



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENLARGEMENT AND EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Director-General

Brussels
ENEST/

Subject: [Re] PETITION - Immediate Action Needed to Save Professor M. Vasić and Defend Civil Liberties in Serbia - more than 160 emails received in 05/2025 - no organiser identified

In May, the European Commission, including President von der Leyen, received a high number of letters expressing concerns about the deterioration of the health of Professor Marija Vasić in relation to her hunger and thirst strike. I am replying in my capacity as Director-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood.

The Commission had reacted publicly at the time. We are reassured that her health has since stabilised.

Any measure of deprivation of liberty must be justified and proportionate and due process is to be ensured. Fundamental rights of all citizens need to be upheld and conditions of detention need to be compatible with respect for fundamental rights including human dignity. The Commission also expects respect of the legal frameworks on criminal proceedings.

It remains the Commission's priority to support Serbia in advancing on its EU path. As Commissioner Kos has stated, it is precisely Serbia's EU path that offers solutions to many of the issues that are at the heart of discussion in Serbia.

The reforms we want to see adopted and properly implemented during the accession process, would strengthen the rule of law as well as the respect of human rights, media freedom and freedom of expression.

Therefore, it is imperative for Serbia to deescalate tensions and create conditions for a renewed dialogue between stakeholders across the political spectrum and across society.

The Commission will continue engaging with the authorities and other stakeholders, including political actors and civil society, encouraging them to jointly find a way forward to advance reforms, particularly in strengthening rule of law and fundamental rights, that are necessary for Serbia's European future.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed

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Electronically signed on 29/10/2025 16:04 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121