



**Reinhard BÜTIKOFER**

Member of the European Parliament

**Miriam LEXMANN**

Member of the European Parliament

Dear President von der Leyen,  
dear President Michel,  
dear High Representative Borrell,

We, co-chairs of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, write to express our concern at the intense and illegitimate economic and political pressure exerted on the Australian people by the government of the People's Republic of China.

The attempts by the Chinese government to threaten, bully and coerce Australia into acquiescing to its political demands are a threat to democratic countries everywhere. In a list of '14 grievances' the Chinese authorities attack Australia's freedom of speech, media independence, democratic processes and efforts to protect national security. This constitutes an open attack by China's authorities on Australia's sovereignty and on the core values which we in Europe share with Australia and its people.

The Chinese government's aggressive actions towards Australia are symptomatic of a broader refusal to abide by the norms, values and standards of the international rules based order. Numerous formal or de facto trade sanctions have been imposed by China on Australia targeting billions of dollars worth of exports in agriculture, minerals and other goods. Such coercive diplomacy through punitive and politically motivated economic sanctions are unacceptable and have no place in a rules based international order based upon reciprocity and mutual respect.

We call on the EU institutions to express its full solidarity and support for the Australian people in this challenging time. The defence of the values, freedoms and institutions which underpin our democratic life is a common obligation for all democratic countries. Europe must stand together with democracies everywhere in ensuring that attempts to single out and bully any one country will not work and will only serve to bind us closer together.

Yours sincerely

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Interparliamentary Alliance on China  
Co-Chair Europe

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