

**Professor Danuta Hübner**  
**EPP Coordinator in the AFCO committee, European Parliament**

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fundamental rights and rule of law"***

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Albert Camus wrote in the Plague: "I have no idea what is awaiting me or what will happen when this all ends. For this moment I know this: there are sick people and they need curing". This basic truth we should remind the national governments, for some of them think too much about how all that will end for them.

During the uncertainty caused by the pandemic there is an especially great potential for the abuse of the human tragedy for political ends. And here lies an additional danger: The danger that emergency measures taken during the second wave of the pandemic can lead to further and harsher abuse of the circumstances for political means.

We must not allow for that.

We have to be strong and we have to be united in countering any temptation to curtail the rights of citizens in the name of fighting the current plague. Covid-19 must not become a convenient justification for cracking down on social protests, limiting the role of the opposition, and holding free and fair elections.

At this moment, we need to consolidate all our efforts toward curing the sick and also toward defending our fundamental values against the power grab by unscrupulous politicians.

And here, in the European Parliament we must be vigilant and ensure that in this House rule of law is respected.