In early January 2015, a torch-lit march took place in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. The ceremony is an infamous relic of the period of the Nazis' rise to power and reign of terror. Such images can also be seen at demonstrations held by their modern-day adherents in various European countries. This time it took place in Ukraine, where demonstrators were carrying portraits of the nationalist Stepan Bandera, whose Ukrainian Insurgent Army collaborated with the Nazi occupation forces, including in military operations that are now recognised as war crimes. The march was organised by the Svoboda Party and the Right Sector organisation.

This was not just a demonstration organised by an extreme-right fringe group, since representatives of Right Sector and its ideological ally the Azov Battalion are sitting today in Ukraine's parliament. This position gives them a unique opportunity to proclaim their hateful ideology and thus to help bring about the division of Ukraine between 'pure Ukrainians' and 'others.'

It is the EU, the Commission and its representatives – and in particular former Commissioner Fülle – who carry the responsibility for this policy. They have all helped, through their blind and one-sided policies, to legitimise extreme nationalist and neo-Nazi tendencies in Ukrainian society. Instead of supporting democracy, solidarity and equality, they have been promoting authoritarianism, repression and exclusion. How does the VP/HP intend to proceed with regard to Ukraine in order to prevent it becoming the Iraq of Eastern Europe?