

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

Justas Paleckis MEP
ASP 13 G 158
European Parliament
1047 Brussels
Belgium

10 December 2013

Dear Mr Paleckis,

I am writing to wish you a very happy Christmas and a successful and prosperous 2014.

I hope the upcoming holiday season brings you much joy from meeting with loved ones and friends.

I very much hope that next year I will be able to celebrate the holidays surrounded by my family and friends. I know that you personally are doing a lot for my release to happen in the New Year.

Your constant moral and political support for me during this past year has been of great comfort to me. It is heartening to know that I have friends like you who are willing not only to condemn my treatment but also to shine a light on the deterioration of the rule of law in Russia. As you know, my case is just one of many such abuses of power and authority in Russia today.

In particular I want to thank you for your work, as a leading member of the foreign affairs committee, to shine a light on the deterioration of the human rights situation in Russia. Nevertheless, I am struck by your optimism both for me and for Russia, a sentiment undoubtedly emanating from your own experience as a pioneer of Lithuania's nascent democracy in the early 1990s.

I hope that the New Year brings you many rewards. But regardless of what it brings for me, I hope too that you will continue to speak out against the deteriorating situation in Russia, and in favour of a European future for my country, founded on European values.

Allow me to express once more my deepest gratitude for your solidarity.

Yours sincerely,

Mikhail Borisovich Khodorkovsky