

EUROPEAN UNION
OFFICE TO HONG KONG AND MACAO

Ambassador / Head of Office

Hong Kong, 29 May 2024

Dear Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

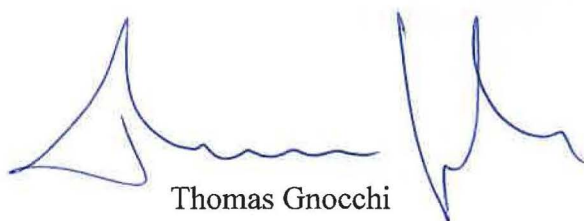
Thank you for your letter dated 26 April 2024 on the art work 'Pillar of Shame'.

The EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao has been closely following developments relating to the 'Pillar of Shame'. We have been in close contact with the Danish Consulate-General in Guangzhou which has also been following this issue.

This week, I was finally able to secure a meeting with the authorities at a senior level to discuss the matter. I asked about the current state of the sculpture and conveyed the position that it should be returned to the artist Jens Galschiøt who had given the art piece on loan to the University of Hong Kong but wishes for it to be returned. I also highlighted that the matter has the potential to affect the bilateral relationship. The authorities took note of this position and at the same time informed me that the Hong Kong Police has taken the sculpture into custody on the basis of a court warrant in the context of a criminal investigation but was unable to provide further details beyond saying that the court case did not relate to the artist. My interlocutor also informed me that the Pillar of Shame would not be released until the judicial procedure is concluded.

The EU Office stands ready to continue looking into this matter in order to secure the release and return of the sculpture.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Gnocchi

MEP Thijs REUTEN (S&D)
MEP Domenec RUIZ DEVESA (S&D)
MEP Kira PETER-HANSEN (Greens)
MEP Isabel SANTOS (S&D)
MEP Anna FOTYGA (ECR)
MEP Hans Reinhard BÜTIKOFER (Greens)
MEP Engin EROGLU (Renew)
MEP David LEGA (EPP)