



To:  
**Mr Charles Michel,**  
*President of the European Council*

Bruxelles, 09 April 2021

Dear President Michel,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are deeply disappointed and outraged by the humiliation suffered by President von der Leyen and all the European institutions during the recent visit to Ankara.

Mr President, the core of the matter is not only the arrogance and machismo of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The most regrettable and painful fact was your silence in the face of an unmistakable provocation against the Union and against Ms von der Leyen, the first ever female President of the European Commission.

It is a political and diplomatic disgrace that cannot be repaired and which increases the distance that the Union should keep from an authoritarian government - the Turkish one - that represses free people, limits the independence of universities, humiliates women and persecutes the Kurdish people.

We cannot accept that European institutions bow down before a regime that is against the rule of law, the freedom of the press and the constituent values of the European Union.

Therefore, Mr President, in order to cleanse this stain and restore the dignity of the European institutions, we are asking you to behave responsibly.

We are asking you to resign and step down as President of the European Council.



This would be an outstanding act demonstrating the difference between the European democratic tradition and the authoritarian government of Ankara.

Sincerely,

MEP Massimiliano SMERIGLIO

MEP Isabella ADINOLFI

MEP Pietro BARTOLO

MEP Brando BENIFEI

MEP Carlo CALENDÀ

MEP Antoni COMÍN I OLIVERES

MEP Andrea COZZOLINO

MEP Eleonora EVI

MEP Giuseppe FERRANDINO

MEP Elisabetta GUALMINI

MEP Pierfrancesco MAJORINO

MEP Costas MAVRIDES

MEP Alessandra MORETTI

MEP Giuseppina PICIERNO

MEP Clara PONSATÍ OBIOLS

MEP Nicola PROCACCINI

MEP Antonio RINALDI

MEP Franco ROBERTI

MEP María Eugenia RODRÍGUEZ

PALOP

MEP Sylwia SPUREK

MEP Patrizia TOIA

MEP Salima YENBOU