



**Joint Statement by the Members of the European Parliament
on the continuous prosecution by the Russian Authorities of Alexei Navalny**

Brussels, 18 February 2022 - “We are closely following another politically motivated trial of Alexei Navalny, which started earlier this week. We find it absurd that Mr Navalny, the founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation, whose life mission is to expose corruption at various levels of the Russian government, and who has been subjected to unjustified prosecution and imprisonment for this work, is being accused of fraud.

We deplore any attempts to prolong Mr Navalny’s imprisonment, especially as his prison sentence is politically motivated and in total disregard of the European Court of Human Rights’ indication of 16 February 2021 to release Mr Navalny on the grounds of risk to his life.

We reiterate the European Parliament’s repeated call for Mr Navalny’s immediate and unconditional release. The European Parliament has recognized Mr Navalny’s struggle for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Russia by awarding him the 2021 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, and holds the Russian authorities and President Putin personally as the head of the Russian state responsible for any harm to Mr Navalny during his unlawful imprisonment.”

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