



Members of the European Parliament



Statement of support for Sofia Pride 2012

Brussels, 28th June 2012

Dear friends in Sofia,

We are sorry we are unable to be with you on Saturday 30th June, and we thank you for your invitation.

Together with 134 other Members of the European Parliament, we send you our strongest message of support for this fifth Sofia Pride. We have no doubt it will show the incredible courage, commitment and pride of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Bulgaria.

We were shocked to hear of the call to violence by some religious leaders. Their anger and frustration must be met by a peaceful march on Saturday, which we know will show these calls to violence were marginal, outdated and unwelcome.

Bulgaria shares European values of diversity, equality, human rights and non-discrimination. Those who stand in opposition will be met by fierce political condemnation, and those who act violently against anyone because of their sexual orientation or gender identity will be brought to justice.

Together with a large majority of the European Parliament, we all wish you the best for Sofia Pride 2012.

Yours in solidarity,

Michael Cashman MEP
Co-President

Ulrike Lunacek MEP
Co-President

Marije Cornelissen MEP
Member