



**To the President of Ukraine,  
Mr. Petro Poroshenko**

27/04/2015

Dear Mr. President,  
Dear Mr. Poroshenko,

On April 9, 2015 the Parliament of Ukraine approved a 'Law on conviction of communist and national socialist totalitarian regimes in Ukraine and the prohibition of propaganda of their symbols'. In addition, the Parliament adopted another law that glorifies the local collaborators with the Nazis during World War II.

To ban the dissemination of communist symbols will lead to the banning of one of the country's political parties, the Communist Party of Ukraine, as well as to prosecution of its members and sympathizers. Until the last elections in your country, the Communist Party had its elected representatives in the Ukrainian Parliament and in its delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). There it took part in the Group of the Unified European Left, a Group which I have the honour to chair.

Earlier this year the PACE's Presidential Committee met with you in Kiev. Then I asked you about a possible ban of the Communist Party. Your answer was that a decision on the role of that party in your country should be taken by the Ukrainian voters.

However, the recent adoption of the above mentioned law is in contrast with what you said then to the Presidential Committee of PACE. This law puts Ukraine on a dangerous, slippery anti-democratic path, and does not meet the obligations with regard to the protection and promotion of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, your country to upon itself when becoming member of the Council of Europe and signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights.

The same goes with respect to the glorification of those who collaborated in your country during the Second World War with German national socialist oppression. This is a clear and unacceptable provocation against all those who fought fascism and those millions who became victims of this inhuman system. Seventy years after the end of World War II we should unite in a clear message: never again fascism and National Socialism in Europe!

May I therefore urgently ask you not to sign these laws, adopted by your country's Parliament, and so avoid Ukraine will violate the obligations your country is obliged to respect as Member State of the Council of Europe.

I am looking forward to your response.

With kind regards,

Tiny Kox,

President of the Group of the Unified European Left in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe