

Question for written answer E-005206/2021/rev.1
to the Council
Rule 138
Samira Rafaela (Renew)

Subject: Funding Polish civil society organisations that protect sexual and reproductive health and rights

Poland's illegitimate Constitutional Tribunal imposed a near-total ban on abortion in the country on 22 October 2020. This blatant attack on women's rights has already had severe consequences. Polish and international NGOs have assisted thousands of women with safely terminating their pregnancies¹. Recently, a pregnant woman died after doctors refused to abort the foetus, instead opting to wait for it to die naturally inside her uterus.

The Parliament resolutions on the de facto ban on the right to abortion in Poland of 26 November 2020² and the first anniversary of the de facto abortion ban in Poland of 11 November 2021³ both call on the Council, Commission and Member States to provide funding for Polish civil society organisations that protect sexual and reproductive health and rights. So far, the Belgian Government is the only Member State that has reserved funding for these organisations.

1. Has the Council provided any funding to Polish civil society organisations that protect sexual and reproductive health and rights?
2. What efforts has the Council made to urge Member States to provide funding to Polish civil society organisations and follow the example of the Belgian Government?
3. How is the Council planning to coordinate between the different Member States that are willing to provide funding and assist civil society organisations with helping Polish women to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights?

¹ <https://www.safeabortionwomensright.org/news/abortion-without-borders-has-helped-more-than-17000-in-the-six-months-after-polish-constitutional-court-ruling/>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0336_EN.html

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0455_EN.html