

Mrs Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Mr Charles Michel
President of the European Council

Mrs Robert Metsola
President of the European Parliament

Brussels, 15th of July 2024

Dear President von der Leyen,

Dear President Michel,

Dear President Metsola,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, call on you to do your utmost to suspend Hungary's voting rights in the Council according to the procedure set out in Article 7 of the Treaty on the European Union.

The Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union has barely started, and Prime Minister Orbán has already caused significant damage by exploiting and abusing the role of the Council Presidency.

Mr Orbán undertook several diplomatic visits, notably to visit Putin in Russia and Xi Jinping in China, during which he intentionally misrepresented his empowerments. In his so-called "peace mission" Prime Minister Orbán deliberately left the impression that he was acting on behalf of the entire European Union, whereas in reality he has no authority to represent the EU or any other EU Member States apart from his own. This is clearly evidenced by the fact that several EU leaders, diplomats, EU officials, and even High Representative Borrell have felt the need to publicly emphasize that these trips took place exclusively in the framework of bilateral relations, and that the Hungarian Prime Minister is not representing the EU in any form. This kind of behavior amounts to usurping the powers and prerogatives of the EU Member States in the field of foreign policy.

Furthermore, Mr Orbán is actively undermining common EU positions. For example, by pushing for a ceasefire at any cost, instead of a ceasefire on Ukraine's terms. Not only is he exceeding his powers when he pretends to represent the EU as a whole, but he is actively pursuing a policy agenda which is contrary to common EU positions. He is seeking to undermine existing EU decisions, the entire decision-making process, as well as EU unity on highly important matters. This cannot be allowed to continue.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned abuses of power, we call on you to take decisive action as soon as possible in order to limit further damage, not only to the credibility of the EU as a whole, but also regarding the current geopolitical situation. This requires real actions, such as suspending Hungary's voting rights in the Council, since practice has shown that mere verbal condemnations of this situation have no effect.

Sincerely,

Riho Terras

Urmas Paet

Andrius Kubilius

Ivars Ijabs

Dainius Žalimas

Jonas Sjöstedt

Sergey Lagodinsky

Emma Wiesner

Abir Al-Sahlani

Loucas Fourlas

Seán Kelly

Sebastian Tynkkynen

Ansis Pūpols

Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner

Petras Auštrevičius

Liudas Mažylis

Inese Vaidere

Irena Joveva

Sven Mikser

Łukasz Kohut

Per Clausen

Ivan Štefanec

Silvia Modig

Andrzej Halicki

Pekka Toveri

Jüri Ratas

Alexander Alexandrov Yordanov

Michał Szczerba

Michael Gahler

Krzysztof Brejza

Aura Salla

Mika Aaltola

Karin Karlsbro

Lukas Mandl

Monika Hohlmeier

Anna Stürkgh

Helmut Brandstätter

Michael Hadjipantela

Alice Kuhnke

Pär Holmgren

Isabella Lövin

Radan Kanev

Maria Walsh

Nina Carberry

Sandra Kalniete

Tineke Strik

Regina Doherty

Rasa Juknevičienė

Tomas Tobé

Alice Teodorescu Măwe

Moritz Körner

Jan-Christoph Oetjen

Arba Kokalari

Dirk Gotink

Jörgen Warborn

Jessica Polfjärd

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