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24 September 2019

TO: Members of the European Parliament

SUBJECT: Call for support of the Rights and Values programme

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Ahead of hearings of candidates for EU Commissioners, we, the representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) from the EU, are calling on you to use your prerogatives as MEP to support the efforts to set up effective ways of promoting and protecting democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and other common European values within the EU.

In particular, we suggest that at the hearings of the candidates for Commissioners you seek assurances as to their support for strengthening the Rights and Values programme in line with the decisions reached by the European Parliament and the EU Council in March 2019. Namely, that a much greater emphasis will be put on cooperation with civil society organisations which foster European values on local, national and trans-national levels.

We also ask you to use your powers, during the negotiations and approval procedure of EU budget, to support the increase of the funds allocated for the Rights and Values Programme to 1.83 billion EUR, in line with the European Parliament resolution of 14 November 2018 on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

Yours faithfully,

List of signatory CSOs