**The EU urges Polish government to respect the Rule of Law**

**Original Script Date:** January 19, 2016

**Script Version:** 1

**Locations:** European Parliament, Strasbourg; Warsaw, Poland

**Dates Shot:** January 19, 2016, May 22, 2014

**Sound:** natural with English speech

**Duration:**  2:30

**Source:** S&D group

**Restriction:** none

**Intro**

*Strasbourg, 19th of January.* Today in Strasbourg, a high-level discussion has been held within the European Institutions and in presence of the Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło on the recent developments in Poland which may threaten the Rule of Law.

**This broadcast quality video package contains 1 "ready-to-air" video, 1 B-ROLL and stock shots (3 videos).**

**The content In details:**

* Extracts of the plenary debate and statement by the Vice-President of the EU Commission, the Dutch **Frans Timmermans**(audio English)
* Interview with S&D President, the Italian **Gianni Pittella** (audio English)
* Interview with S&D Member, the Hungarian **Péter Niedermüller** (audio English)
* Interview with S&D Vice-President, the Slovene **Tanja Fajon** (audio English)
* Stock shots on Warsaw and on the last days of the 2014 electoral campaign in Poland.

**Shotlist**

FRANCE, STRASBOURG (JANUARY 19, 2015) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG (EXTERIOR)
2. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE DEBATE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN POLAND
3. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

« Today in Strasbourg, in the presence of the Polish Prime Minister, a high-level discussion has been held within the European institutions on the recent developments in Poland which may threaten the Rule of Law. The new ruling party “Law & Justice” have been suspected of trying to curb the power of the constitutional tribunal and to interfere in the management of the public broadcaster. »

1. FRANS TIMMERMANS (VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“Mutual trust between European Member States and their respective legal system depends on the confidence that the rule of Law is observed in all Member States. When national Rule of Law safeguards seem to come under threat, the EU needs to act. ”

5. CUTAWAY: GIANNI PITTELLA TALKING TO JOURNALISTS

1. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

« As well as supporting the EU Commission and Council decision to investigate further, Socialist & Democrat MEPs send a message of solidarity to the Polish people. »

1. GIANNI PITTELLA (PRESIDENT OF THE S&D) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“We want to reaffirm our solidarity and our friendship with the Polish people. And we want to verify if some legislations from Poland are compatible with the European law.”

1. CUTAWAY: PETER NIEDERMULLER TALKING TO A JOURNALIST
2. PETER NIEDERMULLER (S&D MEMBER) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“This is not a debate against Poland neither against Polish people. This is a debate about the politics of the current Polish government.”

1. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

« S&Ds concretely criticize the recent packing of judges chosen by the government in the Constitutional Court, in breach of the Constitution. The recent rehabilitation of a minister who had been convicted of abuse of power also puts the independence of judiciary at risk. »

POLAND, WARSAW (MAY 22, 2014) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE CITY OF WARSAW IN POLAND

FRANCE, STRASBOURG (JANUARY 19, 2015) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. PETER NIEDERMULLER (S&D MEMBER) SAYING (ENGLISH):

« The independence of Justice is crucial for any Member States in the European Union because the EU is not only an economic or a political community, this is also a community of values and norms. “

1. CUTAWAY: TANJA FAJON TALKING TO HER ASSISTANT
2. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

« Another point of tension relates to the newly reformed process of choosing the management of the public broadcaster. An action which could be a first step in exerting undue influence over the Polish media. »

1. CUTAWAY: TANJA FAJON TALKING TO HER ASSISTANT
2. TANJA FAJON (S&D VICE-PRESIDENT) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“As a former journalist, I have to say that it’s crucial to have critical and responsible media. That means that the authorities have to do everything to ensure the independence of media and freedom of speech. The politicians and the politics should not interfere neither have a direct influence on how the media structure should be. “

1. CUTAWAY: TANJA FAJON AND PETER NIEDERMULLER AMONGST OTHERS LISTENING TO THE DEBATE ON POLAND
2. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

« MEPs hope that this message will be heard by the Polish government and will vote on a resolution on that matter during the next plenary session in February. »

**Story**

Today in Strasbourg, a high-level discussion has been held within the European Institutions and in presence of the Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło on the recent developments in Poland which may threaten the Rule of Law.

The new ruling party "Law and Justice" have been suspected of trying to curb the power of the constitutional court and to interfere in the management of the public broadcaster. Led by the Socialist & Democrat Group, MEPs concretely criticize the recent packing of judges chosen by the government to the Constitutional Court, in breach of the Constitution. The rehabilitation of a minister who had been convicted of abuse of power also puts the independence of judiciary at risk.

Another point of tension relates to the newly reformed process of choosing the management of the public broadcaster. An action which could be a first step in exerting undue influence over the Polish media.

Stating that they can't accept politics which go against the fundamental values of the European Union, MEPs will vote on a resolution during the next plenary session (1-4 February) and hope this strong signal will be heard by the Polish government.