

The information provided by the National Bank of Poland:

Narodowy Bank Polski (the National Bank of Poland - the NBP) declares that the alert entitled '*Attempt to Silence Polish Newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza*' submitted by one of the partner organisations includes false allegations. The statements that the submission by the NBP of the motions for precautionary measures constituted 'an attempt to silence the coverage of KNF scandal by five journalists working for the daily newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*' and that the NBP had 'requested the removal from both, the paper editions and the online articles, of any content related the KNF scandal' (quotations) are false.

Contrary to the information published on the Platform on 7 December 2018, the NBP never filed motions including such requests. Neither did the NBP file any motions with respect to five unspecified journalists of *Gazeta Wyborcza* with a request to ban publications on the KNF scandal.

The brief outline of the problem at the beginning of the alert is unreliable and constitutes an unacceptable manipulation.

The NBP is an institution of public confidence, whose reputation is of pivotal importance for developing national and European financial policy. The constitutional position of the NBP as an institution which has influence on the economic security of the state requires its special protection which is in the interest of every citizen.

The NBP is an injured party as a result of an unlawful attack consisting in the dissemination of unfounded statements violating its personal rights in selected press articles authored by journalists of *Gazeta Wyborcza*, in which it had been suggested that the organs of the NBP acted illegally. These allegations were based on false and unfounded insinuations that the President of the NBP had participated in the so-called "KNF scandal".

NBP's motions are not aimed at restricting the freedom of the press. The NBP as a constitutional organ recognizes and respects the important role of the media in the functioning of the state and emphasised this in the documents submitted to the District Court in Warsaw.

For the above reasons, the NBP has embarked on court proceedings to protect its reputation. The legitimacy of NBP's claims will be decided by an independent and impartial court. The rules of procedure in this case are in accordance with the national and European law, while ensuring all guarantees, both the constitutional ones, as well as those resulting from the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 4 November 1950 and additional protocols, with special emphasis on art. 6 of ECHR (Right to a fair trial), art. 10 of ECHR (Freedom of expression) and art. 13 of ECHR (Right to an effective remedy).

The protection of the reputation of the NBP and its organs as a state institution of strategic importance for the economic security of the Polish state demanded that firm legal steps be taken in order to halt – for the duration of the trial for the protection of personal rights – further damage due to the persistent dissemination of false and unlawful insinuations undermining the personal rights of the organs of the NBP by the journalists indicated in the motions.