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Letter from the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights

List Rzecznika Praw Obywatelskich

On November 30, 2019, Professor Wojciech Orłowski left us so suddenly and unexpectedly. He passed away much prematurely; he still had many years of life ahead of him.

Professor Orłowski was an outstanding man of science – an academic, lawyer and constitutionalist. Of particular value are his publications and speeches on Polish parliamentarism, contemporary legal-political systems, legal consequences of the accession to the European Union and the status of the individual in the state. Professor Orłowski was never afraid to put forward bold theses and defend his views. But he did that while still showing enormous respect for different views, stressing that science should be based on discussion and exchange of opinion.

For all his life, Professor Orłowski combined his scientific interests with practice. He cared about the State and used his knowledge first of all for the common good, hoping that he could contribute in this way to strengthening the quality of work of public institutions and the effectiveness of protection of freedoms and rights of the individual. A sign of appreciation for his work for the state and citizens was his appointment as a member of the Prime Minister's Legislative Council.

That was the moment I had the honour to meet Wojtek. I can say that we became friends. He was an excellent partner in discussions on law and constitution. I learned a lot from him about history, the state and liberty. One also could expect his advice and support in any matter related to all spheres of life. I was impressed by his extensive knowledge, rich life experience, common sense and never-fading optimism.

Saying as the Commissioner for Human Rights: Professor, thank you on behalf of all the citizens for your great contribution to strengthening the protection of human freedoms and rights in Poland. As a colleague and friend: Dear Wojtek, I miss your friendliness, cheerfulness and long talks. Rest in peace.

Commissioner for Human Rights
Marcin Wiącek