for a number of tasks related to the defence of a country the size of Poland. Tethering a dozen or so, or even more of them, to a nuclear mission would be a heavy burden.

Apart from the military aspects, politically the Americans have never expressed any interest in any relocation. In matters of nuclear weapons, Washington is very, but very conservative and secretive. The stockpile of B61 bombs is maintained at the Turkish base of Incirlik despite bad relations (for NATO allies) with the Turkish authorities. In fact, the Greeks had to force the Americans to take the payloads from their territory, withdrawing from service at the turn of the century aircraft capable of carrying them and buying F-16s that were not fit for purpose, although according to unofficial information Washington suggested that some of them should be modified accordingly. The Greeks were to refuse, arguing that they would have too few of them to strap some to a nuclear mission.

By transferring nuclear weapons to Poland, the Americans would therefore have little to gain. What is more, they would cause great tensions within NATO, although the Nuclear Sharing Programme at its core is intended to strengthen ties within the Alliance. In the current situation, such a move is therefore very unlikely. It belongs more to the realm of "political fiction".

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Weapons + Arms (75%); Terrorist Organizations (71%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (65%); Chemistry (65%); Arms Control + Disarmament (64%); Medicine + Health (62%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (70%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Racists and slave traders fall off their pedestals. Britain begins a major review of history***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R1YT-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 793 words

**Byline:** Stanisław Skarżyński, London

**Highlight:** In London, a statue of Robert Milligan, owner of a sugar cane plantation in Jamaica, fell from its plinth. Earlier, Bristol residents drowned a statue of slave trader Edward Colston in the river. Great history review launches across ***Europe***

**Body**

Despite the passage of more than two days, [*pictures of the crowd that toppled and drowned a statue of Edward Colston in Bristol in the river on Sunday*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26013157,wielka-brytania-demonstranci-w-bristolu-obalili-pomnik-handlarza.html) still occupy the front pages of British news outlets[*.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,75399,26013157,wielka-brytania-demonstranci-w-bristolu-obalili-pomnik-handlarza.html)

This 17th century trader made his fortune in the slave trade - his ships took 80-100,000 men, women and children out of Africa, nearly 20% of whom did not survive the transport.

Some therefore believe that Colston should be left at the bottom of Bristol's docks - the trader thus symbolically sharing the fate of his victims thrown overboard on ships bound for the Caribbean.

The events in Bristol have already sparked a national discussion about monuments - the UK's imperial and colonial past, combined with a lack of radical historical turns, means that hundreds of statues stand on plinths built from the suffering of slaves. The Colston monument was erected in 1895.

However, there are also many who oppose the removal of the monuments - and they are by no means those who think it is whimsy, hooliganism or "it is good the way it is".

Sir Geoff Palmer, the first black professor in Scottish history, [*argued in an interview with the BBC that removing monuments would erase history.*](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-52965230) - I don't want monuments to be removed because my view is that by removing the evidence, you remove the deed. The past has consequences and racism is a consequence of the past, so removing [monuments] is very risky because it is changing history, he argued.

He himself advocates the addition of plaques to monuments commemorating racists and slave traders to inform the silent - in the past Sir Geoff has campaigned for such a plaque to appear on Edinburgh's Melville Monument, which commemorates Henry Dundas, the first Viscount Melville, who helped delay the banning of the slave trade by 15 years. His monument was erected in 1823.

Yet another approach was proposed by Banksy, an anonymous artist and happening author, known for his perverse graphics and leftist views, who is associated with Bristol.

[*On Instagram, he proposed pulling Colston's statue from the river, placing it on a pedestal with ropes tied around its neck, and completing the sculpture with bronze figures of those who toppled the monument on Sunday.*](https://www.instagram.com/p/CBNmTVZsDKS/) "Everyone happy and an important day commemorated," he wrote in the post, which has been liked by more than 1.5 million people.

Sadiq Khan announced on Tuesday that London will set up a special commission to review all monuments and street and amenity names. People profiting from slavery and racists will not be allowed to hope to remain in urban spaces.

Moments later, Britain got rid of another statue - this time a statue of Robert Milligan, owner of two sugar cane plantations in Jamaica where 526 slaves worked, was removed from the Museum of London Docklands.

In a statement, the museum wrote that the monument had been "problematic for a long time" and its removal was in response to a petition from the local community. "We recognise that the monument is part of an ongoing problem of whitewashing history and disregarding the pain of those who are still grappling with the consequences of the crimes Milligan committed against humanity," the London museum authorities added.

