

Brussels, 29 March 2024

Dear President Metsola, Dear Roberta,

I write to express the Renew Europe Group's grave concerns about reports, **confirmed by Polish, Czech and Belgian security services and by the Prime ministers of Belgium and the Czech Republic**, that Members of this House and candidates in the forthcoming European elections have been paid by the Russia Government or its proxies to disseminate propaganda in the European Parliament and beyond. This is clear attack on our European way of life, our Parliament and its democratic mandate by a foreign power.

We urge you to launch an immediate and transparent investigation, in cooperation with national authorities, to uncover the scale of the influence operation within this house and allegations of potential corruption. If sitting MEPs or candidates in the upcoming European elections have taken money from or been corrupted by the Russia Government or their proxies, they must be exposed.

Renew Europe believes these reports should be treated with the upmost seriousness and we have consequently tabled **a request for an urgent debate in the European Parliament, accompanied by the adoption of a resolution**, to discuss these allegations in the presence of the European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra Jourová.

Following the Czech government's decision to sanction the news site Voice of Europe, which allegedly was working as part of a pro-Russian influence operation, we urge you to take the necessary steps to remove any access that the Voice of Europe has to the European Parliament's premises and protect the democratic integrity of this house. European sanctions should accompany those adopted by the Czech Government.

It is imperative that swift action is taken to defend European democracy from foreign interference ahead of the forthcoming European elections.



Valérie Hayer
President of the Renew Europe Group