

Her Excellency
Mme Catherine Colonna
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
37 quai d'Orsay
75007 Paris, France
24 April 2023

Dear Minister Colonna,

We hope this correspondence finds you well.

As members of numerous European parliaments we write to raise to your attention our shared call for the French government to take decisive steps in response to the aggressive comments made by Chinese Ambassador to France, Lu Shaye, which clearly violate international law and must be seen as a threat against the security of European partner countries of France.

Ambassador Lu Shaye asserted publicly that former Soviet Republics lacked effective status in international law, arguing specifically that there is “no international agreement to materialise their status”. Such comments go well beyond the boundaries of acceptable diplomatic discourse. This is wolf warrior activity at its worst and should not go unanswered.

Aside from representing a profound insult to the history, culture, and fundamental integrity of the nations concerned, the Ambassador’s words seek to undermine the core principles upon which predictable diplomatic relations depend. It is not for China - or any other nation - to call into question the sovereignty of others.

Sovereignty is not a diplomatic plaything, but the indispensable core of international relations, international law, and the United Nations Charter. At a time when a war is raging in Europe as a result of Russia's assault on the territorial integrity of its neighbour Ukraine, it is imperative that the democratic world deliver an unequivocal message to authoritarian nations in defence of the sovereignty of our allies.

This is not the first time Ambassador Lu has made scandalous and derogatory remarks. He claimed recently that the Taiwanese people should be “re-educated” after coming under Beijing control.

In recent memory the French Government has acted swiftly to expel diplomats who have acted inappropriately. It is therefore with precedent in mind that we call upon you to declare Ambassador Lu Shaye *persona non grata* immediately as a response to his completely unacceptable behaviour.

We hope you will take these steps to underscore France's commitment to the central values which unite us not only in Europe but also with like minded partners elsewhere.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Signed/ signé

1. Senator Andre Gattolin, France
2. Senator Andre Vallini, France
3. Senator Rachid Temal, France
4. Rep Constance Le Grip, France
5. Rep Olivier Cadic, France
6. Nicola Beer MEP, Vice-President of the European Union
7. Reinhard Buetikofer MEP, Chair Delegation for relations with the People’s Republic of China, European Union

8. Els Van Hoof MP, Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Belgium
9. Senator Pavel Fischer, Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, Czech Senate
10. Marek Ženíšek, Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Czechia
11. Marko Mihkelson MP, Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Estonia
12. Michael Roth MdB, Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag
13. Rihards Kols MP, Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Latvia
14. Zygimantas Pavilionis MP Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Lithuania
15. Antonio Miloshoski MP, Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, North Macedonia
16. Bogdan Klich MP, Chair, Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee of Polish Senate
17. Ivanna Klympush MP, Chair, European Affairs Committee, Ukraine
18. Oleksandr Merezhko MP, Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Ukraine
19. Miriam Lexmann MEP, European Union
20. Petras Auštrevičius MEP, European Union
21. Viola von Cramon-Taubadel MEP, European Union
22. Marketa Gregorova MEP, European Union
23. Daniel Freund MEP, European Union
24. Malte Gallée MEP, European Union
25. Michael Gahler MEP, European Union
26. Daniel Caspary MEP, European Union
27. Andrius Kubilius MEP former Prime Minister of Lithuania, President of Euronest
28. Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, MEP, European Union
29. Alexandra Geese MEP, European Union
30. Fatmir Mediu MP, Albania
31. Fatmir Xhafa MP, Albania
32. Nusret Abdullai MP, Albania
33. Greta Bardeli MP, Albania
34. Dhurata Cupi MP, Albania
35. Bardhyl Kollçaku MP, Albania
36. Blerina Gjylameti MP, Albania
37. George Dallemagne MP, Belgium
38. Matko Kuzmanic MP, Croatia
39. Ermina Lekaj MP Croatia
40. Eva Decroix MP, Czechia
41. Ondrej Lochman, MP, Czechia
42. Hayato Okamura MP, Czechia
43. Petr Beitzl MP Czechia
44. Roman Belor MP, Czechia
45. Boris Mijatovic MdB, Germany
46. Michael Brand MdB, Germany
47. Tomas Erndl MdB, Germany
48. Lia Quartapelle MP, Italy
49. Avdullah Hoti MP, former Prime Minister, Kosova
50. Dovile Sakaliene MP, Lithuania
51. Eugenijus Sabutis, MP, Lithuania
52. Giedrius Suprlys MP, Lithuania
53. Sjoerd Sjoerdsma MP, Netherlands
54. Tom Van Der Lee MP, Netherlands
55. Arta Zendeli MP, North Macedonia
56. Andrija Nikolic MP Montenegro
57. Damir Sehovic MP Montenegro
58. Kacper Płażyński MP, Poland
59. Catalin Tenita MP, Romania
60. Nicholas Walder MP, Switzerland
61. Fabian Molina MP, Switzerland

62. Mykola Kniazhytskyi MP, Ukraine
63. Bogdan Yaremenko MP, Ukraine
64. Alyona Shkrum MP, Ukraine
65. Oleksiy Goncharenko MP, Ukraine
66. Victoria Podgorna MP, Ukraine
67. Henry Smith MP, United Kingdom
68. Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP, United Kingdom
69. Baroness (Natalie) Bennett, United Kingdom
70. Sir Chris Bryant MP, United Kingdom
71. Stewart McDonald MP, United Kingdom
72. Sir Stephen Timms MP, United Kingdom
73. Layla Moran MP, United Kingdom
74. Craig MacKinlay MP, United Kingdom
75. Carolyn Harris MP, United Kingdom
76. Geraint Davies MP, United Kingdom
77. Tim Loughton MP, United Kingdom
78. Sally-Ann Hart MP, United Kingdom
79. Lord (James) Bethell, United Kingdom