

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN POLAND

UPR Info Pre-sessions

CLIMATE CHANGE- CHALLENGES

- Energy system **based on coal**
- **No realistic coal phase-out dates**
- Government is **actively obstructing the development of renewable energy**
- Five of Europe's **most health-affecting coal-fired** power plants are located in Poland

CLIMATE CHANGE - RECOMMENDATION



Take effective measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially by planning a coal phase-out and a just energy transition, as well as facilitating the development of renewable energy sources.

AIR POLLUTION-CHALLENGES

- **Most polluted air** in the European Union
- **36 of the 50 most polluted cities in the EU** are in Poland
- Government's „Clean Air” initiative has not had the desired impact
- **Allowance for households** to help them buy coal
- **35% of Polish homes** are heated with coal
- 11.5 billion zlotys (**€2.4 billion**) will be allocated

AIR POLLUTION- RECOMMENDATION



Adopt and implement an overall strategy to fight air pollution, including eliminating solid fuels from the heating of homes as soon as possible, therefore creating a significant impact on the right to health, especially for children and the elderly.

PROCEDURAL RIGHTS- CHALLENGES

- **No access to court** to challenge plans and programmes relating to the environment, such as **air quality plans** and **forest management plans**
- **No access to court** to challenge the legality of **water permit decisions**

PROCEDURAL RIGHTS- RECOMMENDATIONS



Bring national legislation in line with the Aarhus Conventions in order to ensure that the right of access to justice in environmental matters is enjoyed by the population in general.

Thank you

Members of environmental human rights coalition:

- ❑ ClientEarth Prawnicy dla Ziemi Foundation—submitting organisation
- ❑ Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
- ❑ Frank Bold Foundation
- ❑ WWF Poland