We the undersigned, parliamentarians from all over Europe, call upon the European Union to adopt a comprehensive ban on Hezbollah.

After the suicide attack in Bulgaria in 2012, which murdered six people, the EU added the so-called "military wing" of Hezbollah to its list of terrorist organisations. The fact that this wing does not form a separate entity, but is an integral part of the whole organisation, was not considered.

Several EU Member States have, by contrast, since come to a different conclusion.

The Netherlands banned Hezbollah as early as 2004, and did not distinguish between any so-called 'wings', since the organisation has a single leadership.

The United Kingdom took the same step in 2019 with similar justification.

In May this year Germany issued a comprehensive ban on Hezbollah and its activities.

The classification of Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation, together with the prohibitions derived from it, are as justified as they are necessary, because Hezbollah endangers the security of Europe:

- by destabilizing the Middle East;
  As a proxy of Tehran, the Hezbollah has between 5,000 and 15,000 fighters, depending on the count. It possesses heavy conventional weapons, including around 130,000 rockets aimed at Israel. Hezbollah fights in Syria together with the Assad regime. The group trains and supplies weapons to Shiite militias in Yemen and Iraq. According to UN Security Council Resolution 1701 for the pacification of Lebanon, Hezbollah should have handed over its weapons long ago.

- through terrorist attacks on targets in Europe;
  In 2012, attacks in Cyprus and Tbilisi could be prevented. In 2015, members of the Hezbollah, who were storing large quantities of substances used to manufacture explosives, were arrested in Cyprus and in England. The Hezbollah has recruited potential assassins in Europe on several occasions. Primarily for targets in Israel, but these people can return to Europe. Money collected in Europe is used for families of suicide bombers.

- by promoting anti-Semitism;
  Hezbollah rhetoric constantly refers to the destruction of Israel as a central part of its raison d'être. Its writings spread traditional antisemitic views. In addition, hatred of Jews is stirred up by denying Israel's right to exist. This ideology poisons and threatens our European pluralistic way if life. A prime example is Hezbollah's annual marches on "Al-Quds Day", where in the capitals of Europe there are explicit calls for the destruction of the Jewish state.

- and through international arms and drug trafficking.
  According to various investigations, the Hezbollah carries out extensive criminal activities to raise funds to strengthen its influence and subversive capacity, for example smuggling weapons, drugs and cigarettes. In so doing, the organisation is acting directly against European efforts to fight organised crime and ensure the security of their societies.

All these threats are posed by only one integral organisation. There is only one Hezbollah - as the organisation itself continues to emphasise.

In order to protect its citizens and their interests, the European Union should end the artificial and untenable distinction between the "military" and the "political" wings of Hezbollah.

We therefore urge the European Union:
- to classify Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization;
- to ban Hezbollah in its entirety;
- to ban all activities of Hezbollah;
- to ban all support for Hezbollah.

Signatories:

Florin Alexe, former MP, Romania

Petra Bayr, MP, Austria

Franz Bogovic, MEP, Slovenia

Boriss Cilevics, MP, Latvia

Corina Eichenberger-Walther, former MP, Switzerland

Gianna Gancia, Italy, MEP

Daniel Jositsch, Senator, Switzerland

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