

**Priority question for written answer P-004467/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Beata Szydło** (ECR)

Subject: Discrimination against local authorities defending family rights

The Treaty on European Union clearly states that the Commission has a duty to respect the national identities of individual states. Both local governments and citizens have the right to form their own views freely.

On 29 July 2020, the Commission adopted a list of 127 projects which received a total of EUR 2 324 327 in EU funds under the 'Town Twinning' programme. Among the 127 projects selected as part of the competition, funds were granted to projects in which Polish local authorities and organisations were also involved.

Meanwhile, six other town-twinning applications that were submitted with the involvement of Polish authorities which had adopted, according to Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli, resolutions on 'LGBTI-free zones' or 'family rights' were rejected for this reason.

This Commission's stance on this matter is unacceptable as it strikes at fundamental values, such as the 'family rights' referred to here, which should be afforded special protection in the EU. The Polish Constitution protects the family. Parents have the right to decide on the upbringing of their children according to their convictions. This does not conflict with the spirit or law of the EU.

1. Is it because of the Family Charter that the Commission rejected six applications from Poland?
2. Is the decision to reject the Polish applications lawful, and on what basis was it taken?
3. Does the Commission not believe that family is one of the fundamental values in Europe?