

*The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in The Hague is vitally interested in all issues regarding well-being of the Polish community in the Netherlands. The matter of our special concern is situation of the Polish temporary workers, as group which is the most vulnerable and exposed to negative phenomena in the workplace and its environment. For a long time we have been concerned and dealing with the issue of accommodation conditions for Polish temporary workers in the Netherlands. Significant number of persons coming to work in this country are offered very poor or substandard housing conditions by temporary work agencies. Rent rates do not correspond to the quality of the housing offer. We draw attention of the Dutch authorities on numerous irregularities in this respect (even last week Polish Minister for family, labour and social policy E. Rafalska had a meeting on this matter with the Dutch Ambassador in Poland). We take note that this issue is also a matter of concern for the Dutch Minister of Labour and Employment.*

*Information that some municipalities are drawing up rules designed to prevent East European labor migrants from settling down in their areas is based on the press articles. Therefore, we find it appropriate to address directly enumerated municipalities including Maasdriel, Zuidplas, Zaltbommel and Tiel that allegedly want to prevent Polish workers from living there, to receive confirmation or denial of press releases. If it would, however, turn out to be truth that these municipalities do plan eliminating specific national groups from their neighborhood under the pretext of "improving the quality of living in their area", we would be very concerned and consider such projects as discriminatory and not in line with the rules and spirit of the European freedom to move and settle down.*

*Preventing settling down of certain nationalities should not be perceived as the way to improve quality of living of communities. Certainly, in order to achieve such an objective, the municipalities and temporary work agencies operating in their area do have at their disposal more effective tools to be implemented with benefit for all concerned.*