

Honourable Commissioner Didier Reynders,  
Honourable Commissioner Vera Jourova,

Based on the information gathered by the media outlets you received the Slovenian interdepartmental report on the rule of law in the Republic of Slovenia on 4 May 2020. We are delighted that the Commission has decided to prepare this vital document for the future of the EU. As the MEPs of the Renew Europe Group and strong advocates of the rule of law in the EU, we are particularly pleased about the making of this report.

However, given the publicly available information, we are obliged to provide additional explanations regarding the cover letter to the Slovenian report, written by Dr A. Logar Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The cover letter, which based on the public information, was supposedly not approved by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and is an independent act of the Foreign Minister, contains many misleading statements and opinions of the largest government party SDS. The letter mentions the case of Iranian money laundering as an example of selective law or the functioning of the Slovenian legal system. However, the letter does not declare that simultaneously with the political investigation through the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry chaired by Mr Logar; there was an extensive police investigation based on which the responsible authorities dropped the prosecution. The prosecution's document revealed that the Iranian transactions were a completely standard business practice. Additionally, the Nuclear Safety Administration of the Republic of Slovenia confirmed that the nature of financed products prevents the possibility of them being used for military purposes. Meanwhile, the findings of a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into Iranian money laundering, chaired by Dr Logar, were mainly political and based on a very narrow and selective consideration of facts and documents.

Given all the above mentioned, the cover letter was not approved by the Slovenian government, and it is an independent act of the Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs and thus the largest government party SDS. Therefore, we see the aspiration of this cover letter as the additional unnecessary discrediting of the Slovenian judiciary system, pressuring judges and prosecutors while aiming to dismantle the judicial system and its subordination to the politics and interests of the largest government party SDS, following the example of Orban's Hungary. It is not insignificant that in the meantime, the head of the National Police Investigation Office in charge of investigating the case of Iranian money laundering and the case of financing SDS party from abroad was replaced.

Therefore, we anticipate you will study the report on the state of the rule of law in Slovenia with particular attention and take into account all the facts, complexity and sensitivity of this area, necessary for the functioning of modern democracy. We firmly believe that an autonomous and independent judiciary not subjected to political pressure is one of the fundamental values of a modern democratic society, the rule of law is a value we must protect, nurture and strengthen. We do not wish by any means for Slovenia to transform from a stable democracy into one of the hybrid regimes mentioned by Freedom House in its reports.

With respect,

dr. Klemen Grošelj, MEP  
Irena Joveva, MEP

Ljubljana, 12. 05. 2020