

TAKE YOUR OWN ETHICAL STANDARDS SERIOUSLY

The Dutch government is not reluctant to criticize Hungary and Poland about those values that are at the core of what binds Western democracies. After all, these core values – democracy, the rule of law, human rights including the rights of minorities and freedom of the press – are a strategic importance for security, peace and prosperity in the European Union but also beyond.

The sincerity and credibility of this criticism can be doubted, because the Dutch government violated these core values by ignoring the democratic will of the Dutch people in the Ukraine Referendum in 2016. Prime Minister Rutte has refused any form of dialogue with our foundation and has never shown interest in the arguments of our foundation during our stemtegen.eu (<https://stemtegen.eu/>) campaign.

In this campaign, we argued precisely on the basis of the report Treason to law (https://www.language-rights.eu/TREASON_TO_LAW.pdf) that the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine should not be ratified because the European Union will not be able to enforce basic human rights such as language rights, democracy and the rule of law from Ukraine as long as it cannot enforce this even with its own member state Romania.

Since last month, the provisions of the new language law have come into force in Ukraine, which make it more or less impossible for ethnic Hungarians, Poles, Romanians and Russians to use their regional language freely. With this, Ukraine is also diametrically opposed to European values. Compliance with these core values can also be improved in the Netherlands, for example, there are still no bilingual signs and stamps at the court of Ljouwert, which is a basic symbol of ethnic equality. Kingdom of the Netherlands is in Estonian in the Netherlands passport, but not the second official language of the Netherlands which is Frisian.

The fundamental right to speak Frisian during criminal cases is also sometimes violated. The Dutch government should therefore stand up for its own core values, not out of a vague kind of idealism, but out of strategic importance, also to prevent other states from being given a pretext to counter constructive criticism. The principles that the Dutch government likes to preach should therefore be upheld in-house.

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