



**MOVEMENT FOR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

Bulgaria, Sofia, Al. Stamboliyski blvd., No 45A

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**To the Secretariats of the International Parliamentary Organizations**

**in which the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria participates as a full member**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We address you with deep concern and alarm regarding unprecedented actions that undermine the fundamental principles of parliamentary democracy and political pluralism in the Republic of Bulgaria — a member state of the European Union and of numerous international institutions founded on the rule of law, representative democracy, and political balance.

For the first time in Bulgaria's modern democratic history, opposition parliamentary groups — including the Parliamentary Group of Democracy, Rights and Freedoms-DPS — have been deliberately and systematically excluded from participation in the composition of the National Assembly's permanent delegations to international organizations, as well as from the parliamentary friendship groups with foreign states. This decision stands in blatant violation of Article 38, Paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly, which explicitly states: "When determining the composition of permanent delegations of the National Assembly to international organizations, the proportional representation of the parliamentary groups shall be preserved."

This provision does not offer any legal basis for excluding entire parliamentary groups from such delegations. On the contrary, through the use of the imperative "shall be preserved," the legislature has clearly established a binding requirement for all parliamentary groups to participate in the determination of delegation composition. By analogy, the reasoning of Constitutional Court Decision No. 11 of 2009 is also applicable here, as this de facto imposes a prohibition on Members of Parliament belonging to opposition groups from participating in international parliamentary delegations.

The exclusion of opposition parliamentary groups from permanent delegations directly contravenes Article 67, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, which states: "Members of the National Assembly represent not only their constituents, but the entire nation." Furthermore, Article 1, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution affirms that "All state power derives from the people. It shall be exercised by the people directly and through the bodies established by this Constitution." The exercise of state power by the National Assembly includes the right of Members of Parliament to participate in its internal bodies, including permanent delegations.

The exclusion of opposition MPs from these delegations effectively divides parliamentary groups into those with rights and those without. However, the National Assembly cannot restrict the rights of some parliamentary groups merely on the grounds that they are in opposition, nor can it disregard the fact that all MPs are representatives of the sovereign.

The systematic exclusion of the opposition from international parliamentary representation constitutes an act of institutional repression and an attempt to isolate alternative democratic voices



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on the international stage. This approach not only violates internal parliamentary procedures and the democratic logic of representativeness, but also erodes the legitimacy of the Bulgarian Parliament's international participation — as it no longer reflects the political pluralism present in the country.

Of particular concern is the context in which this action is taking place: the Bulgarian government — currently operating in a minority — is effectively supported and covertly directed by Mr. Delyan Peevski, a Member of Parliament sanctioned by both the United States and the United Kingdom under the Global Magnitsky Act for grand corruption and undermining the rule of law. It is precisely for this reason that the actions taken by the so-called governing majority, in concert with the group led by Mr. Peevski, must be seen solely and unequivocally as lustrative and discriminatory in nature.

This attempt to marginalize the opposition in the sphere of parliamentary foreign relations is part of a broader strategy aimed at suppressing oversight, concealing corrupt practices, and silencing critical voices — both domestically and internationally.

In this context, we call upon the international institutions with which the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria maintains parliamentary relations not to remain indifferent. We urgently appeal for:

- A reaffirmation of the principles of political pluralism and parliamentary equality;
- A clear position condemning repressive practices through institutional exclusion;
- Efforts to restore balance and democratic representation in the delegations of the National Assembly.

Your response and commitment to democratic standards are of critical importance to the protection of parliamentary democracy in Bulgaria, and to reinforcing the credibility of the international mechanisms that safeguard the rule of law and human rights.

Let us not forget that democracy precedes tyranny — and the distance between the two can sometimes be dangerously small.

**Respectfully,**

**Dzhevdet Chakarov** MP, Chairman of Democracy, Rights and Freedoms-DPS

**Jeyhan Ibryamov** MP, Democracy, Rights and Freedoms-DPS

**Hairy Sadukov** MP, Democracy, Rights and Freedoms-DPS

**Sevim Ali** MP, Democracy, Rights and Freedoms-DPS

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