



To:

**President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen,
President of the European Council, Charles Michel**

18 February, 2021

Dear President Ursula von der Leyen,
Dear President Charles Michel,

We, the undersigned experts, politicians, public figures, human rights activists and members of the Russian opposition call upon the European Union's leadership to address the issue of Alexey Navalny's imprisonment with the utmost priority.

We urge you to seek for his unconditional and immediate release and the halt of police violence against Russian people attending peaceful protests all over the Russian Federation in support of Mr. Navalny.

The European human rights sanctions mechanism, the European Magnitsky Act, should be used to bring to account those responsible for human rights violations against Alexey Navalny, including assassination attempts, and against peaceful protesters.

Moreover, should Russian authorities fail to engage into genuine cooperation, targeted sanctions should be applied against individuals and companies responsible for the regime's policies of terror and human rights violations and against Kremlin's strategic projects benefiting Putin's regime, such as Nord Stream 2.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius, Member of the European Parliament, Lithuania

Raphaël Glucksmann, Member of the European Parliament, France

Radosław Sikorski, Member of the European Parliament, Poland

William Browder, Human Rights Activist, Global Magnitsky Justice Campaign

Vladimir Kara-Murza, Vice President, Free Russia Foundation

Edward Lucas, Writer, Author, Security Expert, CEPA

Michał Kamiński, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland

Žygimantas Pavilionis, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament (Seimas) of the Republic of Lithuania

Rihards Kols, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament (Saeima) of the Republic of Latvia

Pavel Fischer, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense, Senate of the Czech Republic

Tom Tugendhat, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the UK Parliament

Hans Wallmark, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Member of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag)

André Gattolin, Vice-Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Member of the French Senate

Vytautas Landsbergis, The First Head of State of the Republic of Lithuania

Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania (1998-2003 and 2004-2009)

Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of Estonia (2006-2016), Professor, Tartu University

Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania (2009-2019)

Jerzy Buzek, Former President of the European Parliament, Member of the European Parliament, Poland

Roberta Metsola, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Malta

Carl Bildt, Former Prime Minister of Sweden

Guy Verhofstadt, Member of the European Parliament, Former Prime Minister of Belgium

Andrius Kubilius, Member of the European Parliament, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania

Andrus Ansip, Member of the European Parliament, Former Prime Minister of Estonia

Iveta Radičová, Former Prime Minister of Slovakia

Gediminas Kirkilas, Former Prime Minister of Lithuania

Vesna Pusić, Former Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia

Urmas Paet, Vice Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Member of the European Parliament, Estonia

Hans van Baalen, President, ALDE Party

Andrey Borisovich Zubov, Vice Chairman, People's Freedom Party (PARNAS), Russia

Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Founder, Open Russia

Lilia Shevtsova, Political Scientist, Liberal Mission Foundation, Russia

Garry Kasparov, Chairman, Human Rights Foundation (HRF)

Andrei Piontkovsky, Visiting Fellow, Hudson Institute

Natalia Arno, President, Free Russia Foundation

Oleh Sentsov, Film director, writer, ex-prisoner, Cry Cinema

Michael Abramowitz, President, Freedom House

David J. Kramer, Senior Fellow, Florida International University

Geir Hønneland, Secretary General, Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Alice Stollmeyer, Executive Director, Defend Democracy

Ivana Bacik, Senator, Oireachtas (Irish Parliament)

Gunnar Hökmark, Former Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Stockholm Free World Forum

Alan Mendoza, Executive Director, The Henry Jackson Society

Katarina Tracz, Director, Stockholm Free World Forum

Witold Waszczykowski, Member of the European Parliament, 1st Vice-Chair of AFET, Poland

Markéta Gregorová, Member of the European Parliament, Czechia

Eerik Niiles Kross, Member of the Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu), Delegate to PACE

Kerstin Lundgren, Member of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag), Spokesperson in Foreign Affairs for the Center Party

Andrei Sannikov, Chairman, European Belarus Foundation

Brian Whitmore, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Emanuelis Zingeris, Member of Parliament (Seimas) of the Republic of Lithuania, Chairman of the Parliamentary Delegation to PACE

Joanna Kluzik-Rostkowska, Member of the Polish Parliament (Sejm), Former Minister of Labour and Minister of Education

Irwin Cotler, Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Chair, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human

Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Member of Parliament (Seimas) of the Republic of Lithuania, Vice President of PACE, Former Member of the European Parliament

Joerg Forbrig, Director for Central and Eastern Europe, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Ronald Deibert, Director and Professor, The Citizen Lab, University of Toronto

Glanis Changachirere, Director, Institute for Young Women Development

Jakub Klepal, Executive Director, Forum 2000 Foundation

Bassma Kodmani, Member of the Syrian Constitutional Committee

Gina Romero, Executive Director, Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy

Manuel Sarrazin, Member of the German Parliament (Bundestag), Spokesman for Eastern European Affairs, Alliance 90/The Greens

Ronald Deibert, Director and Professor, the Citizen Lab, University of Toronto

Lars Adaktusson, Member of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag)

Vasil Sikharulidze, Chairman, Atlantic Council of Georgia

Eka Gigauri, Executive Director, Transparency International Georgia

Maiko Ichihara, Associate Professor, Hitotsubashi University, Japan

Ghia Nodia, Professor, Ilia State University, Georgia

Michal Šimečka, Member of the European Parliament, Slovakia

Brigitte Dufour, Director, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)

