

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 9 March 2021

Dear Ms Filina,

Thank you for addressing the Council of Europe on behalf of the Association of Independent Deputies and expressing concerns regarding human rights protection in Russia.

In this respect I would like to draw your attention to my statement, jointly with the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, concerning the sentencing of Mr Aleksey Navalny. The Russian Federation is a member of our European legal family and in this statement we call upon the Russian authorities to abide by their international obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.

I would also like to refer you to the statement of the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner in regard to the arrests of protesters and journalists at the recent demonstrations all over Russia. Freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, the right to liberty and security and the right to a fair trial are fundamental rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights. The German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and I called on the Russian authorities to fully investigate all reported abusive actions against peaceful protesters and journalists, and to bring those responsible to justice, in order to observe Russia's obligations as a member state of the Council of Europe.

All the statutory bodies of our Organisation will continue to follow the situation in the Russian Federation closely, in particular with respect to the commitments undertaken by Russia upon joining the Council of Europe.

Yours sincerely,


Marija Pejčinović Burić

Ms Elena Filina
Chairman of the Presidium
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