



Josep Borrell Fontelles
High Representative/Vice-President
European Commission

22 December 2020

Dear Mr. Borrell,

Let me address you in relation to a recently published investigation of a joint international group led by an investigative outlet Bellingcat into the attempted assassination of Russian democratic opposition leader Alexei Navalny. This important investigation has identified high-ranking operatives and personalities in the Russian secret service and state research institutes, who were involved in this long-term terrorist operation, which culminated with the poisoning of V. Putin's main political rival with a military-grade chemical weapon. The investigation only further solidifies the obvious - this terrible crime was approved by the Kremlin. We are witnessing state-sponsored, state-organized and state-delivered terrorism.

This is a very clear signal - the time has come for a deep and comprehensive review of the EU policy towards Russia. The European Parliament has called upon you to review the EU policy and the five guiding principles of the EU relations with Russia and to develop a new comprehensive strategy, which would be conditional on further developments in the area of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights by the Russian leadership and authorities. The European Parliament has also called for a new EU strategy for future relations with the democratic Russia, including a broad offer of incentives and conditions to strengthen domestic tendencies towards freedom and democracy. The EU should coordinate its response and the new strategy with our Transatlantic partners and wider democratic community to achieve further effectiveness. I hope for your strong leadership in moving this process forward.

While it is obvious that a deep review of the EU policy towards Russia, which is currently led by a regime engaging in state terrorism, is needed, there is also a need of immediate and visible EU reaction to the shocking facts revealed by the Bellingcat investigation. Until now there was no clear language on evaluation of state terrorism, no clear ideas on possibility of new sanctions. EU cannot remain silent, our silence will be interpreted by the Kremlin as Europe's weakness. That is why I appeal to you with this letter and kindly ask you to inform me about any planned EU reaction to the facts revealed by the investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrius Kubilius".

Andrius KUBILIUS, MEP
Standing Rapporteur on Russia