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HIGH REPRESENTATIVE  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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To all Members of the European Parliament co-signatory to the letter in regards to the rights of ethnic minorities in Serbia

Dear Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your letter of 7 December 2023 on your concerns related to the treatment of the Bulgarian minority in the Republic of Serbia.

Allow me reiterate that under the framework of the EU accession negotiations, the Commission monitors closely the overall situation of the rule of law in Serbia, including the treatment of persons belonging to national minorities. Serbia is required, under Chapter 23 ‘Judiciary and Fundamental Rights’ of the accession negotiations, to implement its legal framework on the rights of persons belonging to minorities. This includes in particular education, the use of minority languages, access to media and religious services in minority languages and adequate representation in the public administration. Serbia is also expected to implement its ‘action plan for the realisation of the rights of national minorities’ in its entirety. A detailed assessment of Serbia’s progress in this respect was presented in the 2023 Report on Serbia. The Commission will continue to engage with Serbia on these issues and the EU Delegation to Serbia also remains in regular contact with the Embassy of Bulgaria in Serbia.

The Commission expects all partners in the region to promote a climate of mutual trust and foster good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation.

Yours faithfully,



Josep Borrell Fontelles