

# **A Parliamentary question concerning the prohibition of entry into the EU territory for Lyudmyla Kozlovska**

Mr Prime Minister,

According to press reports, the Polish Government, acting within the framework of the Schengen agreement has declared Lyudmyla Kozlovska inadmissible to the Schengen area. This decision has been substantiated by a negative opinion issued by the Counterintelligence Service of the Internal Security Agency based on “certain doubts regarding the sources of financing of the Open Dialog Foundation headed by Kozlovska.

Lyudmyla Kozlovska has been residing in Poland for 10 years already. Her Foundation has had a number of great achievements in defending the rights of individuals persecuted on the basis of their political engagement and beliefs in former Soviet republics such as, for instance, Kazakhstan. The Foundation co-operates with lawyers who represent victims of such persecutions at courts, sends observers to attend trials, convenes sessions at OSCE Review Conferences, holds press conferences, issues support letters and organises protests. The ODF has also published a number of comprehensive reports on Ukrainian citizens detained in Russia, trade union and opposition activists imprisoned and tortured in Kazakhstan and lawyers trying to fight corruption among top state authorities of Moldova.

During Ukraine’s Euromaidan Revolution of Dignity, the Foundation ensured assistance for Polish voluntary workers, as well as necessary support for inhabitants of the conflict areas, for example by providing them with bulletproof vests and helmets after obtaining all the necessary authorisations from the Polish authorities.

The Open Dialog Foundation successfully advocated for a change to Interpol’s operating rules so as to prevent their abuse by authoritarian governments aiming to chase down political refugees.

According to Andrzej Wielowieyski, the country that hates the ODF the most is Russia. Hence, “any strike against the Open Dialog Foundation will be Russia’s success”. Probably

the Kazakhstani government also has a reason to be pleased at this situation because the ODF has been extensively reporting the cases of human rights violations in Kazakhstan to the EU authorities and taking steps to defend Kazakh citizens from political persecution.

In consideration of the above, I would like to ask you, Mr Prime Minister, to respond to the following questions:

1. Are prohibitions of entry into the Schengen area also issued in the case of executive members of any other organisations if the Polish authorities happen to have doubts regarding their finances?
2. Has the Internal Security Agency ever requested that the ODF explain the doubts they might have as regards its financing sources?
3. Does the use of such extraordinary measures against someone who has been actively involved in defending human rights in the post-Soviet region go well with Poland's reputation as a country famous for its rich history of civil strikes against the authoritarian regime?
4. Why has someone who has done so much to defend human rights in the post-Soviet region been subjected to such sanctions without being notified about their actual rationale, particularly since this makes it impossible to take steps to defend oneself, file appeals or request clarification?

Best regards,  
Marcin Świącicki