



Member of the European Parliament

Prime Minister Victor Ponta
Prime Minister of Romania
Victoriei Square 1,
District 1, Bucharest
Romania

Strasbourg, 20 November 2013

Dear Prime Minister Victor Ponta,

We, Members of the European Parliament, have learned with great concern that Romanian politicians have recently requested the withdrawal of the Order of the Star of Romania awarded to MEP László Tőkés. We believe that such a move would contradict the values of freedom and democracy that Mr. Tőkés was deservedly awarded the order for.

In 1989, Mr. Tőkés stood against communism and significantly contributed to the liberation of Romania from the totalitarian regime. For his contribution to the reunification of Europe he has also been awarded the Robert Schuman Medal. Thanks to his contribution, Romania now proudly belongs to the family of the European Union. It is inconceivable that today Romanian authorities would consider withdrawing this reward to punish Mr. Tőkés for exercising his inalienable right to free speech.

We call on you, Mr. Prime Minister, to not allow this act of political pettiness to take place in a Member State of the European Union.

Respectfully Yours,

Sandra Kalniete, LV

József Szájer, HU

Andrey Kovatchev, BG

Zuzana Roithová, CZ

Inese Vaidere, LV

Krišjānis Kariņš, LV

Milan Zver, SI

Bernd Posselt, DE

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, ES

Jim Higgins, IE

Francois Alfonsi, FR