

Warsaw, 5 February 2018

Mr. Joachim Brudziński

Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration

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02-591 Warsaw

Non-governmental Organisations Call for Stopping the Amendment of the Public Fund-raising Law

A coalition of civil society organisations that advocated for new legislation on public fund-raising back in 2009-2014 and other organisations are now concerned about some of the statements by Mr. Joachim Brudziński, Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration, suggesting the Government's intention to amend the Public Fund-raising Law.

Adopted in March 2014, the said Law is a sound piece of legislation that facilitates fund-raising by civil society organisations and citizens who set up committees to support their projects. Under existing legislation, donors may easily verify whether a particular fund-raising campaign has been notified, what its objectives are and how much has been raised and how the funds has been spent. This information is publicly available on www.zbiórki.gov.pl.

The Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration is responsible for ensuring that all fund-raising activity is compliant and may refuse to accept a notification if the fund-raising campaign is unlawful or does not serve public interest (Article 15 of the Law).

The Public Fund-raising Law is unique in that it offers a simple process to fund-raisers, one that is clear for donors and, importantly, safe for the regulator. This has encouraged citizens and civil society to engage in fund-raising to support good cause initiatives, especially ones that call for immediate action, e.g. natural disasters.

In addition, the law is a result of exemplary public consultations. The government had consulted a wide range of fund-raising organisations. Civil society organisations and government officials had identified areas of concern regarding the prior legislation such as excessive bureaucracy in the authorisation process. A debate was held around the best approach possible to legislating for efficient, effective and transparent fund-raising practices. Under the bill, the said Minister had been entrusted with the role of a regulator and citizens were given easy access to information about the process. The drafting process was followed on the ngo.pl portal. The bill was then submitted for public consultations open to all stakeholders. The adoption of the new law in 2014 was believed to be a major success: a simple and effective law was adopted giving civil society organisations a tool to solve important social problems.

We call for stopping the amendment of the Public Fund-raising Law.

1. ClientEarth Prawnicy dla Ziemi
2. Federacja Polskich Banków Żywności
3. Forum Darczyńców w Polsce
4. Fundacji Anny Dymnej „Mimo Wszystko”
5. Fundacja e-Państwo
6. Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego
7. Fundacja Hospicyjna
8. Fundacja Orange
9. Fundacja Panoptykon
10. Fundacja Pole Dialogu
11. Fundacja "Przestrzeń dla edukacji"
12. Fundacja Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Obywatelskiego
13. Fundacja TVN „nie jesteś sam”
14. Greenpeace
15. Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka
16. Instytut Spraw Publicznych
17. Pracownia Badań i Innowacji Społecznych "Stocznia"
18. Projekt: Polska
19. Stowarzyszenie Amnesty International
20. Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej
21. Stowarzyszenie Klon/Jawor
22. Stowarzyszenie Miłość Nie Wyklucza
23. Ogólnopolska Federacja Organizacji Pozarządowych
24. Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy
25. WWF Polska
26. Ruch "Obywatele dla edukacji"
27. Sieć Obywatelska Watchdog Polska
28. Stowarzyszenie im. prof. Zbigniewa Hołdy
29. Stowarzyszenie przeciw Antysemityzmowi i Ksenofobii Otwarta Rzeczpospolita
30. Stowarzyszenie SOS Wioski Dziecięce w Polsce