

# Environmental protection and new nationalism

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# „New nationalism” – concept

- Combination of
  - nationalism
  - populism
  - disrespect to fundamental values of EU ( art.2 TEU)
  - distrust to political elites and „Brussels”
- New „luddism” ?
- Genuine tendency or political manipulation?

# „New nationalism” – scope

- Old Member States
  - Different political importance
  - Different level of political organization
  - Role of Brexit?
- New Member States
  - Influenced by different geopolitical situation
  - Visible mostly in Central Europe
  - „state ideology” in Poland and Hungary

# Common features

- Populism
- Anti-emmigration/refugees
- Nationalism
- Anti-globalism
- Anti-liberal
- Return to „traditional values”
- Anti-European

# Peculiarities in new Member States

- Additional factors:
  - Totalitarian past
  - Disparity of wealth
- Key issues
  - rule of law vs democracy
  - civil society vs nation
  - independent media vs national interest
- Clericalism and parochialism (in Poland)

# Relation to environmental protection – common features

- Against GMOs
- Against free trade (including investment arbitration)
- Against global issues (climate change, biodiversity)
- „Nature was created by God to serve humans”

# Relation to environmental protection – differences between old and new MS

- Environmental law
  - Old MS – useful if adopted nationally and not in Brussels
  - New MS – not needed (EU invention to destroy national business)
- Environmental NGOs
  - Old MS – useful if national
  - New MS - „foreign agents”
- Transparency
  - Old MS – useful (serves to control political elites)
  - New MS - serves foreign interests

# Environmental protection under „new nationalism” rule - examples from Poland

- Ministry –
  - of (using) the Environment
  - not of (protection) of the Environment
- Air pollution control – „not necessary”
  - Health Minister: air pollution is teoretical problem and attention should be focused on smoking cigarettes
  - National Environmental Fund program on combating smog abandoned,
- Key pillars of new „environmental” policy
  - Forestry
  - Hunters (draft law to allow hunters to enter private property to chase and kill the prey without agreement of the property owner)
  - Catholic Church
- Environmental NGOs
  - Associations of hunters, anglers, forestiers, firemen - welcome
  - Watchdogs – not welcome
  - draft law to limit participation and access to justice rights only to NGOs consisting of people with higher education in selected fields - aiming at excluding public interest law firms
- Educational reform: shorter mandatory education, less of natural science and more of history and religion



# Conclusions – what happens if:

- New nationalism wins in Old MS
  - Less EU environmental law compensated by national national laws in old MS
  - No environmental protection and law in new MS (perhaps except for Czechia)
- New nationalism loses in EU but wins in New MS
  - Breach of values in new MS leads to art.7 sanctions and possibly Poxit – no environmental protection and law in new MS