

Charles Michel  
*President of the Council of the European Union*



Brussels, 31<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear President Michel,

Together with [thousands] of citizens, we, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, ask you to officially suspend the Hungarian Presidency of the Council, which is currently set to begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

It would be extremely harmful for the reputation of our Union, if the current Hungarian government would represent us Europeans in any capacity, just after the European elections. The EU has officially frozen funds under the Rule of Law Conditionality Mechanism due to the high levels of corruption in Hungary. Over the years, the Orbán government has also undermined their elections, the Rule of Law, and media freedom in Hungary.

On the European level, the Orbán government has compared the European Union with a dictatorship. They published posters across the country with bombs bearing the EU flag, when sanctions against Russia were passed. At the time when imperialist dictator Putin is bombing Ukraine, an EU candidate country, Orbán went out of his way to China just to be able to shake hands with him.

It is time the EU stands up against the bullying of a government that clearly has issues subscribing to the most fundamental of our European principles and values. Hungary in its current state would never pass the accession criteria to join the EU. Its criminal leadership should therefore not be allowed to represent the Union.

Respectfully

[the undersigned MEPs and citizens]