

- working translation -

**Statement of the Law and Justice delegation in the ECR Group
in the European Committee of the Regions**

Bearing in mind the written text sent to the members of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) on 25th November this year titled " Statement of the Polish delegation to the European Committee of the Regions on the threat by the Polish and Hungarian governments to block the multi-annual EU budget and Recovery Fund", which does not include the date nor the information on the procedure for its adoption nor the signature of the chairman of the Polish delegation, we jointly underline that:

- This statement was prepared and distributed in a manner inconsistent with democratic principles and accepted practices,
- Our comments on the statement were not taken into account or commented on,
- The need to organize a meeting of the Polish delegation on such an important issue was not considered,
- The last meeting of the Polish delegation in the European Committee of the Regions took place in February 2020, despite the fact that our members signalled the need for more common dialogue,
- We are always open to dialogue with members of the Polish delegation affiliated to other political parties.

As members of the European Committee of the Regions, we all represent the interests of our local and regional communities, which should be preventing us from political battles concerning decisions taken at the government level.

We should agree to embark on the path of dialogue, because:

- All European governments want the EU budget to be adopted as soon as possible as well as the Recovery Fund, especially in view of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,
- The Polish government understands this urgent need and makes every effort to be part of a compromise acceptable to all parties, whereas the use of aggressive rhetoric does not bring us any closer to achieving this goal.

We believe that the European Committee of the Regions should be used to build good international cooperation between local governments, EU institutions and central authorities and not to provoke political disputes.

The position was adopted on November 26, 2020 and signed by:

Grzegorz Schreiber, Marshal of the Łódzkie Region

Robert Kościuk, Mayor of Krasnystaw

Witold Kozłowski, Marshal of the Małopolska Region

Paweł Grzybowski, Mayor of Rypin

Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region

Jarosław Stawiarski, Marshal of the Lubelskie Region