



Der Vorsitzende - The Chairman - Le Président

Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President of the European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B – 1049 Brussels

Brussels, 20 April 2018

Dear Mr Vice-President,

The disturbing revelations uncovered by the 'Daphne Project' consortium of 45 journalists from 18 global media houses have once again underlined the severe and problematic rule of law issues currently faced by Malta and the urgent need for an EU response.

The Daphne Project was launched after the horrific assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia in a car bomb outside her home in Malta in October 2017.

The revelations over the last days have shown that a Senior Government Minister, Chris Cardona, has been seen in the company of at least one of the men currently undergoing proceedings accused of setting of the bomb that killed Ms Caruana Galizia. Furthermore we have learnt a total of \$1.6 million (€1.3 million) was transferred to 17 Black, a Dubai company listed as one of the "target clients" which would pay in money to the Prime Minister of Malta's Chief of Staff, Keith Schembri's and Senior Minister Konrad Mizzi's offshore companies exposed two years ago in the Panama Papers.

The revelations come amid questions in the media as to the role played by Malta-based Pilatus Bank in laundering ill-gotten money and further questions related to corruption in the sale of Maltese and EU passports by the authorities in Malta and the privatisation of Malta's public hospitals.

It is an extraordinary situation that has seen the politically appointed Chief of Police in Malta refuse to investigate any Government politician for any crime related to money laundering or corruption and refuse still to investigate or even interrogate any Government politician in relation to the assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

The situation is such that warrants an immediate rule of law dialogue with the Maltese authorities and any action that may be deemed necessary on a European level to defend the integrity of our Union and the rule of law in our Member States.

The people of Malta are looking to the EU for guidance and we must be able to respond.

Yours sincerely,

Manfred Weber MEP  
Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament

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