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*for the South East of England*

Vice President Barrot  
DG Justice, Freedom and Security  
The European Commission  
200 Rue de la Loi  
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Dear Vice President,

I am sure you are aware that the European Parliament's Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights has called on the European Commission to investigate attacks made against participants in Budapest's PRIDE Parade, on July 5<sup>th</sup> this year.

As an elected representative of one of the UK's largest LGBT populations and a member of the Intergroup, I would like to emphasise how important it is that the European Commission take this matter up with the Hungarian authorities. This PRIDE has been described by some media commentators as the most violent in Hungary's history and it is unacceptable that citizens of an EU member states cannot exercise their right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in safety.

I understand that hostile, aggressive attacks, including throwing fire bombs, eggs filled with acid and other objects at PRIDE marchers and the police, were carried out by members of far right groups. I call on the Commission to join MEPs in denouncing such violence and to speak out against attempts by extremists to threaten universal rights.

A number of PRIDE events have taken place across Europe this year and the UK in particular has provided strong support for participants via its embassies. The Commission now must call on the EU as a whole to protect LGBT rights and ensure that future PRIDE marches can take place without fear of intimidation or attack.

Thank you for giving this matter your attention and I look forward to learning the outcome of any discussions with the Hungarian government.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.