



COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Marcin Wiącek

Warsaw, 19 July, 2022

**H.E.
Marzenna Guz-Vetter
Acting Head of the European
Commission Representation
in Poland**

Excellency,

I use this opportunity to contact you, Ms Ambassador with reference to the third annual Rule of Law Report published recently by the European Commission.

I would like to refer particularly to an excerpt from the report on the budget of the Ombudsman institution in Poland: "As in previous years since 2016, the public authorities have not increased the budget allocated to the Ombudsperson's office for the year 2022, thereby limiting its capacity to exercise its role (207), even though the Office is intensely involved in the humanitarian situation at the Polish Belarussian border and provides assistance to refugees from Ukraine".

In my capacity as the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland, I feel obliged to inform about inaccuracy in this passage, as in the second half of 2021 the Ombudsman institution of Poland received additional funds from the state budget for the financial year 2022. However, this is still insufficient in relation to the needs of the institution, taking into account the increased scope of responsibilities caused by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

With assurances of my highest consideration,

/Marcin Wiącek/