

Warsaw, 24 October 2022
KL/416/MM/2022

Mr. Fredrick Person
Mr. Markus Beyrer

Dear friends,

I am writing to thank you first of all for your support in difficult times that I had to go through. The way in which the community of entrepreneurs and employers in Poland and in Europe stood up for me against the unjustified practices of an oppressive state is a source of encouragement and hope for me. In Poland, this detention caused exceptional opposition and mobilization of social partners and business community. Eight employers' and trade unions' organizations, members of the Social Dialogue Council, adopted a joint position protesting against such actions of the prosecutor's office. The Entrepreneurship Council (union of 9 leading business organizations) adopted a similar position. Over 400 public personalities sent a personal guarantee for me to the prosecutor's office. Our solidarity in the face of the difficulties that we experience as entrepreneurs, employers, economic activists and people is a unique value.

Dear Fredrick, Dear Markus, thank you for attending EFNI. Thank you for the support offers provided to me and the organization that I am honoured to lead. Please accept my sincerest thanks and send them also to our colleagues in the BusinessEurope member federations who have shown us care and support, either directly or through you.

On the day of EFNI's opening, during a two-day meeting of the Presidium of the Social Dialogue Council in Gdańsk, I was detained by law enforcement agencies. Subsequently, I was faced with charges with which I disagree. Nearly 3 days after my detention, I was released by the court's decision, which rejected the prosecutor's request for pre-trial detention. In its oral justification, the court stated, inter alia, that there is no general reason to apply any preventive measures against me, i.e. the evidence does not indicate a high probability of committing the alleged acts.

I would like to clearly emphasize that the prosecution's proceedings concern the activities of the company of which I was the president and then chairman of the supervisory board before I became the President of the Polish Confederation Lewiatan and this case is in no way related to the functioning of Lewiatan. It is shocking, however, that the most radical measure of coercion, which is detention, was applied to me, without any previous attempt by the prosecution to summon and hear me on this matter. Additionally, the detention took place on the opening day of one of the largest business conferences in Poland and during the sessions of the presidium of the most important Polish tripartite social dialogue institution, which obviously raises suspicions as to the real intentions of law enforcement agencies.

member of  **BUSINESSEUROPE**



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LEWIATAN

As head of a business organization, I have watched with increasing concern the recent numerous cases of unjustified detentions targeting ultimately acquitted businessmen. As Lewiatan, we have supported these people many times. However, their investigation of justice took months or even years. During this time, they were subjected to many harassments, paying a high price. However, detaining the head of one of the largest employers' organizations in Poland in this way is an unprecedented situation. As the Polish Confederation Lewiatan, we conducted a difficult dialogue with the current government, and I personally often spoke in public about the current politics, but it was always a conversation based on arguments. The events of recent days show that in my country there is not enough room for substantive, open dialogue. However, I would like to assure you that Lewiatan will continue its efforts to defend Polish entrepreneurs, fight for the development of the Polish economy and for Poland's positive contribution to the European Union.

Yours sincerely,

Maciej Witucki
President
Polish Confederation Lewiatan

member of 



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