

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 5 January 2016

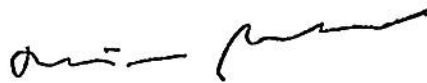
Dear President,

The Council of Europe is following with great attention the latest legislative reforms undertaken by the Polish authorities. I am writing to you today to express my particular concern with regard to the new law on public service broadcasting, adopted by the Sejm, and the impact it may have on the integrity and independence of public service media, as a vital condition for genuine democracy.

A similar concern has also been conveyed by prominent European journalist and freedom of expression associations; the Association of European Journalists, Article 19, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the European and the International Federations of Journalists, Index for Censorship and Reporters without Borders. They have collectively submitted an alert to the Council of Europe platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists, of which they are partners. A copy of their alert is attached.

Against this background, I would like to invite you to open a dialogue with our experts on media freedom as guaranteed by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, in order to have the best possible basis for your consideration before signing this new act into law.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

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