

Press statement: Serbia's draft law on abuse of public office.

Following the European Parliament's resolution of 29 March 2012 on the European integration process of Serbia and the Joint Statement adopted at the 6th European Parliament-Serbia Inter-parliamentary meeting in Belgrade on 28th of September 2012, the below signed Members of the European Parliament issued the following statement:

We would like to repeat our appeal to the Serbian authorities to make swift repair of the Criminal Code and put an end to bringing charges for abuse of public office in private (and with majority private ownership) enterprises. At the same time we would like to stress that pending criminal proceedings based on Article 359 of the Criminal Code should be ceased.

The private company owners should not be charged based on provisions of abuse of public office for making commercial decisions within their competence and authority.

Therefore, we are worried about the similar wording in draft law proposed by the Ministry of Justice under the article 234 on Abuse of position of responsible person.

We still consider this provisions to be very controversial and repeating our concerns for its proper revision as mentioned in the resolution of the European Parliament from 29th of March 2012 and the Joint Statement of the European Parliament-Serbia Inter-parliamentary Meeting from 28th of September 2012.

Signed:

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