

Member of the European Parliament

Josep Borrell Fontelles
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission

Brussels, 16th of June, 2022

Dear High Representative Borrell Fontelles,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are expressing our utmost concern regarding a draft bill submitted to the Russian State Duma which calls for repealing the Decree of the State Council of the USSR On the Recognition of the Independence of the Republic of Lithuania.

The questioning of the independence of an EU Member State is an unacceptable threat, to be taken especially seriously in light of the ongoing war in Ukraine where the aggressor is using outright lies, disinformation, and propaganda to try to justify their actions.

Under the rule of President Putin, the Russian Federation has set the goal of an offensive against independent countries which were formerly occupied by the Soviet Union. Their broader objective is the dismantling of Europe's current security architecture through various means such as disinformation, threats, sowing division, and even outright war against Ukraine. The demise of the European Union is a strategic goal for the Russian Federation.

The European Union cannot afford to stand idle and do nothing as this is taking place. The European Union needs to take a stand on behalf of both the Union itself and its Member States.

The decisions of the Russian State Duma have to be treated as actions by a pseudo-legislator which is controlled by criminal and authoritarian regime because elections in Russia have not been free and fair for a long time.

It is important to remember that throughout their history neither the EU nor NATO have ever expanded by any offensive means. Any enlargement has been at the wish of sovereign independent countries.

The military aggression and hostile actions of the Russian Federation break international law and try to undermine independent countries' right of self-determination. Any legislative initiative which has the purpose of revoking the recognition of the independence of an EU Member State (or any independent country) is a step towards restoring the Russian Empire.

Therefore, we the undersigned Members of the European Parliament call on a swift and decisive reaction should this draft bill be adopted by the Russian State Duma. More specifically, the European Union should end diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation and declare as *personae non gratae* all diplomats of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the European Union.

Sincerely,

Riho Terras

Guy Verhofstadt

Jaak Madison

Marian-Jean Marinescu

Roberts Zīle

Klára Dobrev

Csaba Molnár

Attila Ara-Kovács

Sándor Rónai

Sara Skyttedal

Miriam Lexmann

Inese Vaidere

Aušra Maldeikienė

Tomáš Zdechovský

Siegfried Mureşan

Isabel Wiseler-Lima

Vlad Gheorghe

Daniel Buda

Gheorghe Falcă

Radosław Sikorski

Márton Gyöngyösi

Krzysztof Hetman

Ivan štefanec

Liudas Mažylis

Mircea-Gheorghe Hava

David Lega

Eugen Tomac

Teuvo Hakkarainen

Peter Pollák
Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó
Antoni Comín i Oliveres
Clara Ponsatí Obiols
Laura Huhtasaari
Juozas Olekas
Andrzej Halicki
Petras Auštrevičius
Jacek Saryusz-Wolski
Marek Belka
Luis Garicano
Witold Jan Waszczykowski
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu
Beata Mazurek
Gheorghe-Vlad Nistor
Ivars Ijabs
Anna Zalewska
Valdemar Tomaševski
Andrius Kubilius
Radan Kanev
Milan Zver
Nils Ušakovs
Vasile Blaga
Ioan-Rareș Bogdan
Cristian-Silviu Bușoi
Loránt Vincze
Iuliu Winkler
Adam Bielan
Hermann Tertsch