



OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

DATE

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BY EMAIL

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Domènec Ruiz Devesa
MEP S&D
European Parliament
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COPY TO

Wouter Gekiere (gekiere@ebu.ch)
Andrea Campbell (campbella@ebu.ch)

SUBJECT

Eurovision Song Contest

Dear MEP Ruiz Devesa and colleagues,

Thank you very much for your letter and the concerns you raise.

You rightly note that there are similarities in the Eurovision Song Contest's motto "United by Music" and the EU's motto "United in Diversity". Both the EU and the EBU share the values of universality, diversity, equality and inclusivity. The EBU has a long-standing tradition of celebrating diversity through music. Each year, we aim to incorporate our values, whilst endeavouring to innovate and improve the Song Contest, together with the relevant host broadcaster.

The management and logistics for a show of this size and complexity present certain challenges. In that respect, we take utmost regard of your concerns with respect to the EU flag this year. We would like to reiterate that there was no express ban on any flags this year and note that the EU flag has been clearly visible in previous editions. Our general approach to the flags at the venue has always been based on a positive, inclusive list of the flags of participating countries only.

It is the case that, in 2024, concerns were raised over the potential for disruptions to the Song Contest, resulting from the sensitive global political context, and thus tighter security on-site was needed. The list of accepted Member country flags, along with all other security policies, was applied more strictly than ever at the entrance to the venue. We wish to assure you that it was never our intention to discredit the European Union flag as such an important symbol of European unity and solidarity, and we will be sure to revisit our policy for next year.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Curran
Director General

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