

António Costa
President of the European Council

Brussels, 12th of May 2025

Dear President Costa,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, would like to express our serious concerns regarding one aspect of your upcoming visit to the Western Balkans region from the 12th to the 16th of May 2025, namely your visit to Serbia on the 13th of May.

This is very problematic, considering the fact that Serbia's President Aleksandar Vučić attended President Putin's military parade in Moscow on the 9th of May 2025. The army parading in Moscow is the same army which continues committing war crimes and killing Ukrainians on a daily basis, for over 3 years now.

In the world of diplomacy, these kinds of visits are far from a mere formality. They are acts of support. Therefore, President Vučić's attendance amounts to endorsement of the war crimes committed by Putin and Russia's army. This is further evidenced by the fact that the other world leaders attending this event are mostly from fellow autocracies and repressive regimes.

This kind of behavior by President Vučić needs to be condemned in the strongest terms, as it runs contrary to EU values and everything that we stand for. Your visit to Serbia would have the exact opposite effect, as it would signal the EU's approval of President Vučić's despicable behavior.

As President of the European Council, you should not express your support or approval of someone who endorses a war criminal. Your visit to Serbia would have exactly this effect, as it would be a demonstration of support to President Vučić. Therefore, we call on you to cancel your visit to Serbia.

Sincerely,

Riho Terras

Jaak Madison

Urmas Paet

Mārtiņš Staķis

Irena Joveva

Inese Vaidere

Helmut Brandstätter

Thijs Reuten

Dainius Žalimas

Jüri Ratas

Ivars Ijabs

Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis

Nathalie Loiseau

Michał Kobosko

Merja Kyllönen

Sebastian Tynkkynen

Paulius Saudargas

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Rasa Juknevičienė

Liudas Mažylis

Villy Søvndal

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