

France to push for rights sanctions in EU recovery plan



Paris, August 7 (RHC)-- France will push for financial sanctions under the EU's 750 billion euro (\$880 billion) coronavirus recovery fund against states that undermine fundamental human rights, its junior European affairs minister told the Financial Times newspaper.

"(We can't tell) French, Polish, Hungarian and European citizens that (we) can have financial solidarity in Europe and not care how the basic rules of democracy, free media, and equal rights are respected," Clement Beaune said in an interview published in the Financial Times.

The European Union is struggling to respond to what many in western Europe see as creeping authoritarianism on its eastern flank. The European Commission, EU lawmakers and activists have said freedoms are notably under threat in Poland and Hungary.

Beaune told the newspaper that the EU must be tougher on breaches by those countries.

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