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Dacian Cioloş
President of Renew Europe Group
European Parliament
WIB 05M003, B-1047

Brussels, 12 November 2020

Mr. Joe Biden
President-Elect of the United States of America

Dear President-Elect, Mr Biden,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on your historic victory. As the sister movement to the Democrat Party in the European Union, the Renew Europe family is delighted with your success. We extend the hand of cooperation and friendship to you, Vice President-elect Harris and your administration. I am delighted to be able to continue the cooperation we started in 2016 when we first met at the White house together, you as Vice-President and myself Prime Minister of Romania. Already at that time, we agreed to spare no effort to consolidate rule of law and democratic values across the world as a prerequisite to deepen economic ties. This remains particularly accurate today.

We believe that the US and the European Union face a series of joint and prescient challenges, from climate change, reform of the global trading system and the need to tackle common security threats and cement peace where there is conflict.

As you are aware, liberal democracy in the world is in sharp decline and this is sadly true in Europe too. As a long term campaigner against corruption and illiberalism in my own country, I have seen first-hand how populists and nationalists have sought to undermine the rule of law and the democratic institutions the US and the EU helped to build together since the Second World War.

The Renew Europe political family has been at the forefront of European integration and the fight to defend the rule of law in Europe, recently campaigning to ensure that EU funds cannot be used by illiberal and authoritarian orientated regimes to reinforce their corrupt agendas. We also believe that the EU must once again become a force for the promotion of democracy globally.

Therefore, it was with great interest that I read in March your vision for an American foreign policy founded on the need to promote liberty globally.

I was particularly delighted by your proposal to organise and host a ‘global Summit for Democracy to renew the spirit and shared purpose of the nations of the free world’, intended

to bring together the world's democracies to strengthen our democratic institutions, honestly confront nations that are backsliding, and forge a common agenda.

As Renew Europe, we strongly support the idea of such a conference of free nations and offer our involvement in bringing this to fruition. It is time for those who believe in the ideals of democratic pluralism, the rule of law and action to tackle political corruption to come together to confront nations who are backsliding and undermining the rights of citizens.

The civil society organisations and journalists who are suffering most by the explosion of nationalist and populist movements we have witnessed in recent years, should be at the forefront of such an international Summit for change.

Once again, best of luck and our heartfelt congratulations to you and Vice President-elect Harris.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Cioloș', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Dacian Cioloș,
President of Renew Europe Group*