Tamara Adrian, Member of the National Assembly of Venezuela

Andrea Ngombet, Founder, Incarner l'Espoir

Manuel Cuesta Morúa, Spokesperson, Progressive Arc, Cuba

Dr. Jianli Yang, Founder and President, Citizen Power Initiatives for China

Arch Puddington, Senior Scholar Emeritus, Freedom House

Alina Mungiu Pippidi, Professor, Democracy Chair, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin

Ladan Boroumand, Co-founder and Senior Fellow, Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran

Moises Naim, Distinguished Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Agnieszka Holland, Film Director, EFA President, European Film Academy

Kornely Kakachia, Director, Georgian Institute of Politics

Karin Karlsbro, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden

Tutu Alicante, Executive Director, EG Justice

Nino Evgenidze, Executive Director, the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC), Georgia

Claudio Lodici, Professor of Political Science and Democracies Studies, Loyola University Chicago

Rasa Juknevičienė, Member of the European Parliament, Lithuania

Mykola Riabchuk, Honorary President, Ukrainian PEN Center

Bart Groothuis, Member of the European Parliament, The Netherlands

Anna Fotyga, Member of the European Parliament, Poland

Zoltán Kész, Former Member of the Hungarian Parliament (Országgyűlés), Director of Operations, Civitas Institute

Leszek Jazdzewski, Editor-in-Chief, Liberte!

Thor Halvorssen, President, Human Rights Foundation (HRF)

Martin Palous, Senior Fellow, Florida International University
Ion Manole, Executive Director, Promo-LEX, Moldova
Gabriel C. Salvia, General Director, CADAL
Larry Diamond, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University
Tomas Halik, President, Czech Christian Academy
Ivars Ijabs, Member of the European Parliament, Latvia
Lee Feinstein, Former US Ambassador to Poland
Ramona Strugariu, Member of the European Parliament, Romania
Anar Mammadli, Chairperson, Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center, Azerbaijan
Amb. Martin Bútorá (ret.), Founder and Honorary President, Institute for Public Affairs, Bratislava, Slovakia
Enrique Krauze, Editor, Letras Libres Magazine
Thomas O. Melia, Washington Director, PEN America
Husain Haqqani, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute
Francis Fukuyama, Senior Fellow, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford University
Edipcia Dubón, Coordinator, Diálogo de Mujeres por la Democracia
Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Professor, the Institute for Science and International Security, Faculty of Political Science, Thailand
Joshua Muravchik, Adjunct Professor, Institute of World Politics
Arthur Larok, Federation Development Director, ActionAid
Surendra Munshi, Independent Researcher and Consultant
Tinatin Khidasheli, Chairperson, Civic IDEA
Andreas Bummel, Executive Director, Democracy Without Borders
Miklos Haraszti, Former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Fellow, Center for Media, Data and Society, Central European University
Gunnar Martin Ekeløve-Slydal, Director of Policies, Norwegian Helsinki Committee
Antonio López-Istúriz White, Member of the European Parliament, Spain
Myroslav Marynovych, Vice-Rector, Ukrainian Catholic University
Michael Zantovsky, Executive Director, Vaclav Havel Library
Jostein Hole Kobbeltvedt, Executive Director, Rafto Foundation for Human Rights
Bjorn Engesland, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Helsinki Committee
Andis Kudors, Political Scientist, Former Executive Director of the Centre for East European Policy Studies, Latvia
Natalia Pushkareva, Programme Director - Tax Reform and Public Finance Management, International Lawyers Project
Kenneth Wollack, Chairman, National Endowment for Democracy
Adam Michnik, Editor-in-Chief, Gazeta Wyborcza
André Vallini, Member of the French Senate
Dr Ahmad Farouk Musa, Founder and Director, Islamic Renaissance Front
Nicolae Ștefănuță, Member of the European Parliament, Romania
Kenneth Wollack, Chairman, National Endowment for Democracy
Cholpon Dzhakupova, Director of the Public Foundation "Legal Clinic "Adilet", Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Steven Blockmans, Director, CEPS
Javier Nart, Member of the European Parliament, Spain

Robert Hannah, Member of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag)
Frédérique Ries, Member of the European Parliament, Belgium, Vice-Chair of Renew Europe
John Shattuck, Professor, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University
Reinhard Bütikofer, Member of the European Parliament, Germany
Urmas Paet, Member of the European Parliament, Estonia
Eric Bjornlund, President, Democracy International
Anders Åslund, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council
Jan Lipavský, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
Adam Eberhardt, Director, Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw
Michael Weiss, Editor-at-Large, The Daily Beast
Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Member of the European Parliament, Poland
Damon M. Wilson, Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council
Idayat Hassan, Director, Centre for Democracy and Development
Adam Reichardt, Editor in Chief, New Eastern Europe
Eugene Czolij, President, NGO "Ukraine-2050"
Konstantin Eggert, Journalist
Susan Hawley, Director, Spotlight on Corruption
Helena Langšádlová, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic
Marek Belka, Member of the European Parliament, Poland
David Lega, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden
Hampus Hagman, Member of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag)
Pavel Žáček, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic
Christian Carlsson, Member of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag)
Rupert Skilbeck, REDRESS
Lukáš Wagenknecht, Member of the Senate of the Czech Republic
Ondřej Veselý, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic
Timothy Otty QC, Blackstone Chambers
Andris Spruds, Director, Latvian Institute of International Affairs
Sven Mikser, Member of the European Parliament, Estonia
Miriam Lexmann, Member of the European Parliament, Slovakia
Andrzej Halicki, Member of the European Parliament, Poland
Andreas Schieder, Member of the European Parliament, Austria
Arba Kokalari, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden
Ana Maria Rosa Martins Gomes, Former Member of the European Parliament, Portugal
Indrek Kannik, Director, International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS), Tallinn