

Dear President Tusk,

April 7, 2020

As leaders of EPP member parties with deep roots in our respective countries' center-right and pro-European political traditions, we wish to express our deep concern with the political developments in Hungary, in particular the law passed by the Hungarian parliament on March 30th, which allows the Hungarian government to indefinitely extend the country's state of emergency and allows Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to rule by decree.

This is a clear violation of the founding principles of liberal democracy and European values. The fight against covid-19 requires extensive measures, however the virus cannot be used as a pretext to extend the state of emergency indefinitely. We fear that Prime Minister Orbán will use his newly achieved power to further extend the government's grip on civil society.

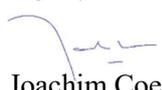
The EPP has a commitment to safeguard liberal democracy, the indisputable right of the individual and the rule of law, which are fundamental principles, upon which not only our political family, but indeed the European Union is founded.

We have followed the degradation of the Hungarian rule of law for some time. Fidesz is currently suspended from the EPP due to its failure to respect the principle of rule of law. However, the recent developments have confirmed our conviction that Fidesz, with its current policies, cannot enjoy full membership in the EPP.

We wish to express our full support to President Donald Tusk and the entire EPP leadership in upholding the integrity of our political family. We call on the expulsion of Fidesz from the EPP in accordance with article 9 of the EPP statutes.

We furthermore underline our support for the European Commission and call on joint action by the Member States to address the situation in Hungary forcefully.

We have some very challenging times ahead. A strong and united Europe, committed to the founding values of freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights and human dignity, is a necessity for us all.


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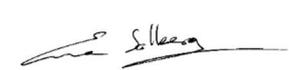

Petteri Orpo
National Coalition Party
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Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Prime Minister of Greece
Nea Demokratia


Gabrielius Landsbergis
Homeland Union – Lithuanian
Christian Democrats


Frank Engel
CSV (Luxembourg)

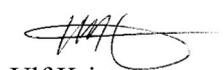

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