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## Freedom of expression is not a crime

### Russia declares Bronis Ropé persona non grata

PRESS RELEASE - Brussels, 3 May 2018

The Russian Foreign Ministry declared Greens/EFA member Bronis Ropé persona non grata in Russia. He will be refused entry to this country for the next five years.

Greens/EFA Presidents **Philippe Lamberts** and **Ska Keller** commented:

*“We are deeply concerned over the fact that without appropriate justification, members of the European Parliament could be refused entrance to the territory of the Russian Federation. We experienced such harsh action of the Russian authorities towards members of the Greens/EFA Group before and ask the President of the European Parliament to raise this matter with the relevant Russian authorities and inquire about the reasoning that lies behind the decision on sanctions towards Bronis Ropé.*

*Freedom of expression is not a crime. Russia as a State Party to the European Convention on Human Rights should follow the rules the Russian government itself has signed.”*

#### **Background**

In a letter to Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA Presidents Ska Keller and Philippe Lamberts express their deep concern and ask the President of the European Parliament to take strict measures.

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## **Responsible MEPs**



Ska Keller

Member



Philippe Lamberts

Member

## Contact person



Pia Kohorst

Press & Media Advisor DE (German language press)

## Attached documents

[20180507\\_Tajani\\_Letter\\_MEPRope-Russia.pdf](#)

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