

Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi/ Wetstraat 200
BE-1049 Brussels 1

Dear President von der Leyen,

December 7th, 2020

The governments of Hungary and Poland have yet again showed their utter disregard for the core values of our union by rejecting the rule of law conditionality and thereby blocking the EU's next long-term budget, including the allocation of badly needed COVID-19 recovery aid. Under the disguise of anti-immigration ideology and nationalistic rhetoric, they seek to protect a political system based on unlimited power, cronyism and a wholly manipulated public sphere.

We, Polish and Hungarian local leaders condemn Mr. Orbán's and Mr. Morawiecki's actions. Representing millions of Hungarians and Poles, we express our support for the rule of law safeguards and for a thorough oversight of EU funds to ensure that our common resources serve the public good, and not antidemocratic and corrupt interests.

While we still hope that our governments will at last concede to the original budget proposal and acquiesce to the rule of law mechanism, we believe that an intergovernmental agreement without Hungary and Poland on the Next Generation EU is now a real alternative. For that unfortunate turn of events, let us offer a prospective solution that would not only provide badly needed EU-assistance to our countries, but would also offer a prospective remedy to the challenge that our increasingly authoritarian governments represent.

In case of an intergovernmental agreement without Hungary and Poland, we propose that the EU uses the resources originally allocated in the Next Generation EU for Hungary and Poland to create a Recovery and Resilience Fund for Polish and Hungarian municipalities so that they can drive forward a sustainable and socially just economic recovery. We will guarantee full transparency and accountability, as well as full alignment with the values and stated objectives of the European Union.

The current crisis has painfully highlighted Europe's decade-long untreated illness: democratic backsliding and authoritarianism in certain member states. Europe must not let increasingly autocratic governments hold our future hostage.

At this time of multiple crises, the European Union has a duty to safeguard the well-being of all its citizens and drive a sustainable economic recovery. We, Hungarian and Polish municipalities stand ready to play a constructive role.

Sincerely yours,

Gergely Karácsony, Mayor of Budapest

Rafał Trzaskowski, Mayor of Warsaw

Béla Schwartz, Mayor of Ajka

László Fazekas, Mayor of Albertirsa

Klára Nyirati, Mayor of Baja

Péter Hegedűs, Mayor of Balmazújváros

Tamás Wittinghoff, Mayor of Budaörs

Márta Naszályi V, Mayor of District I, Budapest

Gergely Örsi, Mayor of District II, Budapest

László Kiss, Mayor of District III, Budapest

Tibor Déri, Mayor of District IV, Budapest

Tamás Soproni, Mayor of District VI, Budapest

Péter Niedermüller, Mayor of District VII, Budapest

András Pikó, Mayor of District VIII, Budapest

Krisztina Baranyi, Mayor of District IX, Budapest

Imre László, Mayor of District XI, Budapest

József Tóth, Mayor of District XIII, Budapest

Csaba Horváth, Mayor of District XIV, Budapest

Angéla Németh Cserdiné, Mayor of District XV, Budapest

Sándor Szaniszló, Mayor of District XVIII, Budapest

Péter Gajda, Mayor of District XIX, Budapest

Tamás Pintér, Mayor of Dunaújváros

László Csózik, Mayor of Érd

György Gémesi, Mayor of Gödöllő

György Hiesz, Mayor of Gyöngyös

Gábor Üveges, Mayor of Hernádszentandrás

Péter Márky-Zay, Mayor of Hódmezővásrhely

Péter Szitka, Mayor of Kazincbarcika

Antal Máté, Mayor of Nyírbátor

Dávid Janiczak, Mayor of Ózd

Attila Péterffy, Mayor of Pécs

József Tóth, Mayor of Polgár

István Leidinger, Mayor of Pomáz

István Vécsi, Mayor of Ricse

Róbert Lengyel, Mayor of Siófok

László Botka, Mayor of Szeged

Zsolt Fülöp, Mayor of Szentendre

András Nemény, Mayor of Szombathely

Ilona Szűcsné Posztovics, Mayor of Tatabánya

Piotr Całbecki, Marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship

Elżbieta Polak, Marshal of the Lubuskie Voivodeship

Adam Struzik, Marsha of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship

Andrzej Bula, Marshal of the Opolskie Voivodeship

Mieczysław Struk, Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship

Marcin Kuchciński, Deputy Marshal of the Warmińsko-Mazurskiego Voivodeship

Marek Woźniak, Marshal of the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship

Olgierd Geblewicz, Marshal of the Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship

