13-11-2026

European Parliament

To:

Michael McGrath, Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection

CC: **Nataša Pirc Musar**, President of Slovenia,

Subject: **Urgent request for Commission action on Slovenia's proposed restrictions on civil society campaigning**

Statement of support for 8th of March Institute, My Voice My Choice, and civil society in Slovenia

Dear Commissioner, dear President

We are deeply concerned by the proposed amendment to Slovenia's election and referendum campaign law.

The Slovenian government coalition wants to prohibit all organisations that have received any funding from abroad in the five years preceding a referendum from registering as a campaign organiser. This would apply even when the funding is unrelated to referendum campaigns, and even to payments for services rendered and to grants from the EU Commission.

Foreign funding of referendum and election campaigns is already prohibited under Slovenian law, precisely to prevent foreign interference in democratic processes. Campaign financing is strictly monitored and audited by the Court of Audit.

Referendums are an important democratic instrument in Slovenia. Under Slovenian law, anyone wishing to participate in a referendum campaign must register as a campaign organiser. Those who do not or cannot register, are not allowed take part in the campaign.

Civil society organisations play an essential role in democratic life. They enable people to organise, express their views and participate in decisions that affect their communities. The success of the campaign for the *My Voice, My Choice* citizens' initiative demonstrated the importance of people coming together across borders to make their voices heard. My Voice My Choice was started by 8th of March Institute in Slovenia, and the proposed amendments would ban them from participating in public campaigns in the future**.**

We recognise the importance of protecting democratic processes from foreign interference, but such measures must be targeted, necessary and proportionate. The effect of the proposed amendment would be to is to exclude civil society from organising campaigns, and to silence part of the Slovenian society.The proposal has been submitted for expedited procedure and could by adopted within days or weeks.

Slovenia is not the first Member State to restrict civic space. Indeed, similar laws have been enacted in Hungary and Slovakia and now this worrying trend continues with Slovenia.

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We ask the Commission to:

1. **Warn the Slovenian government against adopting such sweeping restrictions that impact the entire Slovenian civil society.**

2. **Take all necessary steps, including initiating infringement proceedings, to ensure compliance with EU law**

3. **Express its clear support for Slovenian civil society and its fundamental role in allowing citizens to participate in public life.**

Abir Al-Sahlani, Vice- President and FEMM Coordinator

Valèrie Hayer, Renew Europe President
Fabienne Keller, Renew Europe LIBE Coordinator
Raquel García Hermida-van der Walle, Renew Europe All of Us Coordinator
Irena Joveva, Renew Europe MEP Slovenia

Iratxe Garcia Perez, S&D President
Helene Fritzon, S&D Vice-President for Gender Equality
Ana Catarina Mendes, S&D Vice-President for Rule of Law
Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus, S&D FEMM Coordinator
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Terry Reintke, GreensEFA co-president
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Alice Kuhnke, Greens All of Us Coordinator
Saskia Bricmont, Greens Libe coordinator
Daniel Freund, MEP RoL

Manon Aubry, Left Chair
Irene Montero, Left FEMM Coordinator
Hanna Gedin, Left All of Us Coordinator
Carolina Morace, Left FEMM
Kathleen Funchion, Left FEMM