

We are writing to express our concern and disappointment at the People's Republic of China's recent decision to impose the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region without the consent of the people of Hong Kong.

The law is not a product of the city's own institutions but is imposed by Beijing, and as such constitutes a breach of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, which is lodged with the United Nations. The law raises significant concern that judicial independence is being undermined by empowering Hong Kong's Chief Executive rather than its Chief Justice is to appoint judges to hear national security cases. This threatens civil rights and the commercial stability.

The change in jurisdiction further violates the Joint Declaration as well as the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the legislation also goes against China's own Basic Law for Hong Kong which states that Hong Kong is to bring forward its own national security legislation.

Hong Kong's autonomy and independent judiciary have guaranteed the personal rights and freedoms of its people for decades and made the territory an important keystone in the international trading system. Given their rights and the importance of Hong Kong, this cannot be seen as a purely domestic affair. In breaching a legally binding agreement and undermining the rule of law, this also undermines the good faith among nations who enter into international agreements.

Article 38 causes further concern as it seeks to violate the sovereignty of other nations. In claiming extraterritorial jurisdiction it infringes freedom of speech in countries like ours that place a high value on civil rights. It is hard to see how an extradition treaty with either Hong Kong or China could be agreed when the demands of Beijing infringe so directly on basic human rights in our nations.

We urge the People's Republic of China to rethink its decision to impose this law, and to uphold its commitments to the people of Hong Kong as well as the international community in order to restore the good faith with European nations.

Signed by the Chairs of the Foreign Affairs Committees:

**Els Van Hoof MP**  
**Belgium**

**Enn Eesmaa MP**  
**Estonia**

**Dr. Norbert Röttgen MdB**  
**Germany**

**Yves Cruchten MP**  
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**Anniken Huitfeldt MP**  
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**Bertel Haarder MP**  
**Denmark**

**David McAllister MEP**  
**European Parliament**

**Rihards Kols MP**  
**Latvia**

**Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs**  
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**Tom Tugendhat MP**  
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