Beata Sokołowska, Mayor of Biała Piska

Emilia Bury, Mayor of Białogard

Tadeusz Truskolaski, Mayor of Białystok

Jarosław Borowski, Mayor of Bielsk Podlaski

Jarosław Klimaszewski, Mayor of Bielsko-Biała

Arkadiusz Dobek, Head of the Biskupiec Commune

Małgorzata Dąbrowska, Head of the Bończa Village

Paweł Pirek, Mayor of Brzeg Dolny

Jerzy Adamowicz, Head of the Brzeźnica Commune

Józef Markiewicz, Head of the Budry Commune

Paweł Adam, Mayor of Buk

Rafał Bruski, Mayor of Bydgoszcz

Mariusz Wołosz, Mayor of Bytom

Mariusz Chojnacki, Head of the Ceków Kolonia Commune

Arseniusz Finster , Mayor of Chojnice

Andrzej Saternus, Mayor of Chełmek

Andrzej Kotala, Mayor of Chorzów

Jacek Gursz, Mayor of Chodzież

Ignacy Miecznikowski, Head of the Cieszków Commune

Zbigniew Szaleniec, Mayor of Czeladź

Marcin Wojtkowiak, Head of the Czerwonak Commune

Bartłomiej Sabat, Deputy Mayor of Częstochowa

Radosław Głazewski, Head of the Darłowo Commune

Arkadiusz Klimowicz, Mayor of Darłowo

Wojciech Błoński, Head of the Długotłęka Commune

Teresa Dera, Head of the Dobra Commune

Jerzy Ulbin, Head of the Dobromierz Commune

Grzegorz Brochocki, Head of the Dolice Commune

Paweł Cieśliński, Head of the Działdowski Powiat

Grzegorz Kosowski, Head of Dzierżonowski Powiat

Dariusz Kucharski, Mayor of Dzierżoniów

Witold Wróblewski, Mayor of Elbląg

Marek Chojnowski, Head of the Ełcki Powiat

Tomasz Andrukiewicz, Mayor of Ełk

Zbigniew Pietkiewicz, Mayor of Frombork

Aleksandra Duliewicz, Mayor of Gdańsk

Mirosław Drzażdżewski, Head of the Giżycki Powiat

Jarosław Dudkowiak, Head of the Głogowski Powiat

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Piotr Gruszczyński, Head of the Gnieźnieński Powiat

Tomasz Budasz, Mayor of Gniezno

Robert Krupowicz, Mayor of Goleniów

Arkadiusz Strzyżewski, Mayor of Góra Kalwaria

Bożena Olszewska-Świtaj, Head of the Górowo Iławeckie Commune

Jacek Kostka, Mayor of Górowo Iławeckie

Olgiard Poniżnik, Mayor of Gryfów Śląski

Jerzy Sirak, Mayor of Hajnówka

Bartosz Bielawski, Head of the Iławski Powiat

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Jan Chwiędacz, Mayor of Imielin

Dorota Zmarzlak, Head of the Izabelin Commune

Emilian Bera, Mayor of Jawor

Leszek Orpel, Mayor of Jedlin-Zdrój

Jerzy Łuzniak, Mayor of Jelenia Góra

Andrzej Żygadło, Mayor of the Kańczuga City and Commune

Waldemar Miśko, Mayor of Karlino

Grzegorz Gołuński, Mayor of Kartuzy

Marcin Krupa, Mayor of Katowice

Sabina Nowosielska, Mayor of Kędzierzyn-Koźle

Rafał Ryszczuk, Mayor of Kisielice

Wiesław Tkaczuk, Head of the Kiwity Commune

Maciej Awizeń, Head of the Kłodzki Powiat

Michał Piszko, Mayor of Kłodzko

Małgorzata Schwarz, Head of the Kołbaskowo Commune

Anna Mieczkowska, Mayor of Kołobrzeg

Jan Broda, Head of the Komorniki Commune

Piotr Kortykowski, Mayor of Konin

Mirosław Lech, Head of the Korycin Commune

Szymon Matysek, Mayor of Kostrzyn

Piotr Jedliński, Mayor of Koszalin

Elżbieta Zakrzewska, Mayor of Kowary

Stefan Kitela, Mayor of Krajenka

Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of Kraków

Marek Cebula, Mayor of Krosno Odrzańskie

Andrzej Biały, Head of the Krośnice Commune

Grzegorz Garczyński, Head of the Krośnieński Powiat

Bartłomiej Kłoczko, Head of the Kruklanki Commune

Roman Kaczmarczyk, Mayor of Łądek-Zdrój

Maciej Wiśniewski, Deputy of the Leszczyński Powiat

Jolanta Batycka Wąsik, Head of the Lesznowola Commune

Joanna Klimek-Szymanowicz, Head of the Lewin Kłodzki Commune

Jan Harhaj, Head of the Lidzbarski Powiat

Fabian Andrukajtis, Head of the Lidzbark Warmiński Commune

Jacek Wiśniowski, Mayor of Lidzbark Warmiński

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Krzysztof Żuk, Mayor of Lublin

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Hanna Zdanowska, Mayor of Łódź

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Radosław Nowakowski, Head of the Malechowo Commune

Grzegorz Podlejski, Head of the Mierzęcice Commune

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Stanisław Piechula, Mayor of Mikołów

Sławomir Strzelecki, Head of the Milicki Powiat

Piotr Lech, Mayor of Milicz

Andrzej Potyra - Head of the Myśliborski Powiat

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Tomasz Waruszewski, Head of the Nowe Miasto Lubawskie Commune