The decision to review people commemorated on monuments and in names will not just be carried out by London - Manchester also announced such action on Tuesday, and shortly afterwards Labour announced that such reviews would be carried out in all local councils where Labour has a majority.

'Black lives matter' demonstrations have swept the UK in no time - initially an act of solidarity with demonstrators in the United States following the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, but increasingly dominated by the anticipation of another round of reckoning by ***European*** societies with their colonial past.

It is not only in Britain that monuments are falling - in Antwerp, a statue of King Leopold II, responsible for the extremely ruthless exploitation of the Congo that Joseph Conrad described in Heart of Darkness, has been removed.

The debate is widening - a demonstration of thousands gathered outside one of Oxford University's buildings on Tuesday demanding the removal of a statue of Cecil Rhodes from the facade of one of Oxford's high street buildings.

According to members of the Rhodes must fall campaign, who were supported by 26 city council members, this 19th century politician in southern Africa was the embodiment of "white supremacy, rooted in colonialism and racism", and as such must not be further commemorated.

Part of the socially distanced demonstration in Oxford was a silence lasting 8 minutes and 46 seconds - the length of time a white policeman knelt on George Floyd's neck.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

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

**End of Document**

[***On 13 June, Poland opens its borders to citizens of EU countries. Three days later flights within the EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R21G-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 260 words

**Byline:** pawk, IAR

**Highlight:** Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has announced that Poland's borders will be opened to citizens of ***European*** Union countries on 13 June. On 16 June, however, ***intra-EU*** flights will resume.

**Body**

Poland closed its borders to foreigners on 15 March this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. At that time, international passenger connections, both air and domestic, were also suspended.

The changes were announced by Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Wednesday 10 June. The head of government announced that Poland will open its borders to ***EU*** member states on 13 June. He pointed out that this is related to the decreasing number of coronavirus infections in the ***EU***. The head of government added that passenger flights within the community will be launched on 16 June.

Read more: [*Slovakia opens its borders to 16 more countries. Poland is not among them*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,173953,26019008,slowacja-otwiera-granice-dla-kolejnych-16-panstw-wsrod-nich.html)

- We are limiting the decision on borders to the ***EU*** countries for the time being. Contacts with the ***EU*** countries are needed as soon as possible - to return to the previous state," said the Prime Minister.

Even before the official position of the authorities, [*RMF FM*](https://www.rmf24.pl/fakty/news-wiemy-kiedy-polska-zniesie-kontrole-na-granicach-wewnetrznyc,nId,4546902) journalist Katarzyna Szymańska-Borginon wrote a lot about this decision. Controls will be lifted on the ***EU's*** internal borders for residents of the Schengen area. This therefore includes borders with four countries: Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Germany and Lithuania.

At the same time," points out Szymańska-Borginon, "from 13 June, there will no longer be a compulsory two-week quarantine for people who enter Poland.

Poland is abolishing its borders in a non-discriminatory way, which means for all citizens of the Schengen countries, including, for example, the Italians. This means that from Saturday 13 June, Poles will be able to travel freely to those Schengen countries which have been opened up to Poles.

- Szymańska-Borginon points out.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European Union*** (94%); Human Rights Violations (94%); Immigration (93%); ***European Union*** Regulation + Policy (80%); Awards + Prizes (63%); Sweatshops (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***World autocrats celebrate America's moral failure***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R1YY-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1044 words

**Byline:** Pavel Lokshin, Die Welt

**Highlight:** Champagne corks are popping in Moscow and Beijing: the police violence in the USA is being portrayed by autocrats as an ideological failure of the West. And America is in danger of actually losing its role as a model of democracy.

**Body**

A year ago, as this newspaper's correspondent, I wrote about the wave of protests in Moscow. First, thousands demonstrated against police arbitrariness and the fabricated drug case against Ivan Golunov. The demonstrators stood in solidarity with an investigative journalist who had written about police entanglement in the shady Moscow funeral industry and made a lot of enemies. More than 500 people were arrested, many of them minors. The police prevented journalists, including many international correspondents, from working and loaded them into vans.

Later, Muscovites demonstrated against the refusal to allow many opposition candidates to stand in the regional elections. The police were extremely brutal towards the demonstrators, and many generally uninvolved bystanders were beaten and arrested. The outrage at the time was considerable: The Council of ***Europe*** criticised the actions of the Russian police, US politicians of both parties involved in foreign policy expressed solidarity with the "courageous opposition politicians, demonstrators and activists in Russia", Germany's Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called for the swift release of all peaceful demonstrators and the admission of opposition candidates to the elections.

I now often think back to those summer protests in Moscow. I recall the people who took to the streets to put into practice the democratic values that Russia supposedly recognises, at least on paper. I think back to the red lines that the Russian state crossed when it once again showed the world how its apparatus of power treats human rights.

And then I think: at least the police in Moscow did not use tear gas. At least no police car drove into the crowd, as it did in New York. At least no photographer was blinded by a rubber bullet, as Linda Tirado was in Minneapolis. Suddenly police violence in Moscow seems almost moderate to me. The scale is shifting.

It is a frightening comparison, but I am not the only one who thinks of it. Some may consider it inappropriate and call for real differences to be shown, after all you are comparing an authoritarian country with a democracy.

But herein lies the problem: the general public of the world looks on at the shocking police excesses during 'Black Lives Matter' demonstrations in the home of liberal democracy - and sees no difference.

Linda Tirado should also be indifferent to whether the "less lethal" bullet, as the US authorities call it, was fired by the National Guard or local police. Or whether or not Donald Trump's openly far-right rhetoric was to blame.

Investigative platform Bellingcat and the UK's Guardian have documented nearly 150 cases of arrests and violence by US police targeting journalists themselves over the past few days. This level of human rights abuse is unworthy of America. For Washington, much more is at stake than internal divisions - America's standing in the world is at stake.

Autocrats around the globe are already celebrating police violence as an ideological defeat for Washington. Powers like Russia, who air the "double standards of the West" everywhere, are reasserting their world view. In short: everything is just like us in the West, only they have better PR. Unfortunately, the propagandists have hit the nail on the head.

How can Washington credibly claim the rights to demonstrate in Hong Kong or Tehran when they are being called into question in its own country? How can America credibly demand media freedom in Moscow if the police in Minneapolis do not flinch from arresting a three-man crew from CNN on camera?

For people who demand freedoms in autocratic states, the events in Minneapolis are a heavy blow. The country that is the epitome of freedom is failing them.

Zhao Lijian, the spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, did not miss the opportunity in any case to criticise the Americans for "the problem of racism and police violence". The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of Iran - a theocratic regime that stifles any call for civil rights - Abbas Mousavi said that "the world hears the American opposition to oppression". And the Russian foreign ministry did not want to leave the propaganda field entirely to China and the Iranians.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Sakharova stressed that US authorities must not violate "the rights of Americans to peaceful protest". What is happening in the US is an "American tragedy". Washington has "for many years lost the right to instruct the rest of the world".

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov responded to the disappearances of people in his republic by calling on the UN to "prevent extrajudicial killings in the US". TV moderator Vladimir Soloviev, who is loyal to the Kremlin, even called during his programme for sanctions against US politicians for human rights violations because of the murder of George Floyd.

These voices represent cynical power politics in order to damage America's image and score points internally. The Russian Foreign Ministry even publishes annual reports on the state of human rights in the world, which is quite amusing given the situation in Russia.

Of course, in reality neither Russia nor China is interested in human rights in the US or anywhere else. They take every opportunity to immunize themselves against criticism of their own human rights violations. Any form of protest is stifled there - so that their societies generally remain quiet and passive. But the problems exploited by the propagandists in Moscow and Beijing were not invented. The Americans are themselves to blame for the fact that authoritarian powers have been given the opportunity to lecture America on human rights.

How do we deal with this? Pointing out the hypocrisy of critics is not enough. The US must solve the problem of police violence. Not only for its own sake, but also for the sake of people around the world who still believe that America is a "shining city on a hill".

It is important that voices encouraging Washington to do so are also heard in ***Europe***, such as those of the ***EU'***s High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell and German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas. After all, whoever brings freedom to the world must defend it with all his might at home.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Military Weapons (94%); Human Rights Violations (78%); Terrorist Organizations (78%); Chemical + Biological Weapons (70%); Chemistry (70%); Weapons + Arms (70%); Medicine + Health (69%); Law Courts + Tribunals (68%); Torture (68%); Espionage (63%); Arms Control + Disarmament (61%); Awards + Prizes (61%); Medical Science (61%); Physics (61%); Writers (61%)

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

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

**End of Document**

[***No more very cheap airline tickets in Austria. A minimum price has been introduced***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R1YG-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 287 words

**Byline:** KaK

**Highlight:** The Austrian Government has prepared a grant for Austrian Airlines. The airline will receive as much as ***EUR*** 450 million. Another mechanism to save the carrier from bankruptcy is the introduction of a minimum air ticket price in the country.

