

Mrs. Iratxe García Pérez
President
Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists and Democrats in the
European Parliament

Mr. Sergei Stanišev
President
Party of European Socialists

Bratislava, 2nd of March 2022

Call for the expulsion of the party Smer-SD due to its far-right rhetoric and open calls for cooperation with fascists

Open letter

Madam President García Pérez,

Mister President Stanišev,

In the time of a shocking attack by Russia on Ukraine, we united against Putin's aggression, across ideologies, political groups, and the EU Member States.

We are sorry to be writing to you in relation to the fact that your member - Smer-SD - is bringing doubts into the clear naming of the aggressor in Ukraine. Smer-SD is becoming a party which has compromised the values of not only social democracy, but also human rights and democracy as such. The leader of Smer-SD is openly speaking about future governmental cooperation with the fascist movement Republika, and uses far-right wording to describe the strengthening of allied NATO armies in Slovakia, calling it the welcoming of the Wehrmacht.

On August 19th, 2021, eight Slovak Members of the European Parliament called on the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) to reconsider the membership of the party Smer-Social Democracy in its group. Our call was based on the public cooperation of members of Smer-SD with the fascist movement Republika on a protest in Košice, on the anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising against the Nazi occupation.

Today we see that our warning about the cooperation of Smer-SD with fascists has proven to be true. The leader of Smer-SD [openly and publicly speaks](#) of future cooperation with the fascist movement Republika, a member of which is also the European Parliament member Milan Uhrík.

Only a couple of days ago, the leader of Smer-SD spoke in the Slovak Parliament and called the strengthening of NATO forces in Slovakia by German soldiers [the welcoming of the Wehrmacht in our country](#). His speech is all the more saddening considering the fact that the decision to increase the security of Europe in this way was made by the social democrat chancellor Olaf Scholz, whose decisions and help to Ukraine we Slovaks deeply appreciate.

Additionally, the leader of Smer-SD assists the spread of Kremlin propaganda and publicly refers to the aggression of Russia against Ukraine as [a conflict between the US and Russia](#): *“The military conflict in Ukraine is not a conflict between Ukraine and Russia, it is a conflict between the United States and Ukraine, whose victims are the ordinary citizens of Ukraine“.*

We call on you, our colleagues from the socialist fraction of the European Parliament, to reconsider the membership of Smer-SD in your group and party. In these difficult times it is necessary to show our democratic values and push pro-Kremlin and fascist rhetoric out of the mainstream of European democratic politics.

Yours sincerely,

Vladimír Bilčík (EPP/ SPOLU)

Ivan Štefanec (EPP/KDH)

Peter Pollák (EPP/OLaNO)

Miriam Lexmann (EPP/KDH)

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