Tomasz Klikiński, Mayor of Nowa Ruda

Jarosław Burba, Mayor of Nowe Warpno

Andrzej Ochlak, Head of the Nowomiejski Powiat

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Tomasz Szrama, Mayor of Oborniki Wielkopolskie

Marian Janicki, Mayor of Odolanów

Joanna Michalska, Deputy of the Olsztyński Powiat

Piotr Grzymowicz, Mayor of Olsztyn

Arkadiusz Wiśniewski, Mayor of Opole

Ireneusz Popiel, Mayor of Orneta

Roman Napierała, Mayor of Ostroróg

Jarosław Gorczyński, Mayor of Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski

Beata Klimek, Mayor of Ostrów Wielkopolski

Patryk Jędrowiak, Mayor of Ostrzeszów

Marcin Niedziela, Head of the Oświęcimski Powiat

Andrzej Chwierut, Mayor of Oświęcim

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Daniel Putkiewicz, Mayor of Piaseczno

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Piotr Głowski, Mayor of Piła

Andrzej Szymborski, Mayor of Pisz

Arkadiusz Ptak, Mayor of Pleszew

Andrzej Nowakowski, Mayor of Płock

Grzegorz Lipski, Mayor of Polanów

Władysław Diakun, Mayor of Police

Sebastian Witek, Mayor of Połczyn-Zdrój

Janusz Bojkowski, Head of the Postomino Commune

Dawid Litwin, Head of the Potęgowo Commune

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Jan Grabkowski, Head of Poznański Powiat

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Janusz Wróbel, Mayor of Pruszcz Gdański

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Hanna Pruchniewska, Mayor of Puck

Witold Liszkowski, Head of the Puńsk Commune

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Bartosz Derech, Head of the Rokietnica Commune

Zbigniew Kudrzycki, Head of the Rozogi Commune

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Marcin Marzec, Mayor of Sandomierz

Jacek Kolesiński, Head of the Siedlec Commune

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Adam Woś, Mayor of Sieniawa City and Commune

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Krzysztof Frankenstein, Mayor of Sławno

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Jacek Karnowski, Mayor of Sopot

Józef Maciejewski, Head of the Sorkwity Commune

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Mariusz Marek, Head of the Stara Kamienica Commune

Magdalena Szydełko, Head of the Stare Kurowo Commune

Andrzej Wyganowski, Mayor of Stepnica

Dariusz Chromiec, Mayor of Stronie Śląskie City and Commune

Grzegorz Wojtera, Head of the Suchy Las Commune

Krzysztof Pietrzykowski, Mayor of Susz

Marian Szkudlarek, Mayor of Swarzędz

Beata Hanyżak, Head of the Szamotulski Powiat

Daniel Rak, Mayor of Szczecinek

Jarosław Matlach, Head of the Szczycieński Powiat

Krzysztof Mańkowski, Mayor of Szczytno

Mirosław Graf, Mayor of Szklarska Poręba

Mirosław Gąsik, Mayor of Szprotawa

Ernest Iwańczuk, Head of the Średzki Powiat

Adam Lewandowski, Mayor of Śrem

Beata Moskal-Słaniewska, Mayor of Świdnica

Piotr Fedorowicz, Head of the Świdnicki Powiat

Izabela Mazurkiewicz, Deputy of the Świdnica Commune (Lubuskie Voivodeship)

Tomasz Sielicki, Mayor of Świebodzin

Alicja Kołakowska, Head of the Świętajno Commune

Roman Ciepela, Mayor of Tarnów

Mirosław Pobłocki, Mayor of Tczew

Izabela Staszak, Head of the Trzebiel Commune

Małgorzata Matusiak, Head of Trzebnicki Powiat

Romuald Antosik, Mayor of Turek

Andrzej Dziuba, Mayor of Tychy

Bartosz Romowicz, Mayor of Ustrzyki Dolne

Andrzej Szełemej, Mayor of Wałbrzych

Maciej Zebrowski, Mayor of Wałcz

Bogdan Wankiewicz, Head of the Wałecki Powiat

Elżbieta Jedlecka, Head of the Wądroże Wielkie Commune

Jarosław Berendt, Mayor of Wągrowiec

Grzegorz Zapadka, Mayor of Wielbark

Artur Kozioł, Mayor of Wieliczka

Bogusław Szczerba, Head of the Wilczęta Commune

Grzegorz Dziubek, Mayor of Włoszczowa

Mieczysław Kieca, Mayor of Wodzisław Śląski

Tomasz Szczerba, Mayor of Wojkowice

Wojciech Lis, Mayor of Wolsztyn

Jacek Skrobisz, Head of the Wolsztyński Powiat

Elżbieta Radwan, Mayor of Wołomin

Dariusz Chmura, Mayor of Wołów

Jacek Sutryk, Mayor of Wrocław

Dionizy Jaśniewicz, Head of the Wrzesiński Powiat

Konrad Antkowiak, Mayor of Wschowa

Robert Sidoruk, Head of the Zabór Commune

Roman Fester, Head of the Ząbkowicki Powiat

Rafał Gronicz, Mayor of Zgorzelec

Robert Lewandowski, Mayor of Żmigród