



EPF Fact Sheet n°2

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FREEDOM MARCH IN POLAND

- Freedom March was organised by the Polish leading opposition party, the [Civic Platform](#), which is also member of the European People's Party.
 - Donald Tusk, European Council's President and former Prime Minister of Poland, used to be Civic Platform President.
 - Current Civic Platform President is [Grzegorz Schetyna](#), MP.
- As such, the Freedom March is not a separate initiative, it is not a new body – it is nothing less than a powerful street protest, showing the force of the opposition forces.
- Freedom March was conceived as an one-off event. It was supposed to be the symbol of nation-wide protest against the Law and Justice government and the antidemocratic, socially harmful measures it has been implementing. Freedom March showed that Polish citizens do not accept neither violations of Polish Constitution nor any attempts to limit citizens' civil rights. The Freedom March showed that the civic society is ready to defend fundamental freedoms, rule of law and the principles of good economic governance (as opposed to Law and Justice bad governance). The Freedom March showed that people of Poland want to maintain Poland's position in the EU and in the world, to save it from current government destructive grasp.
- On May 6th, almost 100.000 marched through Warsaw. At Civic Platform's initiative, representatives of all major opposition forces were present. Their leaders took the stage at the end of the Freedom March. It showed that different parts of opposition can be united by a common goal: willingness to preserve a truly democratic, pro-European Republic of Poland.
- Media's reception of the march was positive. Except from the state-controlled media, pushing the pro-government propaganda, all media (including foreign outlets) reported the size of the protest, the clarity of its message and the show of opposition's unity, under the Civic Platform leadership.