

SC candidate 2022



Mariusz Arkadiusz Pilis, Association of Polish Journalists, Poland

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Three reasons to ask for your support

1. I would like to actively participate in the work of the EFJ and be a representative of journalists from Central and Eastern European countries, such as Poland, in the Steering Committee of the EFJ. These countries were governed by communist regimes for years, which had a great impact on the media also after the transformation of the system and regaining independence by them. Journalists' problems in our countries tend to be different than in Western Europe, where democracy has been shaped for many years. That is why I would like to be a spokesman for journalists in this part of Europe that is constantly struggling with problems whose genesis is the historical fate of our countries. In recent years, for unknown reasons, the voice of all journalistic currents from countries such as Poland did not always reach the EFJ headquarters. It is worth changing this.
2. Russia's aggression towards Ukraine proves to all of us that we need to revise our existing relations with that country. Russian propaganda and its modern tools are also used in countries all over Europe, and the influence of Russian propaganda is visible in many media. That is why it is important for us, as the largest organization of European journalists in the world, to be able to recognize them. It is also important that we know how to counteract them together. For this you need to know the mechanisms of Russian disinformation. I know her very well - for almost 30 years I have been a journalist who deals with these topics. I make documentaries about it. I was in the war in Chechnya and I am now in Ukraine, where I am shooting the latest film on this subject. I hope that my experience of working with Russians and representatives of the nations occupied by them will be useful to all of us now, when the whole world is afraid that the war between Russia and Ukraine may not turn into World War III.
3. I value and respect social work for our journalistic environment. For over 20 years, I have been a member of the Polish Journalists Association, and since 2017 I have been serving on its Main Board. I believe that the voice of our community is a very important element in the implementation of the principle of freedom of speech in our countries, therefore we should cooperate and consult each other in order to speak out publicly on matters important to us, especially in the forum of the European Union institutions

CV

I was born in Zawiercie. In 1987 I graduated from the Technical School of Metallurgy. St. Staszica in Zawiercie. I studied Polish philology at the Jagiellonian University in 1987–1992. I was actively involved in the activities of the anti-communist opposition. 1987/89 member of the NZS and the University Committee of the NZS of the Jagiellonian University.

I am the author of documentaries about the Caucasus, Russia, Central Asia and the Middle East. Associate of many television stations, incl. TVP, TVN, Danish TV2, Dutch VPRO and British BBC and Channel 4. I worked as TVP correspondent in Ukraine. Originator and first director of TVP Info. I am the author of the documentary Letter from Poland showing the international background of the Smolensk catastrophe. It was the first Polish document about the Smolensk Catastrophe. The letter from Poland was commissioned by the Dutch public television VPRO, where it was broadcast in October 2010. The film never premiered in Poland. On the Internet, it had over 4 million views. Based on the interviews conducted for the film, the book Letter from Poland was created. In March 2013, Bunt Stadionów was launched, which had over 1.5 million views on the Internet. It never had a television premiere in Poland. By observing the circles of football fans in Poland, the film tells about the rebellion of the young generation and its impact on the political and social situation in the country. In 2014, the Association of Polish Journalists awarded the film and the director with the St. Żeromski for the best documentary on social issues. In 2018 his document "Now and in the hour of death" was nominated in the "Best Film" category for the prestigious award at the International Catholic Film Festival "Mirabile Dictu" - called the Catholic Oscar.

From January to September 2016, I was the director of the Television Information Agency.

In 2017, I worked at PAP as the Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Office of Opinions and Commentaries. In the same year, he became a member of the Main Board of the Association of Polish Journalists.

In 2018/2019 - co-founder and leader of the INFO WILNO project - Polish Local Television for Poles in the Vilnius Region, a project of the Polish government, which was later called TVP WILNO.

In 2020, I was awarded the Silver Cross of Merit.