

Mikhail B. Khodorkovsky
Penal Colony #7
ul. Leigubskaya 1
Segezha 186420
Republic of Karelia
Russian Federation

Justas Vincas Paleckis MEP
ASP 13 G 162
European Parliament
60 rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels
Belgium

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Dear Dr Paleckis,

I am writing to thank you profoundly for your moral support, friendship and concern expressed in the video message you made for me in the European Parliament.

You mentioned in your video message my 50th birthday, which I marked on 26 June.

The day itself was unremarkable, and passed much like any other: a day of work, with some legal meetings and, mercifully, some time with my family.

But while my prison day was as ordinary as ever, I know that 26 June 2013 was in fact a day full of extraordinary expressions of support and encouragement for me, across the world.

Those who have never experienced the bitterness of imprisonment, especially an unjust imprisonment, can never know the enormous sense of relief, pleasure and comfort that comes from a statement of solidarity and support such as yours.

I cannot watch videos in prison but I have read the comments you made. What I noted in particular was your profound optimism for my future, and your belief – which I share – that greater dialogue between the EU and Russia will inevitably lead to change.

Your interest in my case and my welfare both touches and rejuvenates me. It strengthens my resolve to continue my struggle – because my struggle is Russia's struggle.

Thank you again for your kindness and thoughtfulness. I wish you every success in the future and I hope we will have a chance to meet in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Mikhail Borisovich Khodorkovsky
Михаил Борисович Ходорковский