

Statements of support to the Baltic Parliamentary Conference on Tibet

Riga, 3 June 2026

Statement by Member of Parliament Jitka SEITLOVÁ - Czech Republic

I appreciate that the issue of Tibet is being monitored and addressed across European countries, because the Tibetan people, along with other ethnic groups within the People's Republic of China, are being oppressed and subjected to repression aimed at erasing their cultural identity. I would like to thank Mr. Juris Vilums for organizing a conference in Latvia on this very topic.

China's Ethnic Unity Law, adopted in March 2026, is a cause for serious concern not only for me personally, but also for the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. In December 2025, I had the opportunity to lead an official delegation from the Czech Senate to Dharamsala and speak not only with the Central Tibetan Administration but also with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The concerns of the Tibetan ethnic group and other nations are justified. This law openly promotes a policy of assimilation, restrictions on cultural expression, religious freedom, and education in minority languages.

That is why I initiated a resolution in the upper chamber of our parliament condemning China's actions to suppress minorities. The Czech Senate adopted this resolution, in which it expressed concern over this legislation and emphasized that the protection of cultural and religious diversity is a fundamental principle reflected in international human rights documents, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the right to freedom of religion and belief. According to the resolution adopted by the Senate, the new ethnic law is in conflict not only with China's international obligations but also with the guarantees contained in the Chinese Constitution itself. The Senate also stated in the resolution that the selection of the future 15th Dalai Lama is exclusively a matter for the Tibetan people and the Tibetan Buddhist community, without interference from Chinese authorities.

I also believe that stronger European coordination on the issue of Tibet is in Europe's own interest. The proposal to establish a special EU representative for Tibet deserves serious consideration. An authorized European representative could help coordinate EU actions in the areas of human rights, religious freedom, and the preservation of Tibetan cultural identity. At a time when concerns are growing over external interference in the Dalai Lama's succession, a unified European approach is increasingly important. I therefore welcome the efforts of the European Union and European institutions to support Tibet and protect fundamental freedoms. In this regard, it is also particularly encouraging that a group of European human rights ambassadors publicly condemned the Chinese government's attempts last year to interfere in the selection of the next Dalai Lama, stating that the Tibetan Buddhist community alone has the right to elect its religious leaders without state interference.

