

Mr Antonio Tajani
President of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 47
1000 Brussels

Brussels, 24 July 2017

Honourable President Tajani,

We are contacting you to bring to your attention that three Members of the European Parliament are currently not complying with the rules of the Code of Conduct for Members. The three Members in question – Nigel Farage, Renato Soru and Michele Aillot-Marie – all declare incomes from outside activities in excess of 10,000 euros per month, but do not provide “indication of the nearest 10,000 EUR amount” as stipulated in Art. 4, 2. of the Code of Conduct. We are requesting that you take appropriate action to rectify the situation and in case the Code has indeed been breached issue a penalty in line with Rule 166(3) to (5) of the Rules of Procedure.

As you are well aware, the Code of Conduct and the Rules of Procedure had been changed with effect on 16 January 2017. The changes to the Code of Conduct had allowed MEPs to file an updated declaration where necessary within six months. That deadline has expired on 16 July.

We hope that the situation can be rectified as soon as possible, as it is particularly important that the declarations of those earning thousands of euros each month from outside activities are accurate and provide meaningful information. Otherwise monitoring potential conflicts of interest is impossible.

We would also like to alert you to the fact that there are currently 103 activities declared by Members with organisations registered on the EU Transparency Register. Particularly those that are paid might be in violation of article 2 (c) that stipulates that members shall “not engage in paid professional lobbying directly linked to the Union decision-making process”. Several other members declare generic activities such as “Freelancer” or “Consultant” that do not allow to monitor if conflicts of interest might exist between their outside activities and their parliamentary initiatives.

If need be, we are more than happy to present our findings in more detail either to you or to the members of the Advisory Committee.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Freund

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