



MARGARITIS SCHINAS

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. +32-2 296 05 24
Margaritis.Schinas@ec.europa.eu

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Dear President Ernotte Cunci, dear Mr Österdahl,

For nearly seven decades, the Eurovision Song Contest has embodied the values of diversity and cultural exchange - values shared and championed by the European Union.

As European Commission Vice-President responsible for, amongst other things, cultural policy, it was with regret that I learned of the policy enforced by the EBU this year of banning participants from waving the EU flag during the finale of the Eurovision Song Contest.

Such actions have cast a shadow over what is meant to be a joyous occasion for peoples across Europe and the world to come together in celebration. Less than a month before the European elections and in times of geopolitical turbulence, with the EU being targeted by malicious and authoritarian actors, EBU's decision contributed to discrediting a symbol that brings together all Europeans.

This is all the more so when put in contrast to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, where the IOC has allowed for the display of EU flags in all venues and award ceremonies.

The incoherence in the EBU's stance has left myself and many millions of your viewers wondering for what and for whom the Eurovision Song Contest stands.

I would request that you explain the rationale behind this decision and attribute responsibility where it is due. I for one would expect to see the values of peace, tolerance and inclusiveness afforded greater deference in the future.

To:

*Mrs Delphine Ernotte Cunci
President EBU*

*Mr Martin Österdahl
Head of Live Events*



I look forward to receiving your response,

Your sincerely,

Margaritis SCHINAS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Schinas', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the printed name 'Margaritis SCHINAS'.