



Brussels, 22 September 2006

To:

President of the Republic of Poland  
The Sejm of the Republic of Poland  
The Senate of the Republic of Poland

The Members of the GUE/NGL Group in European Parliament are very concerned following the announcement of the proposal made by the League of Polish Families (LPR) to change article 38 of the Polish Constitution in order to make abortion completely illegal in all circumstances.

The integration in article 38 of the phrase "the protection of life from the moment of conception" will pose a serious threat to all girls and women. As a result of this amendment, victims of rape, as well as women who are aware that their foetus is seriously and fatally damaged will be forced to give birth. The pregnancy would not even be terminated if the life or health of a woman is threatened.

We would strongly like to call your attention to the conclusions of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 and the Beijing Platform, which confirmed that women's sexual and reproductive rights are human rights and the accomplishment of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.

We appeal to the President of Poland, the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament to refuse all proposals that lead to limiting women's human rights: their right to life, health and dignity.

Francis WURTZ,  
Chairman of the GUE/NGL group  
in European Parliament.

Eva-Britt SVENSSON,  
Vice-chairwoman of the  
Committee on women's  
rights and gender equality