

DATE

29 December 2015

Mr Marek Kuchcinski
Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of
Poland,
Poland

SUBJECT

Governance of public service media in Poland

Dear Mr Speaker,

I am writing as a matter of some urgency, as we understand that a bill has been introduced today, on a fast-track, in the Polish Parliament which proposes new measures terminating the tenure of the President of TVP and Polish Radio. It also apparently transfers the power of nomination and dismissal of the Boards of both organisations from the Broadcasting Council to the Minister of State.

If these measures are adopted, in the EBU's view, it will represent a retrograde step by making more political, and thus apparently less independent, the appointment of those in charge of the governance of public service media in Poland. The EBU strives to support its members in urging modernisation and thus, greater independence from government, in line with standards reflected in the Council of Europe instruments. The changes currently before Parliament appear to go in the opposite direction. If this is so, we profoundly regret it.

We would urge Parliament to pause and re-consider, before taking this step.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid Deltenre
Director General, EBU