

Nicolas Schmit
EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

Elisa Ferreira
EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

To the knowledge of:

Council for Public Benefit Activities
Prime Minister's Office
Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy
Human Rights Commissioner, prof. Marcin Wiącek

13 December 2022

Dear Commissioner Schmit and Commissioner Ferreira,

We, the undersigned European and Polish LGBTI and women's rights organisations, are writing to you concerning the candidacy and selection of Ordo Iuris, an organisation working actively and explicitly against LGBTI rights, sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality and women's rights, and EU values, as member of Monitoring Committees for national and regional programs financed from the Cohesion Fund for 2021-2027 in Poland.

Monitoring Committees are a crucial way to ensure NGO participation and oversight on the management of EU funds, including to ensure that the funds reach projects and organisations that comply with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and EU values. We are deeply appreciative for the elaboration of a strong Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) which requires effective mechanisms to be in place to ensure compliance with the Charter, and includes the application of a horizontal principle of non-discrimination which applies at any stage of the fund planning, implementation and evaluation. The CPR specifically states that members of the monitoring committees should include "relevant bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination." In our opinion Ordo Iuris not only does not meet the CPR requirements, but actively works on pro-discrimination policies and strengthening anti-European sentiments.

We appreciate the efforts made by the Commission in recent years regarding fundamental rights conditionality in Poland when it comes to discrimination against LGBTI people. However, the selection and pre-selection of Ordo Iuris as a member of the aforementioned monitoring committees represents a direct danger to ensuring that these funds are implemented in compliance with the Charter and principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

Ordo Iuris has been actively attacking LGBTI, sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality and women's rights, working against the anti-discrimination law and arguing against the need for hate crime regulations (e.g. encouraging people [to submit petitions](#) against the EU legislative initiative on gender-based and transphobic hate speech on the Internet), advocating against the Directive on quotas in leadership positions and gender equality in the workplace, [advocating for Poland to withdraw from](#) the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, or fighting [against access to abortion](#) and mobilising people to join numerous actions [against equality, non-discrimination and EU values](#). They are also the authors of the discriminatory [Family Rights Charters](#) that encourage local governors to exclude funding for marriage equality activities, defend so-called "LGBT-free zones" and regularly use SLAPPs against LGBTI and women's rights defenders. Please find in addition the attached complaint from various MEPs regarding the violation by Ordo Iuris of the European Parliament's code of conduct for the transparency register, which details more of its harmful activities.

In our opinion the activities and statements undertaken by Ordo Iuris demonstrates that they have failed to adhere to the principles and values listed in Article 2 of the Treaty, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and other anti-discrimination provisions as well as the EU legal system. Adherence to such values and principles should be a key criterion for non-governmental groups preselected as candidates for EU funds Monitoring Committees.

We would like to ask for a meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss this situation and possible remedies to ensure that organisations directly working against EU values and the Charter of Fundamental Rights do not have an opportunity to impact the methodology and criteria for project selection financed from EU funds in the monitoring committee.

Once again, we reiterate our gratitude for the work you have done so far in ensuring that EU money is spent in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination, and we are ready to help you further ensure that this intention is achieved as thoroughly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

KPH - Kampania Przeciw Homofobii

FEDERA - Fundacja na rzecz Kobiet i Planowania Rodziny

ILGA-Europe - European region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

IPPF EN - The International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network

Human Rights Watch

European Civic Forum (ECF) - a network of more than 100 NGOs and associations in 29 European countries

Center for Reproductive Rights

Women's Link Worldwide