



VĚRA JOUROVÁ  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Rue de la Loi, 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Tel. +32-2 295 51 44  
cab-jourova-contact@ec.europa.eu

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Dear Mr. Bodnar,

I am writing you to express my gratitude for your work as Rzecznik Praw Obywatelskich – the Ombudsman.

The institution of ombudsman is a key element in the democratic system of checks and balances. It is essential and necessary in the development and maintenance of a transparent and accountable democracy. And since 2015, you, as the Polish Ombudsman, have ensured this role with the highest professionalism and dedication to assist people in defending rights and resolving conflicts or concerns. Your actions at national and European level be it regarding non-discrimination, gender equality, assisting the vulnerable groups, ensuring consumer protection or defending the rule of law and free media, to name only some areas, have been highly welcomed and recognized by the European Commission. As noted in the Commission's 2020 Annual Rule of Law Report, the institution of the Ombudsman in Poland has been playing an important role in defending the rule of law and fundamental rights. It also plays a key role in promoting and protecting equal treatment of people living in Poland in its role of designated equality body under EU law.

As your mission ends, I would like to thank you and your team for your work, having taken such an active stance in the defence of EU values and rights. I would like to also acknowledge your cooperation with the Commission and the role of your Office in promoting equality and democracy across Europe.

Mr Adam Bodnar  
Human Rights Ombudsman of Poland  
[abodnar@swps.edu.pl](mailto:abodnar@swps.edu.pl)

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. Defending democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law is never the job of only one person or institution. It is a joint effort by all of us in our various institutional roles or in our daily life as citizens. I am convinced that you will continue to defend these values also in your future capacity. The Commission will also continue to play its part in line with its competencies and as guardian of the Treaty.

I want to thank you once again for your hard work, determination and conviction. I am confident our professional paths will cross again in the future and I am looking forward to that.

Yours sincerely,



Věra Jourová