



**Asociación para las  
Naciones Unidas  
en España**

United Nations Association of Spain

His Excellency Mr. David Maria Sassoli  
President of the European Parliament

Barcelona, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Your Excellency,

One of the European Union most fundamental values are the promotion and protection of women's rights and equality so recent occurrence in the Turkey's official reception of EU representatives with an appalling display of gender discrimination and contempt for a woman EU high representative is a major issue.

As the United Nations Association of Spain, an association linked to United Nations and devoted to the defence and promotion of human rights with a special branch on women's rights, we are strongly concerned by the recent and regrettable incident that took place in the meeting with Mrs. von der Leyen, Mr. Michel and President Erdogan.

It is totally unacceptable for an EU representative to accept and be accomplice of a scene that showed a blatant act of male chauvinism and disrespect for a woman as the president of the European Commission, Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen, and personally as a woman.

And this shameful act was not only performed by Mr. Erdogan but by Mr. Charles Michel, president of the European Council.

We cannot ignore this grave and shameful behavior. For that reason, we present formally our protest, as a human rights defender.

We believe that UE representatives must react to this occurrence publicly and take the necessary measures to prevent this kind of situation happening again in Turkey or any other place.

Sincerely,

Ms. Eulàlia Pascual Lagunas  
President  
United Nations Association of Spain