**Body**

The aviation industry is one of the worst affected by the crisis. There is talk of losses of USD 300 billion. Many smaller [*airlines have*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=linie+lotnicze) already gone bankrupt, or have had to significantly reduce their staff. Poland is not spared from the problems either. PLL LOT is in a very difficult situation, and the minister for state asset s, [*Jacek Sasin, has announced that the company will have to be supported by an external injection of cash.*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/7,151003,25998980,jacek-sasin-dzisiaj-robimy-wszystko-zeby-uratowac-polskie.html)

The Austrian Government has also decided on this solution. However, this is not the only mechanism to protect the country's airlines from bankruptcy.

Austrian Airlines has been owned by [*Lufthansa*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=lufthansa) since 2009. The company had applied for a bailout of ***€767*** million, but this is ultimately less. The Austrian government will contribute $450 million to save the carrier, [*Reuters reports.*](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-lufthansa-austrian/austria-strikes-450-million-bailout-deal-for-lufthansa-unit-sources-say-idUSKBN23F1EN?il=0) The deal assumes that Lufthansa will also subsidise Austrian Airlines with ***€150*** million. The Austrian authorities have decided on such a move in order to secure 7,000 jobs. The ***EUR*** 300 million will come from bank loans, 90 per cent of which will be guaranteed by the government. The remaining 150 million ***euros*** will be granted as grants to the airlines.

The agreement also includes a guarantee to develop Vienna as a transport hub over the next 10 years, in proportion to Munich and Zurich, without preferential treatment for either of them.

[*Austria*](https://next.gazeta.pl/next/0,114763.html?tag=austria) realises that ticket prices and low-cost airlines can be a big problem. That is why the country has introduced a minimum air fare set at ***EUR*** 40. In addition, the government, in which the Greens sit, has pledged to reduce carbon emissions by 2030, so a tax of ***€30*** has been introduced for flights under 350km.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Human Resources + Personnel Management (94%); Securities + Other Investments (78%); Recruitment + Hiring (70%); Employment Services (64%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (74%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Poland will open its borders and resume flights. From Saturday, Poles will not have to undergo quarantine after returning from abroad***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R21J-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 706 words

**Byline:** Edyta Bryla

**Highlight:** The government will restore traffic at Poland's borders from 13 June, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki announced as quoted by the Polish Press Agency.

**Body**

Border controls will be lifted. From 13 June, we will open the borders to the ***European*** Union countries, the head of government said as quoted by the Polish Press Agency.

However, international flights are to be reactivated three days later. - We are getting in touch with LOT today so that LOT can plan the return of its services," explained the Prime Minister, who de facto gives the national carrier six days to restore international operations.

It also means that, as of Saturday, Poles will not have to undergo quarantine on their return from abroad.

However, Morawiecki cannot "open the borders" to other countries, but only to his own. The fact that we can now return to Poland without quarantine obligations does not mean that we can... leave.

Borders are two-way streets: even if we let tourists and fellow countrymen into Poland, it does not mean that they let us in. It is now clear that Poland is not on the list of 'safe' countries in Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia or the Czech Republic, for example. We are forced to wait for these countries to let us in. Some have announced that they will open their borders soon - the Czech Republic, for example, already on Monday. Slovenia, Slovakia and Malta are not yet in favour.

For the time being, we are only talking about flights within the Union's borders; we will not be flying further from Poland. - In some countries of the world, particularly in Latin America and North America, there are still high levels of the disease, but there are also high levels of death. It is clear that the pandemic is still causing great concern there. That is why for the time being we are limiting this decision to the ***European*** Union countries. This is the most important thing for us," Morawiecki said.

Earlier, the government had announced an obligation to block some seats on planes to prevent crowding. Whether it will be enforced remains to be seen.

LOT has been flying since 1 June, but only on domestic routes. It has also added a flight from Rzeszów to Gdańsk and from Kraków to Olsztyn to its regular connections.

