

Mr Alexandr Vondra MEP
European Parliament
WIE 04U021
60 Rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel

Brussels, 2 October 2020

Subject: Reaction of Members of the European Parliament from Slovenia to your rude comments, aimed at Slovenian people

Dear Mr Vondra,

The European Union is many things and has been a huge economic success for all its members. But first and foremost, it is a successful peace project. It has succeeded to bring over 70 years of peace and friendship to a continent that has known nothing but war, hatred and nationalism.

The Czech and Slovak people were the first victims of the nationalism propagated by the Nazis, when the German Reich decided to swallow it as whole in 1938. And everyone stood by and watched how the Czech people lost their independence and freedom.

Today we are all part of a Union. We stand up for each other and look out for each other in solidarity. To Slovenians, Czechs are friends, not foes. When we meet each other by coincidence in Asia or the USA, we greet each other as equals and feel united as Europeans in our values and way of life. We drink Czech beer and you drink Slovenian wine; and when we share both, we have many good times with each other. When we battle, then only as competitors in sports for trophies and honours; and when we lose, we still shake hands after, because that is fair sportsmanship.

Your rude words on Twitter after the football match between FC Slavia Prague and FC Midtjylland last Wednesday, describing Slovenians as “opportunistic pigs”, do not hurt us, because they are lowly and crude. We are better than that and by “we”, we mean Slovenians and Czechs alike. On Wednesday you did not insult us, you insulted your own people. The Czechs we have known until now would be ashamed of such behaviour and we hope you will find it in you to apologise for this unnecessary rampage of hatred, in order to save the honour of your proud people, who have deserved better than to be represented by you.

Sincerely,

Franco Bogovič MEP (EPP)
Romana Tomc (EPP)
Klemen Grošelj (RE)
Irena Joveva (RE)
Tanja Fajon (S&D)
Milan Brglez (S&D)
Milan Zver (EPP)
Ljudmila Novak (EPP)