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PRESS RELEASE

Poland: ARTICLE 19 calls on Polish President to Veto Media Law

Today **ARTICLE 19: Global Campaign for Free Expression** issued an open letter to Polish President Lech Kaczynski urging him not to promulgate the country's new Law on Public Activity within the Sphere of Media Services.

ARTICLE 19 believes that the recently adopted Media Law ("*Ustawa o zadaniach publicznych w dziedzinach mediów*") fails to meet international standards on public service broadcasting and should not enter into force unless significantly improved.

In particular, ARTICLE 19 is concerned with that the new legislation does not secure financial, editorial and regulatory independence of the country's public service broadcaster and leaves it vulnerable to potential political and financial pressures. Noting the importance of public service media for Polish society, and stressing the obligation of Poland to abide by international standards, ARTICLE 19 has called on President Kaczynski to veto the law and to send it back to parliament for further revision.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- For more information please contact Anoush Begoyan, Programme Officer for Europe at anoushb@article19.org or tel +44 20 7324 2500.
- The full text of the letter can be found at: <http://www.article19.org/pdfs/letters/poland-law-on-public-activity.pdf>
- ARTICLE 19 is an independent human rights organisation that works around the world to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression. It takes its name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees free speech.