Mateusz Morawiecki announced the complete closure of the borders on 15 March. It was to last for 10 days. Polish citizens who were currently outside Poland were allowed to return, but were subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine at home or in a place designated for this purpose by the provincial governor.

Only the following were excluded from quarantine:

\*people from border areas who live in Poland but work every day in a neighbouring country,

\*drivers of wheeled transport such as buses and minibuses.

What does this mean for travellers?

Excluded from the entry ban were foreigners who are spouses or children of Polish citizens, holders of the Card of the Pole and persons with the right of permanent or temporary residence in the territory of the Republic of Poland or a work permit.

International air traffic has also been suspended, with the exception of charter flights.

Poland was the only country in the Union to introduce such restrictions on flying. Other countries, although there was no air traffic, did not administratively ban it.

Dominik Sipinski, an analyst at ch-aviation and Polityka Insight, believes that the flight ban in Poland did not and does not make sense. - I do not know who the ban serves, but it certainly complicates matters. It takes away passengers' confidence and willingness to plan trips," says Sipiński.

Jacek Krawczyk, aviation expert and president of the EESC's Employers' Group, also said that it was difficult to justify a total ban on flights. - This was a national decision without coordination with other states. Polish aviation is now losing out by being excluded from the restart," he said. He admitted, however, that the EU had not done a good job of coordinating aviation, with member states mostly taking decisions on their own.

It is LOT which could suffer most from the ban. Other airlines are already beginning to carry passengers, including those whom LOT would normally serve. We are especially talking about the traffic in our part of ***Europe***, where LOT pretends to be a regional airline. It promotes Warsaw as a hub for Central and Eastern ***Europe*** (although, paradoxically, it has also developed the one in Budapest), where passengers can transfer to ***European*** or further flights.

Dominik Sipiński believes that LOT has been coping quite well with this challenge, but now it is losing the effects of the work it has done. - The company has already announced that it will not fly until the end of the month, although officially the government has suspended the traffic until June 16th. The competition will start taking passengers away from LOT - says Sipiński.

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Industry:** Amusements + Gambling (93%); Organic Chemicals (92%); Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (67%); Destinations + Attractions (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Adam Wajrak: PiS will destroy the country like the Białowieża Forest***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R227-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 298 words

**Byline:** Wrocław Civic Initiative/ Virus Power

**Highlight:** - I have never had any doubts that PiS is the most dangerous party for the environment and Polish nature that came to power after '89 - says Adam Wajrak. Watch the next episode of the "Power Virus" campaign.

**Body**

- In 2017, the PiS government's harvesters entered and crushed the Bialowieza Forest. And people who defended the place were cruelly treated, jerked and beaten. This authority has no regard for nature. It will cross the Vistula Spit, shoot wolves, moose and beavers. It will destroy our country. Therefore, let us not fear the virus. Let us fear this power. Because this power is the real virus that is infecting Poland," says Adam Wajrak.

SEE VIDEO:

Jan Szyszko, appointed by the Law and Justice (PiS) government as Minister of the Environment, allowed [*massive tree felling*](https://wyborcza.pl/10,82983,25261072,grzechy-pis-u-iii-masowa-wycinka-puszczy-bialowieskiej.html) in the Białowieża Forest in 2016-2017. Under the pretext of fighting the bark beetle, 180,000 trees were cut down. In 2017, the Court of Justice of the ***European*** Union ruled that Poland must immediately stop felling trees in the forest, and there was a 100,000 ***euro*** fine per day for violating this ban. It was only this decision that stopped the work of harvesters in the Białowieża Forest.

- Put on your mask, but don't be silent! The constitution has been raped by PiS - says Władysław Frasyniuk. The Solidarity legend, together with a group of activists, have prepared a social campaign called "Wirusem władza", which sums up the rule of PiS.

- With this action we want to remind all citizens that the answer to an authoritarian state is the rule of law, values and principles. A drunkard sticks to the wall, a democrat sticks to the constitution. Remember: the virus is power. Do not be afraid of the coronavirus. Fear this power," Frasyniuk admitted.

