



Member of the European Parliament

Bruxelles, 21st of June 2018

Honourable President Tajani,

The rise of intolerance seems to be the distinguishing feature of current times in Europe.

In each of our countries, we can find multiple examples of imaginary enemies created by the propaganda of certain parties that prefer to deflect their hatred toward others rather than come up with meaningful answers to the problems faced by their people. Immigrants from Eastern Europe, refugees and migrants, and the Roma people have all been the victim of such bigotry.

Dear President Tajani, you will certainly be aware of the statements made by the Italian Minister of the Interior, who spoke of a "census" for the Roma people, which is only one of the most recent examples of the discriminatory and racist actions taken by European politicians. Furthermore it is impossible to forget the legacy of 1930s and '40s.

We cannot, and must not allow this to happen again. Independently from a particular political position or party preference, there must be no place for racial discrimination, hatred or division in politics.

European Union was born after the tragedies of two World Wars and the millions who were murdered because of their differences. Consequently, the European Parliament simply cannot stand by idly as Ministers in a European country resort to the kind of rhetoric that drives hatred.

In light of these worrying developments, we the undersigned, call for an official written declaration reiterating the key values of our shared institution, and the EU's core principle, of unity in diversity.

The Parliament must make it clear that there is no room for racism, hatred or fear of diversity on its own horizon.

Sincerely,

Philippe Lamberts / Udo Bullmann / Guy Verhofstadt / Gabriele Zimmer /
Marco Affronte / Jordi Solé / Pascal Durand / Karoline Graswander-Hainz / Cornelia Ernst /
Josep Maria Terricabras / Maria Gabriela Zoana / Bart Staes / Jean Lambert / Hilde Vautmans /
Jill Evans / Ramon Tremosa i Balcells / Maite Pagazaurtundua Ruiz / Molly Scott Cato /
Benedek Javor / Reinhard Bütikofer / José Ignacio Faria / Barbara Spinelli / Eleonora Forenza /
Monika Vana / Bodil Valero / Claude Moraes / Mady Delvaux Steheres / Elly Schlein /
Martina Anderson / Dimitrios Papadimoulis / Ulrike Rodust / Eric Andrieu / Thomas Waitz /