

Dear President von der Leyen,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, write to express our deep concern regarding your scheduled meeting with Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić next week. The timing of this meeting sends a highly troubling and harmful signal given the depth and gravity of political crisis in Serbia.

In recent days and months, Serbia has witnessed the largest protests in its history, with citizens expressing their outrage over systemic corruption and the recent tragic collapse of the Novi Sad railway station canopy, which claimed 15 lives.

These student-led protests, since November last year, highlight a growing public demand for accountability, transparency, and democratic reform—values that the European Union stands for.

The EU's credibility in the Western Balkans has already been severely undermined over last decades and it comes as no surprise the absence of EU flags at these demonstrations given the number of undelivered promises or EU's support for stabilitocracy over democratic standards.

Yet, a meeting with President Vučić at this critical juncture risks further reinforcing perceptions that the EU ignores democratic backsliding and gravely alienating the Serbian people from the EU.

The persecution of credible partners in civil society, politically driven prosecution actions, and the alleged use of unlawful technology for crowd control further underscore the severity of the situation. That is why holding this meeting now is not only highly problematic but also profoundly misguided.

We thus strongly urge you to reconsider this meeting and instead use this moment to send a clear and firm message on behalf of the EU: Serbia urgently needs a transitional government of electoral confidence and civic unity to restore public trust and lay the groundwork for genuinely free and fair elections.

Anything else would be a disservice to the democratic aspirations of the Serbian people and to the EU's standing in the region.

Serbia belongs to Europe and it is in moments like these that we must demonstrate—through our actions—that we truly uphold our values and principles.

Serbian citizens therefore deserve a loud and clear message from Brussels that we stand with them in their unprecedented fight for the rule of law, democracy and accountability.

Sincerely,

Vladimir PREBILIĆ, Greens/EFA

Gordan BOSANAC Greens/EFA
Andreas SCHIEDER, S&D
Helmut BRANDSTÄTTER, Renew
Per CLAUSEN, Left
Villy SØVNDAL, Greens/EFA
Brando BENIFEI, S&D
Nikos PAPANDREOU, S&D
Marjan ŠAREC, Renew
Hannes HEIDE, S&D
Majdouline SBAI, Greens/EFA
Rima HASSAN, Left
Rasmus ANDRESEN, Greens/EFA
Carola RACKETE, Left
Rasmus NORDQVIST, Greens/EFA
Kira Marie PETER-HANSEN, Greens/EFA
Ilaria SALIS, Left
Sebastian EVERDING, Left
Cristina GUARDA, Greens/EFA
Marco TARQUINIO, S&D
Matjaž NEMEC, S&D
Irena JOVEVA, Renew
André FRANQUEIRA RODRIGUES, S&D
Thomas WAITZ, Greens/EFA
Tineke STRIK, Greens/EFA
Thijs REUTEN, S&D
Alexandra GEESE, Greens/EFA
Krzysztof ŚMISZEK, S&D
Reinier VAN LANSCHOT, Greens/EFA
Mélissa CAMARA, Greens/EFA
Petras AUŠTREVICIUS, Renew