The initiator of the "Power Virus" action, Władysław Frasyniuk, former head of the Lower Silesian "Solidarity" trade union, MP and chairman of the Freedom Union, [*appealed to stick to constitutional values at all costs and not give in to the temptation to bend or break the law.*](https://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/7,35771,25895778,frasyniuk-zaloz-maseczke-ale-nie-milcz-konstytucja-zostala.html?_ga=2.15741746.587295133.1591618207-66441682.1589727653)

SEE ALSO:

[*"Don't be afraid of the coronavirus, be afraid of the power". The social campaign "Virus power" has been launched*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,82983,26016414,nie-bojcie-sie-koronawirusa-bojcie-sie-tej-wladzy.html)

**Classification**

**Language:** POLISH; POLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (82%); Engine + Turbine Mfg (73%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Investigations (63%)

**Industry:** Professional Services (94%); Organic Chemicals (87%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Croatia is running away from us. Slovenia has slammed its borders shut on us again, its neighbours are not opening them.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603T-XXH1-JCVT-R1X9-00000-00&context=)

Gazeta Wyborcza

June 10, 2020 Wednesday

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**Length:** 657 words

**Byline:** Edyta Bryla

**Highlight:** Poland is not on the list of safe countries neither in Slovakia nor in Slovenia. This means more and more trouble for tourists who travel by car to the Adriatic Sea.

**Body**

Croatia has been our hit destination - a record one million Poles went there last year. It looked like we would soon be able to go on holiday there again, as Croatia opened its borders, as did Slovenia.

Of course, if you want to go anywhere, you have to go there in your own car. For group travel, the restrictions at certain borders, such as those in Austria, are still tighter. International flights from and to Poland are also still frozen.

But in the second week of June, surprisingly little changes when it comes to travel. Despite the fact that everyone around is opening the borders, leaving Poland is still stuck in a stalemate and even becoming more difficult. The situation at the borders is complicated all the time, and conditions can be different on the two sides of the border. It is possible, for example, to go to Germany without border controls and without the obligation of quarantine in that country, but to enter Poland is already more difficult. Checks are rare, but the quarantine obligation remains in place.

As we wrote the other day, [*although the Czech Republic is closed all the time, it would be possible to get to the Adriatic by way of open Germany.*](https://wyborcza.pl/7,155287,25983229,ktoredy-jechac-nad-adriatyk-da-sie-dzieki-wyjatkowi-w-17-restrykcjach.html) Austria was still a problem, but it can be crossed in transit, without stopping, and thus avoid quarantine.

To avoid quarantine in the next country, Slovenia, in turn, until a few days ago it was enough to have accommodation there - the first of 17 exceptions to the isolation obligation introduced at the end of May. "The only condition is the need to comply with the epidemiological instruction that tourists receive when entering Croatia" - our embassy in Croatia wrote to us in May.

However, that is no longer the case. On Monday, Slovenia announced a list of 17 safe countries from which you can travel without restrictions, and Poland is not on it. Instead, the list includes Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Hungary, Norway, Slovakia and Switzerland. De facto, Slovenia has once again closed itself off from Poland.

"Our citizens who would like to stay longer than 24 hours on Slovenian territory are subject to a 14-day quarantine" - warns the Polish embassy in Ljubljana. The 24-hour window can therefore be used for transit further south, but not for longer rest.

This is not the end of the matter, however, as Poland is also being overlooked by other countries. Poland was not, in fact, the only country which did not join the agreement with the Visegrad Group countries on the opening of border crossings. As a result, on Tuesday, Slovakia also opened its borders - to another 16 countries, but not to Poland.

It was the same on Friday when the Czech Republic opened. "The government has just decided that today at 12 o'clock we are opening the borders with Austria, Germany and Hungary, even if we are not directly neighbouring them. We are not requiring any testing or quarantine for our citizens on their way to and from these countries. On Thursday we lifted restrictions on travel to Slovakia," - Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babisz tweeted at the time.

An open Czech Republic or Slovakia would be our gateway to southern ***Europe***. Unfortunately, the borders are still closed to Poland.

What next? Our government is still wrenching. In theory, by the middle of the month, the controls from our borders should disappear, but it remains to be seen whether their closure will be extended once again. The government also promises to announce its list of safe countries, i.e. countries from which you can return without quarantine obligations. - Various options regarding the possible opening of borders are being considered; decisions will be announced in the coming days rather than hours," deputy foreign minister Szymon Szynkowski vel Sęk was quoted as saying by PAP.

However, it is questionable whether the opening of borders will be reciprocal, in other words, whether these countries will also loosen restrictions on us.

Are you interested in this topic? Write to me at [*edyta.bryla@agora.pl*](mailto:edyta.bryla@agora.pl)

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