



H.E. the President of the European Council,  
Mr. Charles Michel,

H.E. the President of the European Commission,  
Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen,

H.E. the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security  
Policy,  
Mr. Josep Borrell,

Brussels, 26 January 2021

We, members of the European Parliament and of the informal European Parliament Hong Kong Watch Group, are here writing to you, to express our general dissatisfaction concerning the European Union's timid public stance on the issue of China's Security Law for Hong Kong.

This legal instrument, in force since late June 2020, allows, in the name of national security, for intimidation, arbitrary arrest and detention, criminal conviction of pro-democracy demonstrators and other far-reaching acts of oppression by the Beijing and Hong Kong authorities. In this context, we note with deep regret the recent sentencing of 10 Hong Kong activists in Shenzhen to up to three years in jail. We also want to highlight the arrest of 53 opposition figures in early January, and the detention on January 14 of 11 people for allegedly assisting the above-mentioned activists.

We would also like to bring to your attention that among those convicted - that had been held incommunicado in Mainland China throughout the entire criminal procedure and whose basic rights were consequently denied - is Mr. Kok Tsz-Lun, a dual Hong Kong-Portugal national and, therefore, a citizen of the European Union, for whom the European Union must undertake due endeavors.



We strongly fear that without support of the international community, including in particular the European Union, the oppression of Hong Kong citizens will not only continue unmitigated but also be expanded. Information from Hong Kong indicates that British National (Overseas) passport holders might be excluded from running in the elections and might be excluded from voting; that Hong Kong electoral law might be reformed to the detriment of the democratic camp according to Beijing's commands; that the mass majority of winning district councilors from the democratic camp that had been given a strong mandate from citizens in their landslide victory in November 2019 could be disqualified from holding office; that the remaining elements of independence in the Hong Kong judiciary might be abolished; that the great Chinese Fire Wall might be extended to include Hong Kong.

These are the reasons that are motivating us to call upon you to give the EU a stronger voice on Hong Kong related matters. We know that you are aware of the positions, which the European Parliament has adopted in its resolutions.

It is of the essence that the European Union does not refrain from openly and continuously expressing our shared criticism where their actions merit that. The PRC is indeed, as the Strategic Outlook of March 2019 established, a systemic rival to the EU and its aggressive behaviour has been becoming more dangerous and unacceptable. We need to show to Beijing that such behaviour comes with a price. We need to stand with the people of Hong Kong through clear statements and concrete actions.

Yours Sincerely,

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Reinhard Bütikofer, Greens/EFA (Germany)

Juan Fernando López Aguilar, S&D (Spain)

Heidi Hautala, Greens/EFA (Finland)

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