

INTERVIEW WITH PATRYK TOMASZ JAKI

Interviewed by: Goran Andrijanić¹

Patryk Tomasz Jaki (born 11 May 1985 in Opole) is a Polish politician, member of the European Parliament, former Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice (First Deputy Minister of Justice) and First Deputy Attorney General, former Chairman of the Verification Committee for Reprivatisation since 2017. On 18 November 2015, Patryk Jaki became Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice, responsible for, inter alia, supervision over the Prison Service. He was also appointed Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Justice for the Implementation of



the Electronic Monitoring System. He drafted an amendment to the existing law to prohibit depriving parents of the right of custody of their children on the grounds of their dire financial situation. He has been entrusted with oversight over establishing the Museum of Cursed Soldiers and Political Prisoners of the Polish People's Republic. He is also the chairman of the Team for the Protection of Family Autonomy and Family Life in the Ministry of Justice. Patryk Jaki is the chairman of the Central Council for Social Readaptation and Assistance to Convicts. He initiated the establishment of the Verification Committee for Reprivatisation and, on 11 May 2017, became its chairman. Patryk Jaki is the author of a registry of sex offenders in Poland, available on ms.gov.pl since 1 October

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2017. Patryk Jaki is the author of a government program for the employment of prisoners, which has helped to increase employment among convicts by 50%. Patryk Jaki is the chairman of the Polish Council of Penitentiary Policy. In 2017, Jaki stated that “stopping Islamization is his Westerplatte”. On 11 October 2017, Patryk Jaki received the “Polski Kompas” (Poland’s Compass) award granted by the Gazeta Bankowa monthly for his “fight against a reprivatisation mafia”. During elections to the European Parliament gained almost 260 thousand votes. This is the best result not from the first place on the list in the history of the Polish Republic. Presently in the European Parliament - member of the Civic Freedom, Justice and Interior Committee. Reporter of the regulation concerning fighting with terrorism in the area of the European Union and vice-chairman of the European and Eastern Countries Parliament Assembly. Earlier, Deputy to the Seventh and Eighth Term Sejm; Opole Councillor during the Fifth and Sixth Term; He is responsible for the “Save the Heroes” campaign promoting the restoration of streets named in honor of generals Emil August Fieldorf “Nil” and Zygmunt Szeździelarz “Łupaszka”, as well as the legislative initiative “Let’s Restore History Lessons at Schools.”

The story of Polesxit, i.e., the alleged exit of Poland from the European Union, has been a favorite topic of the Western media dealing with the Warsaw-Brussels conflict for the last few months. Is Polesxit really a possible option?

Poland’s strategy is to fight for the return of the Union to those concepts advocated by its “founding fathers”, primarily Robert Schuman. They envisioned the Union as a place of free movement of services, goods, people, in which sovereign states would retain their powers and their own political identity, culture, and security. The European Union has become an institutional tool for denying

nation-states and taking over their political authority while completely disregarding fundamental EU treaties.

Of course, the question arises as to how this process will end.

We Poles still believe that it will end well. If that does not happen, however, if Poland continues to be deprived of its sovereignty, I do not think that the Poles will agree to that.

How did this process actually happen? How did we come from the original ideals of the “fathers of Europe” you mentioned to the complete opposite?

The answer lies in the position of Germany, the most powerful country in the EU. That state realized it was too small to expand its economy further. The European Union helped it conquer new markets, raised its economy to a higher level, and helped it overtake France. However, it is still too little for its expansive and powerful economy.

The single market regulation mechanisms available to Germany are insufficient. Even more ambitious plans are at stake now, as shown by the content of the new government’s coalition agreement in Berlin. There is a certain restoration of Bismarck’s policy “Mitteleuropa”, within which the countries of Central Europe are subordinated to Germany. If the plan for the federalization of the EU, which was presented in the mentioned agreement, fails, it is precisely this subordination that awaits us.

Advocating for all decisions in the Union by qualified majority means that smaller states will be deprived of the right to veto, which in practice means that they are deprived of the right to vote. Such a voting method would put a smaller state in a subordinate position, which completely contradicts the previous idea, which provided small states with the possibility of a veto. As far as the process of changing the Union’s objectives is concerned, it

is complex and time-consuming. One of its key points is undoubtedly the Constitution for Europe, which inaugurated the essential elements of the Union as a federation, which was then rejected by referendums in the Netherlands and France. When it was realized that it would not be possible to impose it so that people would not accept it, they started the policy of a finished act, which we are witnessing today, for example, by illegally expanding the powers of the European Court.

