

**DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES OF THE JOURNALISTS' UNIONS OF POLAND.** We bring you a message of solidarity from the FEDERATIONE DELLA STAMPA ITALIANA (FNSI) and FEDERACION ESPAÑOLA DE ASOCIACIONES DE PERIODISTAS DE ESPAÑA (FAPE).

Our unions have an historical bond between Polish journalist and continuing concern regarding the fate of the Polish media.

FNSI and FAPE highlight concerns that Poland is perceived in Italy and Spain as the most crucial battleground in Europe in countries where governments are attempting to gain control over political discourse and limit media pluralism. There is also wider concern that the attempt to control media will lead to weaken checks and balances and also silence independent voices. We fear that deepening polarisation will follow.

FAPE and FNSI considers journalists in Poland to be at the forefront of the battle to halt the continued March of populist authoritarianism around the world and the fate of media freedom in Poland will have a massive impact, not only in Europe but also in many parts of the world, during this new period of democratic resilience.

We will endeavour at every opportunity to stress to the governments of Italy and Spain, the need to make representation to the Polish government that it must respect independence of the media and allow all diversity of views to flourish.

FNSI and FAPE sends you its best wishes and assures you its members will stand shoulder to shoulder with their Polish colleagues and help in whatever way they can.

In solidarity,

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