



CEC Weekly Political Update **5th April 2019**

European Coalition's Campaign Proposals

The European Coalition, comprised of PO, PSL, SLD, Modern, and the Greens, presented their campaign slogan and a programme declaration consisting of 10 main proposals ahead of the European elections. The Coalition's main slogan "The Future of Poland. A Great Choice" (*Przyszłość Polski. Wielki Wybór*) has been criticized as generic by the ruling party. Still, commentators agree that it is a materialisation of PO's strategy to make this election about choosing between PiS and the Coalition, rather than a campaign about specific policy plans. Previously, there were reports that there are frictions within the Coalition as to specific programme proposals, due to varied political backgrounds of the united parties. As a result, the 10 points presented yesterday provide general directions, rather than solutions the Coalition

hopes to push for in Brussels. The points presented yesterday are:

1. Poland among EU leaders
2. Union for levelling life quality of Europeans
3. European funds for citizens and local governments
4. Union of clean air and cheap energy
5. Union of a healthier and longer life
6. Union of better food and equal chances for agriculture
7. European Union of values
8. Union of common security
9. European Union for the youth
10. Union of coherent transport and communication

These points have underlined that the Coalition will not attempt to reply to PiS' social programmes proposals, the so-called "Kaczyński's Five", which would be more appropriate for the parliamentary campaign rather than the EU elections. The opposition will rather focus on underlining its capacity to act in Brussels, underlining the ongoing conflicts of the PiS government with EU institutions.

PO leader Grzegorz Schetyna has cemented a united opposition front for the European Parliament elections, spanning from the centre-right to the left-wing. The 10 points have been divided among leaders of all parties in the coalition, and each party will take the lead on spearheading specific parts of the Coalition's programme. It remains to be seen whether this will attract voters, but much depends whether this will be communicated in a coherent manner or highlight divisions within the Coalition.

Commentators are noting that the European Coalition is likely to survive in a similar shape until the parliamentary vote in the autumn; with only five months between the elections, it would be hard to devise and promote a new concept for the anti-PiS opposition. The only likely exception being the agrarian PSL which will consider running on its own in the Autumn if it fares well in the European vote.