

In September 2015, EU leaders agreed that each country would accept a number of migrants over two years to reduce the pressure on Italy and Greece.

In spite of this agreement, the Polish government, headed by the conservative Law and Justice party, has recurrently declared that the 6,200 refugees allocated to Poland will not be accepted. However, there is a price for this declaration: around €12 bn. in EU funding.

According to German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAS), EU Commission could financially punish Poland over its refugee policy.

The article said: *“Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are still not planning to accept migrants. They will have to pay a price around EUR 12 billion, which will be allocated in the next EU budget to countries which took on refugees when needed.”*

## **Background**

The European Commission has started proceedings against Poland’s ruling conservative Law and Justice Party for breaking European rules on human rights and democratic values. The most important aspect of Poland’s judiciary that has been affected is refugee policy. Poland’s decision on refugee policy could even trigger the EU to launch Article 7 on December 2017 which means a suspension of voting rights in the EU and cuts in billions of euros to EU aid.



## Poland could lose EU funds over its refugee policy