



Brussels, April, 1st 2009

**NO TO THE PRESENCE OF THOSE WHO MAKE RACIST, ANTI-SEMITIC
AND XENOPHOBIC COMMENTS, AT THE HEAD OF PUBLIC MEDIA**

The AEDH joins with Otwarta Rzeczpospolita - Open Republic to its protest against the appointment of a neo-fascist to the position of President of the Polish public television, TVP and calls for vigilance regarding the persistence and the increase of anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Poland

Feeling civic helplessness regarding the situation resulting from the appointment as the persons performing the duties of the President of TVP of the ex-neo-Nazi Piotr Farfał, on March 27 we sent a letter to the Speaker of the Sejm, Speaker of the Senate, Prime Minister, Minister of the State Treasury, MPs and Senators. In this letter we call for taking steps leading to the dismissal of Piotr Farfał.

Warsaw, March 26, 2009

Sir
Bogdan Borusewicz
The Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland

We address you, Mr. Speaker, feeling civic helplessness with respect to the situation connected with the appointment of the former neo-Nazi Piotr Farfał as the person performing the duties of the President of TVP. This situation, obviously, results from the scandal coalition policy of the previous Prime Minister, which promoted the people, who publicly promote racism, xenophobia, and intolerance. Now, the new Polish state administration should not remain passive regarding the effects of this policy. We address you, Mr. Speaker, because you belong to the group of persons who constitute and execute law in our country, and we are disappointed that so far, no steps have been taken that would aim at solving this embarrassing and highly harmful situation.

It is not the first time that we call for taking steps that would lead to the dismissal of Piotr Farfał. We were asked, what wrong he can do managing TVP. We replied that it suffices that he will not do anything good. Now, only two months later, we may present a long list of negative consequences of his decisions and orders. President Farfał takes advantage of his position and is generous in entrusting the managerial positions in the

administration of TVP to his colleagues – non-professional without qualifications and experience, who are, instead, generally known for their participation in the compromising racist incidents and for their xenophobic statements. The new directors in the structure of TVP, well paid from our taxes, are for example Ryszard Parda, Szymon Pawłowski, Marcin Rostowski or Konrad Bonislawski. Each day we learn about new facts, which are compromising for the public television. Piotr Farfał, acting in keeping with his controversial ideology, dismisses the heads of the few mission programs, which are broadcasted on TVP, he censors the work of journalists and orders implementation of the projects that are contradictory to the public interest and the public television mission.

Various institutions and European organizations already react to this embarrassing situation. The managers of the German-French television station ARTE stated that until the change at the position of the President of Telewizja Polska SA, who is known for his extreme nationalism, they may not continue cooperation with TVP, since this would be contrary to the values promoted by their firm. Association Européenne pour la défense des Droits de l'Homme (AEDH) expressed its indignation regarding the fact that the public television in Poland is managed by the ex-neo-Fascist and extremist nationalist, and announced that it would bring this fact to the attention of the human rights organizations and the deputies of the European Parliament. We do not think it would be good for us to be stigmatized for indifference and passive attitude regarding this matter.

We are of the opinion that the prompt legal and administrative steps should be considered in order to solve this situation, which is harmful and embarrassing for Poland. We are convinced that this is possible, as we may refer to the prompt solution by the Minister of the Interior and Administration or an unsolvable – as it was stated – issue of the citizenship of the March emigrants.

Paula Sawicka
Présidente du Conseil d'administration

Jerzy Jedlicki
Président du Comité de programmation d'OR d'OR

We attach the sample of journalist achievements of Piotr Farfał. In 1995, in a newsletter "Front" (no. 4), in the release **"Life space"** he wrote: **"Cruelty and courage of the Slavonic invaders were widely known in all Europe. We were aggressors, and not the slaves and shepherds as the Jews want to present us. [...] The Zionist government, which currently robs Poland, led to the situation that each child can enumerate the tribes of American savages, and which of those children can say anything about the tribes that their Nation was formed of. The Jews deliberately blur our heritage, and one dries without roots"**. (*Quoted after Marcin Kornak, "Slavonic abuse", Nigdy Więcej, no. 17, winter-spring 2009, p. 21-22*). We know nothing about Piotr Farfał publicly negating such opinions. We sent the letter of the same content to: the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, the Minister of State Treasury, the Speaker of the Sejm, MPs, Senators.

Contacts:

Chairman : Paula SAWICKA
OTWARTA RZECZPOSPOLITA –
OPEN REPUBLIC
Krakowskie Przedmieście 16/18 00-325
Warszawa
Tél :(00-22) 828 11 21
Fax :(00-22) 828 11 21
otwarta@or.org.pl ; www.or.org.pl

Pierre BARGE, President
AEDH, Association Européenne pour la
défense des Droits de l'Homme,
Membre associé de la FIDH
33, rue de la Caserne
B- 1000 Bruxelles
Tél : +32(0)25112100
Fax : +32(0)25113200
aedh@aedh.eu ; www.aedh.eu