

To the President of the European Council  
To the President of the European Commission  
To the Chancellor of Germany (German Presidency of the Council of the EU)

Mr. Charles Michel  
Ms. Ursula von der Leyen  
Ms. Angela Merkel

Brussels, 11 September 2020

**Subject: The EU must meaningfully address China's Human Rights atrocities at the EU-China Summit and take strong action**

Dear President Michel,  
Dear President Von der Leyen,  
Dear Chancellor Merkel,

We, Members of the European Parliament, are addressing you to express our deep concern about the widespread, serious and ongoing human rights violations occurring in the People's Republic of China. We call for this issue to be substantively addressed during the upcoming EU-China Summit on September 14th.

We have been greatly alarmed by the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China in particular. Over the past three years, there have been credible allegations of mass arbitrary detention of millions of Uyghurs in internment camps, mass sterilization of Uyghur women and efforts to diminish Uyghur births, widespread destruction of mosques, shrines, graveyards and other physical manifestations of Uyghur culture, history and identity, efforts to suppress Uyghur language, forced labour and modern slavery, serious religious persecution, separation of children from families and other human rights violations. The scope and gravity of the situation necessitate an urgent and robust response from the European Union.

We would also like to draw your attention to serious human rights violations against Tibetans, the impact of the National Security Law in Hong Kong and the deprivation of language rights for ethnic Mongolians in Inner Mongolia, as well as the general crackdown on Chinese democracy, activists and lawyers.

Current efforts to address this crisis have not resulted in any meaningful change in behaviour from the Chinese government. Despite numerous requests for a UN-led independent mission to visit the region and investigate crimes, it has still not been permitted.

The Chinese government has officially committed to the universality and indivisibility of human rights in previous discussions with EU representatives, but has consistently failed to meet these obligations. In fact, the human rights situation in China has only deteriorated further.

The upcoming EU-China Summit represents an ideal opportunity to match the EU's rhetoric regarding human rights violations in China with concrete action. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must use this opportunity to reassess our relations and insist on not conducting business as usual with a government committing atrocities and crimes against humanity.

Oral pressures and mere diplomatic discussions will not prove sufficient. As stated in successive European Parliament's resolutions in March 2019 and more recently in June 2020, we reiterate our call for targeted sanctions and assets freezes against Chinese officials responsible for policies violating human rights

Now is the time to take brave and principled decisions and to stand up for the values we hold dear. We call on EU leaders to ensure that there will be consequences if the Chinese government continues to flaunt its human rights obligations. We call for the EU to put human rights at the top of the agenda at the EU-China Summit and in future discussions.

We further urge you to ensure that discussions on the EU-China Investment Agreement to be fully conditional on China respecting its human rights obligations and immediately ceasing its ongoing atrocities.

Yours sincerely,

1. Raphaël Glucksmann, S&D
2. Reinhard Bütikofer, Greens/EFA
3. Engin Eroglu, Renew Europe
4. Miriam Lexmann, EPP
5. David Lega, EPP
6. Mounir Satouri, Greens
7. Marc Angel, S&D
8. Dragos Tudorache, Renew
9. Karin Karlsbro, Renew
10. Ilana Cicurel, Renew
11. Maria Arena, S&D
12. Peter Van Dalen, EPP
13. Claude Gruffat, Greens
14. Eric Andrieu, S&D
15. Michaela Sojdrova, EPP
16. Ivan Stefanec, EPP
17. Nathalie Loiseau, Renew
18. Leopoldo Lopez-Gil, EPP
19. Dorien Rookmaker, NI
20. Andrius Kubilius, EPP
21. Moritz Körner, Renew
22. Klara Dobrev, S&D
23. Fredrick Federley, Renew
24. Abir Al-Sahlani, Renew
25. Evelyne Gebhardt, S&D
26. Tineke Strik, Greens
27. Hannah Neumann, Greens
28. Anna Cavazzini, Greens
29. Anna Donath, Renew
30. François Alfonsi, Greens
31. Benoit Biteau, Greens
32. Damien Careme, Greens
33. Yannick Jadot, Greens
34. Karima Delli, Greens
35. Michèle Rivasi, Greens
36. Caroline Roose, Greens

37. David Cormand, Greens
38. Marie Toussaint, Greens
39. Salima Yenbou, Greens
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41. Margrete Auken, Greens
42. Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Greens
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57. Clara Ponsati, NI
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60. Giuliano Pisapia, S&D
61. Michael Gahler, EPP
62. Anna Fotyga, ECR
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