

The President

Mr Charles Michel,
President of the European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels

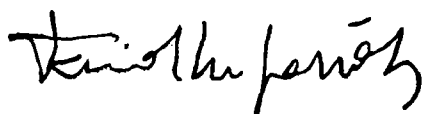
D 317897 12.12.2019

Dear President Michel,

I have been invited by the Conference of Presidents to convey a letter addressed to me by Mr Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Chair of LIBE Committee and Sophie In 't Veld, Chair of the Democracy, Rule of law, Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group, following the ad hoc delegation of the European Parliament to Malta regarding the latest developments on the case of the murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

I would be grateful if you could bring the matter to the attention of the Heads of State and Government at the earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



David Maria SASSOLI

Annex : letter from Mr López Aguilar, chair of the LIBE Committee and Ms In 't Veld, Chair of the Democracy Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group



Mr David Sassoli
President of the European Parliament

Dear President,

Last week, an ad hoc European Parliament mission of the LIBE committee was sent to Malta. Members of all political groups participated in the mission. The European Parliament Conference of Presidents decided to send this urgent mission in light of the latest developments in the investigation into the murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, and of the latest political developments.

The findings of the mission are alarming and require urgent action. The delegation met with the police, the judiciary, politicians, journalists and civil society, and it has identified several serious shortcomings and threats to the rule of law. These relate directly to the integrity of the murder investigation and the possible political interference therein, as well as to broader challenges of insufficient law enforcement in cases of money laundering and corruption. Recent revelations, including the testimony given by the "middle man" in court yesterday, suggest involvement of senior members of the Maltese government and staff.

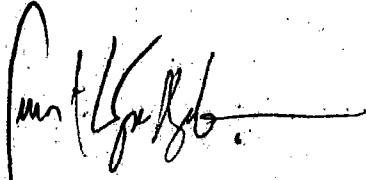
Our delegation has expressed its concern over the delayed resignation of the Prime Minister, announced for January 12th, and the suspension of Parliament. We fear this constitutes a serious risk, real or perceived, the murder investigation and connected investigations will be compromised.

The investigation has come to a crucial point, and any risk of political or other interference must be categorically be excluded.

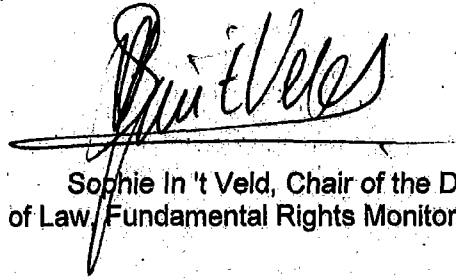
The delegation will report back to the European Parliament in detail, and a plenary debate is scheduled to take place during the Strasbourg session.

However, given the rapid evolution of the situation, and with a view to the upcoming Council Summit, we believe it is important for the Council and the heads of government to take a stance. Malta is part of the European Union, and all EU institutions have a responsibility to ensure European values are upheld throughout the territory of the EU.

Yours sincerely,



Juan Fernando López Aguilar
Chairman of the LIBE Committee



Sophie In 't Veld, Chair of the Democracy
Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group