



The President

**Message from Prof. Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament,
to those attending the 'Khodorkovsky' film screening**

The case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky has become a symbol of the systemic problems relating to law and order and the human rights crisis in today's Russia. The trials against Mr Khodorkovsky reflect the state of the judiciary in Russia, and as someone in the public eye, Mr Khodorkovsky has become a symbol for many people in Russia struggling to deal with problems that are similar to his, albeit on a different scale.

Today, by means of this letter, I should once again like to emphasise our solidarity with Mikhail Khodorkovsky and his family. I was able to do this in person when I met his mother, Marina Khodorkovskaya, on 15 December 2010. During my visit to Moscow, I brought up the case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky in my meetings with President Dmitry Medvedev and other government representatives. I also raised the issue of the unsolved murders of the journalists Anna Politkovskaya, Natalya Estemirova and Anastasia Baburova and the death of the lawyer Sergei Magnitsky.

It is clear to me that President Medvedev's reforms cannot succeed without the involvement of civil society and without stepping up law and order and the independence of the judiciary in Russia. This would be in the best interests not only of the Russian authorities, but also of the country's population as a whole.

I should like to congratulate Cyril Tusch, the director, on his film, which is richly documented and most interesting. I should also like to thank the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance for organising today's screening. Unfortunately, other Parliament commitments mean that I am unable to be with you in person.

I hope the film you are about to watch will also give you an opportunity to think about the benefits that democracy in the EU has brought us, and about how that democracy might be threatened if we failed to preserve the memory of our own history or monitor the democratic situation in those countries nearest to us.

Jerzy Buzek