



Jeff Bezos
CEO of Amazon Inc
410 Terry Ave. North, Seattle
98109 Washington

Brussels, November 15th, 2018

Subject: Joint open letter regarding selling the goods with Soviet symbols on Amazon

Dear Jeff Bezos,

We, the undersigned MEPs from Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, Finland, Croatia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, request the discontinuation of sales of goods with the hammer and sickle symbol, representing the Soviet Union, on the Amazon Inc platform. Goods such as t-shirts, costumes, flags, memorabilia and more, with symbols of the hammer and sickle, glorify the totalitarian Soviet regime and thereby demonstrate lack of compassion to millions of European citizens who are Amazon Inc customers as well.

Regardless of our political spectrum, we, the undersigned MEPs, condemn the use of above-mentioned symbols of totalitarian regimes - Nazi or Soviet - regimes that systematically abused human rights, suppressed freedom and democracy. The total number of victims of the Soviet Regime is estimated to more than 60 million. Over 10 million people were sent to working camps in Siberia, where they endured inhumane living conditions, forced labour, starvation and physical violence. The bloody actions, terror and inhumanity of the Soviet regime affected nearly every family in the formerly occupied countries. The tragic consequences of these actions are felt to this day.

On 2 April 2009 the European Parliament adopted the resolution on European conscience and totalitarianism. It condemned totalitarian crimes and called for the recognition of "Communism, Nazism and fascism as a shared legacy" and "an honest and thorough debate on all the totalitarian crimes of the past century." Countries across the globe have condemned the crimes against humanity and massive human rights violations committed by the totalitarian Soviet regime. Numerous countries in Europe have adopted laws banning symbols of mass murders of totalitarian regimes. Many more are on track to do likewise. In 2011 the European Court of Justice banned the Soviet Union's hammer and sickle symbol from being used as a commercial trademark as it is "a symbol of despotism" in some EU countries.

We believe that Amazon Inc does not intend to show support or promote the symbols of the Soviet Union. We therefore call on Amazon Inc to review its policy regarding selling the goods with Soviet symbols immediately. We request Amazon Inc to consider in this evaluation the victims of the Soviet regime as well as those who fought against tyranny and oppression. We encourage Amazon Inc to



respond to the calls and requests coming from all over Europe to discontinue selling the goods with Soviet symbols in the same manner as it has done with the goods displaying Nazi symbols.

We congratulated American retailer Walmart Inc for stepping up by withdrawing merchandise with Soviet symbols in September. We supported the decision of German sports gear maker Adidas to discontinue selling clothes with Soviet symbols in May.

We are hopeful that Amazon Inc can follow suit and demonstrate corporate responsibility against the sales of symbols of totalitarian regimes, for the sake of democratic values and freedom of Nations across Europe.

Sincerely,

MEP Antanas Guoga

MEP Kosma Złotowski

MEP Petras Auštrevičius

MEP Bronis Ropė

MEP Ruža Tomašić

MEP Krišjānis Kariņš

MEP Theresa Griffin

MEP Inese Vaidere

MEP Anna Záborská

MEP Urmas Paet

MEP Dobromir Sośnierz

MEP Sandra Kalniete

MEP Julia Pitera

MEP Zigmantas Balčytis

MEP Vilija Blinkevičiūtė

MEP Merja Kyllönen

MEP Igor Gräzin

MEP Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

MEP Algirdas Saudargas

MEP Valentinas Mazuronis

MEP Elmar Brok

MEP Annie Schreijer-Pierik

MEP José Inácio Faria



MEP Bernd Kölmel

MEP Ádám Kósa

MEP Ramon Tremosa-i-Balcells

MEP Laima Liucija Andrikiene