

Hon. Donald Tusk
Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland
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26 December 2024

Re: Dismissal of Dominik Rozkrut as President of Statistics Poland (Główny Urząd Statystyczny - GUS)

Your Excellency,

We are writing to you as the President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and the Executive Director of the American Statistical Association (ASA) to express our concern related to your decision of 18 November 2024 to dismiss the President of the Polish Statistical Office with effect from the end of the year.

Our vigilance is an integral part of our mandate, in keeping with the spirit and letter of the ISI's [Declaration of Professional Ethics](#) and the United Nations' [Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics](#).

Statistical institutions hold a pivotal position for the quality and trustworthiness of public sector facts. The heads of these institutions therefore have a special responsibility as the key publisher of evidence about the economic and social conditions within the country, and of social and economic progress. This task is an important pillar of fact-based decision-making in democratic societies. Such a responsible task requires trustworthiness on the part of both the institution and the individual. For this reason, professional independence is a cornerstone in the foundation of credibility. Statistics must be policy-relevant but not politically driven. If independence is jeopardized, whether actually or apparently, statistics will be seen as vulnerable and susceptible to political interference. The reasons for dismissal of heads of National Statistical Offices or their transfer to another position shall not compromise professional independence, either.

For us it is therefore imperative that a replacement process ensures full respect of professional independence, protection from any undue pressure to influence the production and dissemination of statistics in the long run, and thus maintain the confidence of governments, citizens and the media in the quality of the public data made available.

From this point of view, we would like to draw your attention to two elements which are essential for us. The process of appointing the head of the statistical office must ensure that he or she has the appropriate professional qualifications, which includes at the forefront the capacity to protect the work of the institution from undue pressure, thereby ensuring that official statistics enjoys a high degree of trust. Equally important is that the work as head of a statistical office should not be associated with the risk of jeopardizing one's personal future, either because the statistics produced do not meet political expectations or because of pure arbitrariness.


In January, your country takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union. We understand that this task could also play a role in the selection of a new head of Statistics Poland. It is therefore all the more important for us to emphasize that adequate professional competence should be required. In this way, Poland can demonstrate that European values carry weight in public statistics.

Yours sincerely,



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President, International Statistical Institute

and



Ronald L. Wasserstein
Executive Director
American Statistical Association www.amstat.org