



**Federation of European
Screen Directors**

Fédération Européenne des
Réalisateur·s de l'Audiovisuel

STATEMENT

September 18, 2023

European Filmmakers in support of Agnieszka Holland

The Federation of European Screen Directors congratulates Agnieszka Holland on the success of her new film ZIELONCA GRANICA (THE GREEN BORDER). We are full of admiration for her strength and courage in the face of the appalling attacks against her and the film in Poland. We stand squarely behind Agnieszka and we fully endorse the European Film Academy's recent [statement](#) condemning Polish Minister of Justice Zbigniew Ziobro's declarations comparing the filmmaker to Third Reich propagandists.

Mr Ziobro made these remarks without watching the film, making such comments not only slanderous and unfounded, but cloaked in the trappings of a government minister his words become an insidious form of propaganda.

European Ministers of Justice inherently understand and respect the function and value of juries. The jury of the Venice Film Festival has just awarded its Special Jury Prize to Agnieszka's film. This jury assessed the evidence before making their decision – they watched the film. All of it.

We invite the people of Poland, Europe and the world to judge for themselves, by watching ZIELONCA GRANICA (THE GREEN BORDER).

We urge engagement in honest, informed, and civil debate on this film and all cultural works – particularly as European culture ministers set out to discuss "Culture as an essential public good, as a global public good" during their informal September 26 meeting in Cáceres, Spain under the Spanish presidency of the EU.

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Background information

September 6 – <https://variety.com/2023/film/global/venice-agnieszka-holland-green-border-poland-nazi-propaganda-1235714540/>

September 8 – <https://www.sfp.org.pl/wydarzenia,5,34849,1,1,Bromski-do-Ziobry-To-haniebna-wypowiedz.html>

September 8 – <https://wyborcza.pl/7,101707,30168712,bromski-do-ziobry-nawet-putin-nie-wypowiadal-sie-w-tym-tonie.html>

September 8 – <https://film.wp.pl/skierowal-list-otwarty-do-ziobry-skandal-i-hanba-6939430254533248a>

September 12 – <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/academy-stands-agnieszka-holland/>

September 12 – <https://www.screendaily.com/news/european-film-academy-demands-end-to-threats-against-agnieszka-holland-by-polish-justice-minister/5185838.article>

September 14 – <https://variety.com/2023/film/global/agnieszka-holland-green-border-buyers-poland-backlash-1235723671/>

About Us

Founded in 1980, FERA represents the independent voice of European film and TV directors in Brussels. With 49 organizations as members from 35 countries, it speaks for more than 20,000 European film and TV directors, representing their cultural, creative and economic interests at national and EU level.

Honorary President: Jasmila ŽBANIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Ambassadors: Marco BELLOCCHIO (Italy), Isabel COIXET (Spain), Agnieszka HOLLAND (Poland), Michaël R. ROSKAM (Belgium), Charles STURRIDGE (UK), István SZABÓ (Hungary)

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