

Poland exits Article 7, the EU's special procedure on rule of law

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk has promised to restore the rule of law and reset relations between Warsaw and Brussels.

Poland has officially exited Article 7, the European Union's exceptional mechanism to rein in countries that openly defy the bloc's fundamental values.

"We consider there is no longer a clear risk of a serious breach of the rule of law in Poland," said European Commissioner Věra Jourová.

The decision, previewed **earlier this month** and formalised on Wednesday morning, ends a long-running saga that dates back to December 2017 when the European Commission triggered Article 7 — known as the "nuclear option" because it can lead to the suspension of voting rights — over Poland's systematic erosion of judicial independence.

The clash stemmed from the sweeping reforms introduced by the hard-right Law and Justice (PiS) party, which rearranged the structure of courts, cut short the mandate of sitting judges and promoted party-friendly appointees to top positions.

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