

Brussels, 28 February 2019

Mr Joseph DAUL
President of the EPP
Rue du Commerce 10
1000 BRUXELLES

Mr President,
Dear Joseph,

As you have already experienced at several occasions, many member parties of the EPP are strongly and ever more concerned about the policy and statements of Prime Minister Victor Orban of Hungary. For many years, he has been acting in striking contradiction to what we – together with the EPP – consider and defend as of crucial importance in the light of our Christian Democrat view on man and society and our convictions and ambitions related to the ongoing unification of Europe.

Several open conflicts and painful incidents have recently been added to an already long list of statements and decisions which are all but compatible with the foundations of the ideology, the program and the positions of the EPP. This evolution cannot be tolerated any longer and must be stopped. Moreover, we are convinced that the EPP – in the run-up to the European elections of May 2019 – has to imperatively invest on unity and self-respect instead of division and paralysis. What our party can offer in terms of values and ambitions is much too precious and important for the future of the Union and its citizens to be undermined within our own ranks by what we are so determined to fight: nationalism-based populism and open hostility against European integration.

For a long time we have been thinking and hoping that Prime Minister Orban's acting could be changed by means of dialogue and warnings. As you know better than anyone, more than a few attempts and efforts have been made to this end, in different fora and at different levels. The most recent incidents make more than clear enough that the path of dialogue and warnings leads us nowhere.

According to Article 9 of the party statutes, a proposal for the exclusion of a member party — with a view to a final decision of the Political Assembly — may be made either by the Presidency or by seven ordinary or associated member parties from five different countries. While believing that it is important for the Presidency to assume its responsibility in these circumstances, our parties have decided not to wait any longer and ask for the exclusion of FIDESZ. Consequently, we call on other member parties for the necessary support to launch the exclusion procedure as foreseen in article 9.

We would of course be glad to further discuss this matter with you if you would like so, but after having made all necessary considerations, we have come to the conclusion that the EPP has a clear interest in leaving no room for doubt about what it stands for.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'W' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves back down.

Wouter BEKE
President of CD&V

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, circular 'M' with a vertical line through it, and a small 'r' at the end.

Maxime PREVOT
President of cdH

A handwritten signature in black ink, with a large, bold 'F' and 'E' followed by several overlapping loops and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Frank ENGEL
President of CSV