



INTERNATIONAL PANEUROPEAN UNION

Strasbourg, February 8, 2017

GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Mr. Andrej Plenković, President

CROATIAN PARLIAMENT
Mr. Božo Petrov, President

*Dear Mr. Prime Minister Plenković,
Dear Mr. President of the Parliament Petrov,*

Impelled by constant attacks of certain oppositional political options and a part of the Croatian media on minister Pavo Barišić, as Paneuropeans we extend our full support for his work and care for the development and possible beneficial reforms of the organization of scientific work and education in Croatia.

Minister Barišić, as a proven Croatian patriot and European, until recently the President of the Croatian Paneuropean Union, the Secretary General of the International Paneuropean Union, a university professor, and a scientist has proven himself in all segments of his work.

Questioning his competencies is, thus, more than out of place, and the way it is being done is contrary to democratic principles and speaks a lot about those leading this uncanny campaign against minister Barišić.

We particularly condemn the media lynch against the minister, especially given the fact that scientific and university institutions have rejected the accusations of a possible plagiarism. What is reproached to minister Barišić, looks like such a negligible omission that can happen to any thoroughly honest person, that the opponents to your government need megaphones and tireless repetitions to blow it up. Happy is the government whose major scandal is something like omission of one name in a footnote of a review article (moreover, quickly corrected)! Congratulations!

Today the European Union and the European idea are threatened by a new emerging populism on the right, like in France or Germany, or on the left, like in Greece. These populists move masses by their promises and criticism of the current situation, strive to come to power, however, being unable to solve the problems, they only create new ones, and endanger what has been achieved. Exactly this happens with the despicable campaign led largely by leftist politicians and public persons, but partly also by extreme rightists, against minister Barišić. Both of them endanger the European project and the constructive politics of the centrists in the Croatian

government, like yourselves, and like minister Barišić, who are a sign of hope in the current politics of European countries and European Union.

Once again, we ask you, Mr. President of the Croatian Government, and Mr. President of the Croatian Parliament, to protect minister Barišić, and to support him so that he might continue working together with you for the benefit of the Croatian state and society, which will also benefit our Europe as a whole.

Respectfully,

President of the International Paneuropean Union
Alain Terrenoire

Vice-president of the International Paneuropean Union
and President of Croatian Paneuropean Union
Mislav Ježić

Member of Presidency of the International Paneuropean Union
and President of Paneuropean Union of Germany
Bernd Posselt

Member of Presidency of the International Paneuropean Union
Jean-Paul Picaper

Member of Presidency of the International Paneuropean Union and
Vice-President of Hungarian Paneuropean Union
Anna Grünwald

Member of Presidency of the International Paneuropean Union
and Secretary General of the Paneuropean Union of Germany
Johannes Kijas

Member of Presidency of the International Paneuropean Union
Andrej Lepavcov

President of the Paneuropean Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Vanja Gavran

President of the Paneuropean Union of Montenegro
Gordana Đurović

President of the Paneuropean Union of Macedonia
Marjan Gjorchev

Honorary President of the Hungarian Paneuropean Union
Gábor Andrásy

President of the Hungarian Paneuropean Union
Béla Aba

Vice-president of the Hungarian Paneuropean Union
Zoltán W-Nemessuri