Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew), Iskra Mihaylova (Renew), Atidzhe Alieva-Veli (Renew)

Subject: Election of Valeri Simeonov as Vice-President of the Bulgarian National Assembly and dealing with hate speech

On 20 November 2019, Valeri Simeonov, leader of the National Front for the Salvation of Bulgaria (NFSB), was elected Vice-President of the Bulgarian National Assembly. Simeonov resigned from the post of Deputy Prime Minister following protests against his calling mothers of disabled children ‘squawking women’ with ‘children they pretend are ill’ and after being convicted of hate speech against the Roma, whom he described as ‘beastly humanoids’ with ‘wives with the instincts of street bitches’.

1. Will the European Council consider the above in the light of Article 2 TEU and the respect for tolerance, human dignity and the rights of persons belonging to minorities laid down therein?

2. What steps will be taken to deal with hate speech, given that someone who has consistently behaved and acted in this manner has been chosen to act as a mouthpiece of the Bulgarian Parliament?

3. In the Guide to the application of Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA, the EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance recognises that ‘while most Member States have provisions on incitement to racist […] hatred, these do not always […] transpose the offences covered by the Framework Decision’. How is the European Council addressing the issue of ‘(the) public incitement to […] hatred directed against a group of persons […] defined by […] race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin’, given the public platform granted to Simeonov?