

Brussels, 28 May 2025

To: President of the European Commissioner, Ursula von der Leyen

Subject: Commission's Decision to Discourage Commissioners' Attendance at Budapest Pride

Dear President von der Leyen,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are writing to express our deep disappointment and concern regarding leaks in the press about your office's decision to ask European Commissioners not to attend the upcoming Budapest Pride.

In Hungary, we are witnessing intensifying attacks against the fundamental rights, liberties, and principles upon which our Union is founded—the very values the European Commission is tasked to preserve and defend.

For years now, the Hungarian government has been initiating an anti-LGBTIQ+ campaign, now culminating in a ban on the Budapest Pride. A ban that violates EU law and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. These actions undermine the rule of law and fundamental rights, not only in Hungary, but also in Europe as a whole.

We urge the European Commission to stand firmly and visibly on the side of citizens' rights, EU law, equality, freedom of assembly, and human rights.

The reports that the President's office discouraged Commissioners from attending Budapest Pride and upholding EU values and rights would mean that the European Commission is failing to fulfil its duties and is not acting as the guardian of the Treaties. Such a decision is a sign of weakness and a lack of solidarity with the EU citizens fighting for the very rights enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

If the European Commission truly wishes to stand alongside the LGBTIQ+ community, it cannot refrain from supporting peaceful demonstrations for equality out of fear of "provoking" Viktor Orbán's government. As Budapest Pride organizers and many civil society actors have made clear, silence and inaction in the face of injustice amount to complicity.

The Commission must defend European values without compromise. We urge you to reconsider this position and to ensure that the Commission is visibly present at Budapest Pride, standing alongside those who continue to defend democracy, rule of law and equality in Hungary and across Europe.



Now, more than ever, the LGBTIQ+ community, civil society, human right defenders and all those who believe in freedom and dignity for all need to see that the European Union is truly their ally, not just in words, but in action.

Yours sincerely,

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5. Emma WIESNER
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15. Dainius ZALIMAS
16. Veronika CIFROVA OSTRIHONOVA
17. Erik MARQUARDT
18. Maria WALSH
19. Chloé RIDEL
20. Lucia YAR
21. Tilly METZ
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