



ZWIĄZEK BANKÓW POLSKICH



Business Centre
Club



Związek
Rzemiosła
Polskiego

Warsaw, 16 November 2020

**Appeal of the Entrepreneurship Council to the leaders of 'Zjednoczona Prawica'
(UNITED RIGHT): Jarosław Kaczyński, Zbigniew Ziobro and Jarosław Gowin**

Poland cannot block the acceptance of the new EU budget

Membership in the European Union represents the Polish raison d'état:

- it guarantees Poland a place among the unique community of democratic European states, built upon fundamental rights and values,
- by the vast majority of society, it is considered to be one of the greatest achievements after 1990,
- it strongly positions Poland, along with other EU members, in a divided world, because only united we can successfully face global dangers and challenges,
- it allows building up a strong single market, guarantees the free movement of services, goods, capital, and people,
- it guarantees support and assistance when crisis situations occur,
- finally, EU funds have provided Poland with exceptional support.

Since Poland accession to the EU in 2004, it has received funding of almost EUR 190 billion, while our contribution to the EU budget has amounted to slightly over EUR 60 billion. The balance is obvious then: EUR 130 billion has been invested in the economy, infrastructure, new jobs, transfer of modern technologies, and management methods. Due to the hard work and entrepreneurship of all Poles and effective use of these funds, we have managed to achieve faster economic and social growth. Our share in the export and import of goods and services have increased. As Poles, we can feel as Europeans.

However, EU Membership is not just only receiving additional money for the sake of the Polish economy, but something far more important than this. It is also an image of our country in the eyes

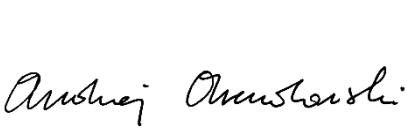
of European and global investors that we have been building up for many years. Poland has earned the name of a stable, law-abiding country, guaranteeing the security of investment and business operations. **The statements being presently made by the Polish government – against the proposed principle of linking the disbursement of EU funds with compliance with the law – clearly undermine investors' confidence in these principles being fully observed in Poland.** This directly affects the level of investments in our country and the prospects for both economic and social growth.

We are right in the middle of a critical juncture in the pandemic and, hence, in the danger of crisis. The establishment of a recovery fund agreed upon at the July EU summit and almost doubling the EU budget for the coming years is a plan for the collective saving of the economic and social order. **Blocking the possibility of establishing the recovery fund in the EU will deprive Poland of access to assistance worth over EUR 60 billion. It will also lead to a situation where our county is left alone and at odds with our hitherto allies in Europe. Should we not accept the aid in question, we will not be able to effectively protect the economy, jobs, family incomes, social standards, nor build up resilience in the face of subsequent crises.**

We, hereby, appeal to the Government for effective cooperation with the EU institutions and its leaders. Emphasising ideological matters in the course of the ongoing negotiations and imposing conditions by the Polish Government is an unacceptable matter for a democratic Europe. Such an attitude shall deprive Poland of assistance, without which Polish entrepreneurs will not be capable of saving their companies, while the existing sales and supply chains will be broken down.

The European Union can cope without Poland, but Poland without the Union – cannot!

Once again, we appeal for common sense and responsibility - for the sake of Poles and the Polish economy.



Andrzej Arendarski
Polish Chamber of Commerce



Marek Kowalski
Federation of Polish Entrepreneurs



Jolanta Jaworska
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Maciej Witucki
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Polish Bank Association



Jan Gogolewski
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