



To:

President of the European Council, António Costa
Federal Chancellor of Austria, Christian Stocker
Prime Minister of Belgium, Bart De Wever
Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Rumen Radev
Prime Minister of Croatia, Andrej Plenković
President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Andrej Babiš
Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen
Prime Minister of Estonia, Kristen Michal
Prime Minister of Finland, Petteri Orpo
President of the Republic of France, Emmanuel Macron
Federal Chancellor of Germany, Friedrich Merz
Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Prime Minister of Hungary, Péter Magyar
Taoiseach of Ireland, Micheál Martin
Prime Minister of Italy, Giorgia Meloni
Prime Minister of Latvia, Andris Kulbergs
President of the Republic of Lithuania, Gitanas Nausėda
Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Luc Frieden
Prime Minister of Malta, Robert Abela
Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Rob Jetten
Prime Minister of Poland, Donald Tusk
Prime Minister of Portugal, Luís Montenegro
President of Romania, Nicușor Dan
Prime Minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico
Prime Minister of Slovenia, Janez Janša
Prime Minister of Spain, Pedro Sánchez
Prime Minister of Sweden, Ulf Kristersson
President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-
President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas

Strasbourg, 21 October 2026

Re: Inclusion of serious corruption in the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime

Dear President Costa,
Dear Heads of State and Government,
Dear President Metsola,
Dear High Representative/Vice-President Kallas,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, call on the Council and the High Representative to strengthen the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime (commonly known as the EU Magnitsky Act) by:



1. **including serious corruption – including bribery, misappropriation of public funds and the laundering of their proceeds – as an independent ground for sanctions under the EU Magnitsky Act; and**
2. **formally renaming the regime the “EU Global Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regime (EU Magnitsky Act)”, in recognition of Sergei Magnitsky, whose name has become a symbol of the global Magnitsky sanctions movement.**

For years, the EU’s unanimity requirement was repeatedly used by the previous Hungarian government to obstruct or delay sanctions and other foreign-policy decisions. The new Hungarian government is pursuing closer cooperation with the EU and anti-corruption reforms, creating a real opportunity to adopt the proposed anti-corruption sanctions framework without further delay.

Sergei Magnitsky, who exposed massive corruption and died in Moscow pre-trial detention in November 2009 after being beaten and denied medical care, became a symbol of the fight against corruption. His case inspired a global movement of Magnitsky laws imposing targeted sanctions on those responsible for serious human rights abuses and corruption. Today, Magnitsky laws are in force in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia – each of which allows sanctions against both human rights abusers and those involved in serious corruption.

The EU remains the major exception: its regime covers human rights violations only, with no sanctions specifically targeting corrupt individuals and entities. This allows corrupt foreign officials already sanctioned by other Western partners to continue to benefit from EU institutions and its financial systems.

In May 2023, the High Representative, supported by the Commission, [proposed](#) a dedicated EU sanctions regime targeting serious corruption. This has since been called for, most recently by [the European Parliament](#) in January 2026 and by [the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe](#) on 22 April 2026. More than three years on, the proposal still awaits adoption by the Council.

We also reiterate Parliament’s request for Sergei Magnitsky’s name to be formally attached to the regime, a [call first made as early as 2019](#). There is now an opportunity both to align the EU sanctions regime with those of its closest partners and to formally recognise it as the EU Magnitsky Act.

Yours sincerely,

MEP Petras Auštrevičius, Renew Europe, Lithuania
MEP Antonio López-Istúriz White, EPP, Spain
MEP Thijs Reuten, S&D, Netherlands
MEP Reinis Pozņaks, ECR, Latvia
MEP Sergey Lagodinsky, Greens/EFA, Germany
MEP Lukas Sieper, Renew Europe, Germany
MEP Ilhan Kyuchuk, Renew Europe, Bulgaria
MEP Karin Karlsbro, Renew Europe, Sweden



MEP Michal Kobosko, Renew Europe, Poland
MEP Dan Barna, Renew Europe, Romania
MEP Raquel García Hermida-van der Walle, Renew Europe, Netherlands
MEP Svenja Hahn, Renew Europe, Germany
MEP Urmas Paet, Renew Europe, Estonia
MEP Dainius Žalimas, Renew Europe, Lithuania
MEP Bernard Guetta, Renew Europe, France
MEP Nathalie Loiseau, Renew Europe, France
MEP Malik Azmani, Renew Europe, Netherlands
MEP Hilde Vautmans, Renew Europe, Belgium
MEP Lucia Yar, Renew Europe, Slovakia
MEP Ľubica Karvašová, Renew Europe, Slovakia
MEP Veronika Cifrová Ostrihoňová, Renew Europe, Slovakia
MEP Michal Wiezik, Renew Europe, Slovakia
MEP Nikola Minchev, Renew Europe, Bulgaria
MEP Billy Kelleher, Renew Europe, Ireland
MEP Barry Cowen, Renew Europe, Ireland
MEP Barry Andrews, Renew Europe, Ireland
MEP Hristo Petrov, Renew Europe, Bulgaria
MEP Cynthia Ní Mhurchú, Renew Europe, Ireland
MEP Anna-Maja Henriksson, Renew Europe, Finland
MEP Inese Vaidere, EPP, Latvia
MEP Nicolás Pascual de la Parte, EPP, Spain
MEP Adrián Vázquez Lázara, EPP, Spain
MEP Raúl de la Hoz Quintano, EPP, Spain
MEP Dolors Montserrat, EPP, Spain
MEP Gabriel Mato, EPP, Spain
MEP Esteban González Pons, EPP, Spain
MEP Esther Herranz García, EPP, Spain
MEP Rasa Juknevičienė, EPP, Lithuania
MEP Maravillas Abadía Jover, EPP, Spain
MEP Javier Zarzalejos, EPP, Spain
MEP Reinhold Lopatka, EPP, Austria
MEP Borja Giménez Larraz, EPP, Spain
MEP Susana Solís Pérez, EPP, Spain
MEP Isabel Benjumea Benjumea, EPP, Spain
MEP Michael Gahler, EPP, Germany
MEP Elena Nevado Del Campo, EPP, Spain
MEP Dirk Gotink, EPP, Netherlands
MEP Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, EPP, Spain
MEP Andrey Kovatchev, EPP, Bulgaria
MEP Radan Kanev, EPP, Bulgaria
MEP Seán Kelly, EPP, Ireland
MEP Carmen Crespo Díaz, EPP, Spain
MEP Chloé Ridet, S&D, France
MEP Nils Ušakovs, S&D, Latvia
MEP Tonino Picula, S&D, Croatia
MEP Jean-Marc Germain, S&D, France
MEP Klára Dobrev, S&D, Hungary
MEP Rihards Kols, ECR, Latvia



MEP Mariusz Kamiński, ECR, Poland
MEP Sebastian Tynkkynen, ECR, Finland
MEP Małgorzata Gosiewska, ECR, Poland
MEP Maciej Wąsik, ECR, Poland
MEP Adam Bielan, ECR, Poland
MEP Ondřej Krutílek, ECR, Czechia
MEP Arkadiusz Mularczyk, ECR, Poland
MEP Sander Smit, ECR, Netherlands
MEP Marlena Maląg, ECR, Poland
MEP Michał Dworczyk, ECR, Poland
MEP Alexandr Vondra, ECR, Czechia
MEP Veronika Vrecionová, ECR, Czechia
MEP Ondřej Krutílek, ECR, Czechia