

## Statements of support to the Baltic Parliamentary Conference on Tibet

Riga, 3 June 2026

### Statement by Member of European Parliament Dainius ŽALIMAS - Lithuania

Dear participants to the Baltic Parliamentary Conference on Tibet,

I warmly welcome this important initiative bringing together parliamentarians from the Baltic states to discuss the situation in Tibet and to strengthen European engagement in support of the Tibetan people.

At a time when we are witnessing growing authoritarian corporations across the world, the defense of human rights and fundamental freedoms has become more important than ever.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine would be significantly more difficult to sustain without China's political backing and the continued supply of dual-use goods and technologies.

At the same time, we see increasing efforts by the Chinese authorities to suppress the identities, cultures and freedoms of the people living under their rule, including Tibetans.

This is particularly alarming because the protection of national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity is firmly anchored in customary international law, as reflected in the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. All states are required to uphold these standards.

Against this background, I share your concerns regarding Chinese law on promoting ethnic unity and progress which poses serious risk to the preservation of Tibetan identity, language, culture and fundamental rights.

The European Parliament has already expressed its concern through its resolution on this matter, and I encourage the Parliaments of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to follow the European Parliament's example by adopting corresponding resolutions condemning this legislation and its consequences for the Tibetan people as well as all others ethnic minorities.

I also encourage all parliamentarians present to engage actively with their national governments and urge them to strengthen coordination with European partners on Tibet. Our common message should be clear: the enforcement of this law must have consequences for EU-China relations.

The Treaty on the European Union obliges the European Union and its Member States to promote human rights, democracy, and respect for international law in their external relations. These principles guide our policies and our engagement with China.

In this regard, I strongly welcome the conference's call for stronger European Union coordination on Tibet, including consideration of the appointment of an EU Special Representative for Tibet.

Continued parliamentary cooperation and principled engagement are essential to ensuring that human rights and fundamental freedoms remain at the center of the EU's relationship with China.

I wish you productive discussions and every success in advancing this important cause.