A lot of “storm” was caused by the decision of the Polish Constitutional Court in October, which re-established the primacy of the Polish Constitution over EU regulations. Is this not the first such decision of a national court in the Union, therefore provoking strong reactions?

The decision of the Polish Constitutional Court is in line with the current Treaties of the Union, which do not say how the EU and its legislation could take precedence over the member states.

The European Union is an organization made up of members and has precisely as many powers as those states have given it. Nevertheless, the European Court of Justice has expanded its influence, ignoring treaties, rules, and customs.

The decision of the Polish Constitutional Court is groundbreaking only in the sense that it sharply sets limits to the unlawful expansion of authorities. It should be noted that similar decisions were made by the constitutional courts of other countries, such as Germany.

However, the Polish decision is a step forward, both due to the context in which it was made and because it is an institution of the state of Eastern Europe, not Western, to which is allowed everything.

There are obviously double criteria in place, so some are restricted to what others are allowed to do?

Obviously, some countries are used to behaving this way towards new members. Giving up the colonial approach is too difficult a task for them.

Unfortunately, some see Poland and other countries in that part of Europe only as a source of cheap labor, the homeland of asparagus and strawberry pickers, and not equal partners. That is the essence of this dispute, and it is the source of all these controversial decisions of the Union's institutions.

What we are witnessing is at odds with all the nice slogans about "European solidarity". The best example of this is the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline construction between Russia and Germany, on which Berlin insists. This pipeline harms the interests of a united Europe but benefits those of Germany. And that interest, German interest, always wins, even when it is to the detriment of all other member states.

Another thing we are witnessing is the imposition of a particular worldview and ideological patterns on all members. Proof of this are the resolutions of the European Parliament that attacked the ban on eugenic abortion in Poland?

That is another example of unauthorized encroachment on sovereign states' competencies, an encroachment directed against rights and against good political culture.

The Article 4 Treaty of Lisbon clarifies that the Union can only deal with the jurisdictions conferred on it by the Member States. The Union has never been given the jurisdiction to deal with the field of justice, and the war being waged against us is connected with that area and the judiciary issue.

Of course, the Union is trying to create a worldview and ideo-

logically homogeneous community. Because if you want to create a federal model that will work, you have to destroy or neutralize the national identities of the states in it. As long as there is a Polish, Croatian, or any other national identity, it will not be easy to create a United European State. National identities are denied by ideologies such as LGBT and gender ideologies that are, clearly, directly opposed to the uniqueness of peoples established under the influence of Christianity and rationality.

Christianity is, let's not forget, a synthesis of faith and reason, and they want to destroy it with the help of an ideology that sees gender exclusively as a cultural phenomenon, is opposed to natural law, does not recognize the existence of objective good and beauty, but leaves it to personal choice. And in this way, they want to destroy the spirit, in order to create space for manipulation.

However, has membership in the Union brought certain benefits to Poland?

It is clear that we have benefited from access to the single market. However, it should be emphasized that the "old European" countries have benefited more from establishing this market. They gained access to a large and attractive Polish market, in which there was no capital after the exit from communism.

Furthermore, it quickly became apparent that Poles are very competitive workers with exceptional education, gradually proven in the west, where they have achieved great success in the labor market and even in management positions.

The disadvantage of membership is that we quickly became institutionally colonized economically. Politically, they tried to put us in a situation where we would lose our sovereignty, and any decision would be approved without scrutiny.

So, there are definitely pluses to our membership. However, the direction in which the EU is now heading could eliminate all these pluses. If the tax harmonization project, which Brussels is constantly talking about, is realized, it will destroy the competitiveness of Poland and other Central European countries. It will be a big blow for us, and our growth will cease.

What, in your opinion, is the future of the Union? What can change this direction in which it is going?

Public opinion needs to become aware of the processes that are just happening. Explain that this is a deprivation of liberty, a project that aims to eliminate all differences and identities and create states under the control of one center of power. It is about the construction of the new Tower of Babel, which will collapse before our eyes.

If enough citizens of the Union understand the features of this process, it may happen that this awareness will make no one want to commit mass suicide as a nation.

I do not count on the elites in Brussels to change their plan. The only thing that can make them do that is the pressure of the citizens and their apparent refusal to agree to such games.