



To the kind attention of the
President of the European Parliament
Ms. Roberta Metsola

Brussels, 26 January 2026

Madam President,

With this letter, we wish to bring to your attention the proposal that the European Parliament extend an official invitation to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV to address the Plenary Assembly of the European Parliament at its seat in Strasbourg.

The European Parliament represents a forum for political dialogue on the major issues of our time. On several occasions throughout its history, this Assembly has welcomed authoritative international voices capable of offering thoughtful reflections on global challenges that directly affect political action and the responsibility of European institutions.

In this perspective, an address by the Holy Father would be of inestimable value. The Pope's magisterium on issues at the heart of the European political agenda—such as peace, the dignity of the human person, institutional responsibility, respect for Life and international law, cooperation among peoples, and the protection of the most vulnerable—would provide the European Parliament with a high-level contribution, enriching parliamentary debate and recalling political action to the fundamental principles that should guide decision-making.

A recent example is His Holiness's address to the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, delivered on 9 January. On that occasion, the Holy Father underscored the value of multilateralism, dialogue among nations, and diplomacy as indispensable tools to prevent conflicts and to build a peace founded on justice and respect for human dignity. He also emphasized the responsibility of political institutions not to reduce public action to the mere technical management of power, but to keep it oriented toward the common good and the human person.

These reflections directly concern the European Union as well, which today is called upon to confront an international context marked by wars, geopolitical instability, humanitarian crises, and growing tensions among major powers.

An invitation to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV would also fit within a well-established tradition of dialogue between the European Parliament and the Holy See. We recall the visits of Pope Francis to the European Parliament on 25 November 2014, and of Saint John Paul II on 11 October 1988. On both occasions, the Pontiffs addressed the plenary session in Strasbourg, offering in-depth reflections on the role of Europe, the centrality of the human person, and the need for European institutions not to lose touch with the peoples they represent. These addresses represent moments of particular significance in the history of the European Parliament.

More than ten years after the last visit of a Pope to Strasbourg, the European and international context has profoundly changed; yet the need remains for reflection that goes beyond immediate political confrontation and recalls the fundamental principles on which coexistence among nations is based. An address by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV could make a significant contribution to this debate.

In light of the above, we kindly ask you to consider the opportunity for the European Parliament to proceed with a formal invitation to His Holiness, according to the modalities and timing that you and the competent bodies of Parliament deem most appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

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