



**kampania
przeciw
homofobii**

Joseph Daul
President
European People's Party

Dear Mr. President,

as Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH), a Polish civil society organization working for the equal rights of LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) individuals and their families, we welcome the adoption of the Urtasun report on equality between women and men in the European Union in 2014-2015. We see it as an important step forward towards providing all citizens of the European Union with the protection of their basic rights and enabling them to fully participate in social life. We see the requests towards States to adopt measures to protect LGBTI people against harassment in the workplace and discrimination in other areas of life as especially vital.

Nonetheless, we observed with regret that the European People's Party and their Polish Members: Platforma Obywatelska and Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe, in majority, did not vote in favour of this resolution.

Discrimination of women and LGBTI individuals and violence against them are Union-wide problems and the Urtasun report and following recommendations provide basic Union-wide solutions. They use inclusive language and urge Member States to include also transgender and intersex people in their gender equality measures. They also provide LGBTI people with the recognition of their basic victims' rights, as outlined in the Victims' Rights Directive. These are issues the European Union has a competence in and its duty is to ensure that these rights are available to all citizens. We find it outrageous that MEPs of the European People's Party did not support these changes. We see it is an attempt to remain neutral on human rights violations and, through that, encourage the support of conservative and eurosceptic voters. Which is even more worrying as the track record of the EPP on LGBTI rights and gender equality used to be positive.

We urge you to revisit your commitments to economic growth and to an inclusive society. And we stress that we monitor your activities both on the European level and on the Polish parliamentary level. We will keep our community informed about your actions, especially in the periods preceding the next Elections to the European Parliament and the Polish Parliamentary Elections.

With regards,

A. Chaber
Executive Director of KPH

CC:

International Secretary of Platforma Obywatelska: Rafał Trzaskowski

International Secretary of Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe: Joanna Jarecka-Gomez