## **Press release**

26-03-2021 - 18:26 20210319IPR00448



# Statement by the Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group

Following the meeting on Slovenia with Prime Minister Janša, the DRFMG of the Civil Liberties Committee issued the following statement

To our regret, the exchange of views of the European Parliament Democracy, Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group with Slovenian Prime Minister Janša was interrupted as the Prime Minister left the meeting.

The DRFMG meeting was exceptionally webstreamed, at the express request of Prime Minister Janša. The Prime Minister wished to share some visual material with the DRFMG. The material, turning out to be three videos, arrived just minutes before the meeting, and some while the meeting was already underway. However, Mr Janša insisted the videos be viewed immediately instead of engaging in the exchange of views foreseen by the meeting agenda.

The videos have self-evidently been shared with all members of the DRFMG after the meeting and they will be part of our deliberations, analogous to all other material that we receive in the course of our monitoring exercise. The immediate viewing of the videos during an ongoing exchange of views became the precondition for the continuation of the meeting for the Prime Minister, which is highly regretful.

The DRFMG stands ready to engage with Member state governments and authorities, as part of its mandate to scrutinise threats to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in the EU. We therefore remain open to a further dialogue and will follow up with written questions for the Slovenian authorities. We hope that Slovenian authorities will be ready for an open and constructive debate.

#### **Further information**

Watch a recording of the full meeting Extracts from the exchange with the participation of Janez Janša, Slovenian Prime Minister LIBE Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group (DRFMG)



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