



To  
Donald Tusk  
President of the European Council

Brussels, 19 October 2016

Dear President,

the situation in and around Aleppo is getting worse every day - around 300.000 people, locked in the eastern part of the town, are subject of indiscriminate bombing. Tens of thousands of children are victims of unimaginable violence, enclosed in Aleppo without help or perspective. Since the blockade of Sarajevo the world has not seen such a human tragedy.

During the last plenary, the European Parliament adopted with an overwhelming majority a resolution which not only condemned the attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure and urged resumption of political negotiations, but also insisted that we as the EU must develop enforcement tools to make sure that UN Security Council resolutions are respected.

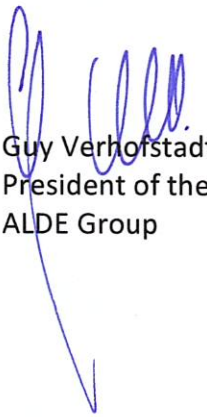
It is very timely that thanks to your initiative the European Council holds this week a strategic policy debate on relations with Russia. Given the urgency of the situation in Syria and Russia's role in backing the military offensive of the Assad regime, we would like to urge you to initiate in this context a decision by the European Council on a set of enforcement tools to be activated should Russia continue violating UN Security Council resolutions and bombing civilians in Syria.

Earlier this week, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted personally targeted sanctions against certain Syrian officials. We are of the view that measures motivating Russia and the Russian leadership to abide by international law should follow.


Yours sincerely,



Manfred Weber  
President of the  
EPP Group



Guy Verhofstadt  
President of the  
ALDE Group



Rebecca Harms  
President of the  
Greens/EFA Group