

Věra Jourová
EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumer and Gender Equality
Vice President Designate on Values and Transparency
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgique/België

From all over Europe, 28 October 2019

Dear Ms Jourová,

We are writing you as a follow up of your hearing as Vice President designate on Values and Transparency last 8 October at the European Parliament.

We were very pleased to hear that you have agreed to be the contact person for civic space issues within the European Commission while responding to questions from members of the European Parliament. We also note that your commitment was further confirmed during the United Nations Human Rights Europe Regional Office conference on “Protecting civic space in the European Union” last Friday 11 October.

As civil society organisations active at European and national level and coming from a diversity of areas of citizens concerns, we would like to thank you. Your commitment is invaluable in a context where freedom of assembly, of association and expression are increasingly challenged in the European Union.

Ensuring an EU focal point for regular dialogue between institutions and a vibrant and independent organised civil society adhering to the European values as enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaties is vital to preserve and protect an open civic space and a healthy democracy in Europe.

In this respect, any future strategy to strengthen the rule of law must include measures to promote and enable civic space including through adequate funding. Civil society organisations should be part of a regular, meaningful and structured dialogue with the EU institutions on all policies. Furthermore, they should be part of the dialogue on the rule of law, and considered a key partner to identify violations, promote democracy and fundamental rights.

For this reason, we would like to meet you and your team to further discuss this as you are starting with your new mission in the European Commission. [Civil Society Europe](#) Coordinator will get in contact with your cabinet to arrange a date.

We are looking forward for a positive response from you and remain at your disposal for any further information.

Best regards,

146 European Networks and National organisations (see full list below)

Name of signatory organisations (in alphabetical order):

A Buon Diritto (Italy)
Academia Cidadã (Portugal)
Action pour le développement intégré et la formation ADIF (France)
AEGEE - Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l'Europe
ALDA - The European Association for Local Democracy
Alternative Sociale Association (Romania)
Animafac (France)
Anne Frank Stichting (The Netherlands)
ANO pro Evropu (Czech Republic)
ARCI - Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana (Italy)
Asociația Bunul Samaritean (Romania)
Asociace NNO V Ceske Republice (Czech Republic)
Asociace Občanských Poraden (Czech Republic)
Associação À Praça (Portugal)
Association Européenne de l'Education AEDE – France (France)
Association Européenne des Enseignants - AEDE
Association for Civil Society Development (Croatia)
Association for Democratic Initiatives ADI (North Macedonia)
Association Nationale des Conseils d'Enfants et de Jeunes (France)
Associazione LavoRare odv (Italy)
ATD Quart monde France
Athens network of collaborating experts (Greece)
Batorego Fundacja - Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland)
Blijdorp (Romania)
BlueLink Foundation (Bulgaria)
Board of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum
Brot für die Welt (Germany)
Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (Germany)
CAP MAGELLAN (France)
Caritas Europa
Center for Public Innovation (Romania)
Centre de la Protection Internationale (France)
Centrum pre Evropsku politiku - CEP - Slovakia
CEO Poland
Citizens Union Paremvassi (Greece)
Civic Alliance (Latvia)
CIVICA Association (France)
Civil Liberties Union for Europe
Community Development institute CDI (North Macedonia)
Confédération des Maisons des Jeunes et de la Culture de France
Conseil des Mariannes de la République CMR (France)
Coordinamento di Iniziative Popolari di Solidarieta Internazionale (Italy)
CROSOL - Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity (Croatia)
CNVOS – The National NGO Umbrella Network (Slovenia)

Czech Helsinki Committee (Czech Republic)
Democracy international e.V.
Documenta (Spain)
Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe
European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities EASPD
EFPOLIT asociácia frankofónnych študentov, (Slovakia)
Environmental Partnership Association
Estonian LGBT Association (Estonia)
Eurodiaconia
Europa Haz European House (Hungary)
European Association for the Defence of Human Rights AEDH
European Center for Not-for-Profit Law ECNL
European Citizen Action Service ECAS
European Civic Forum ECF
European Disability Forum EDF
European Environmental Bureau EEB
European Foundation Centre EFC
European Humanist Federation EHF
European Institute Foundation (Bulgaria)
European Movement Italy (Italy)
European Patients' Forum EPF
European Social Forum of Cyprus (Cyprus)
European Volunteer Centre CEV
European Youth Forum EYF
Europuls - Centre of European Expertise (Romania)
Fédération Française des Maisons de l'Europe FFME (France)
Federation of Polish Organisations OFOP (Poland)
Focus Association for sustainable development (Slovenia)
Fondation pour la solidarité (Belgium)
Foundation Ancora Salvării (Romania)
Friends of the Earth Europe
Fundatia Corona (Romania)
Fundacion CIVES (Spain)
Fundatia pentru Dezvoltarea Societatii Civile (Romania)
GONG - Građani Organizirano Nadgledaju Glasanje (Croatia)
Greek Forum of Refugees (Greece)
Greenpeace
GSI Gruppi Solidarietà Internazionale (Italy)
Human Rights Movement Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan
Human Security Collective
Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Hungary)
Initiative for Development and cooperation IDC (Serbia)
Initiative for Social Change InSoc (North Macedonia)
Instytut Spraw Publicznych - Institute of Public Affairs (Poland)
Interessen gemeinnütziger Organisationen (Austria)
International Parenthood Planning Federation IPPF EN
Jaan Tonisson Institute Kodanikuhariduse keskus (Estonia)

Jeunes européens (France)
Jeunesse au plein air (France)
Johannes Mihkelson Centre (Estonia)
Kesalukioseura ky (Summer high school association) (Finland)
Kretakör Foundation (Hungary)
La Liga de la Educacion (Spain)
La Ligue de l'Enseignement (France)
La Ligue Luxembourgeoise de l'Enseignement (Luxembourg)
Le Mouvement Associatif (France)
Legal Information Centre for NGOs - PIC (Slovenia)
Legambiente (Italy)
Les Francas (France)
Lifelong Learning Platform
Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (France)
LPH onlus Caserta (Italy)
Maecenata Foundation (Germany)
Maison de l'Europe – Paris (France)
MitOst e.V. (Germany)
Mouvement Culture et Liberté (France)
Mouvement Rural de Jeunesse Chrétienne (France)
Movimient Laic i Progressista - MLP (Spain)
Netherlands Helsinki Committee (Netherlands)
NetwerkDemocratie (Netherlands)
New Europeans (United Kingdom)
No Somos Delito (Spain)
Nongovernmental Organisation for Children (Romania)
NonGovernmental Organizations Information and Support Centre - NISC (Lithuania)
NYT Europa (Denmark)
Obcna a demokracia Citizen and democracy association (Slovakia)
Ökotárs - Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation (Hungary)
Open Society Institute – Sofia (Bulgaria)
Opportunity Associates (Romania)
Organizatia Suedeza pentru Ajutor Umanitar Individual (Romania)
Peace Institute (Slovenia)
Polish Rural Youth Union (Poland)
Portuguese League for Human Rights – Civitas (Portugal)
Roma Democratic Development association SONCE (North Macedonia)
Serve the City Portugal (Portugal)
SMES-Europa Mental Health and Social Exclusion
Social Platform
SOLIDAR
Spiralis (Slovakia)
TERAMaison de l'Europe de la Charente (France)
The ECI Campaign
The Women's Centre (United Kingdom)
TI-PT/ Transparency International Portugal (Portugal)
Transparency International EU

Transport & Environment
Umanotera (Slovenia)
Volunteering Matters (United Kingdom)
Volonteuropa
We are Europe! e.V.
Womanmate Foundation (Hungary)
Young European Federalists
Youth Work (Ireland)