

Various recipients
European Parliament
Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Brussel

Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1 July 2013

Subject: Formal complaint against Mr. Ransdorf, MEP

Dear recipients,

Last week, Dutch journalist Tom Staal of weblog GeenStijl.nl ran into your KSCM- and GUE/NGL party member, Mr. Miloslav Ransdorf, when he entered the European Parliament early in the evening to sign the attendance register to collect his subsistence allowance of 304 euro, before exiting the Parliament building again to go into his apartment building nearby - without subsequently attending a session or meeting of parliament. Mr. Staal confronted Mr. Ransdorf with this behavior, but was met with verbal and physical aggression by Mr. Ransdorf¹.

In this writing, GeenStijl formally files a complaint against Mr. Ransdorf for his actions against Tom Staal and his cameraman, but also for his questionable and peculiar behavior that breathes the suggestion of the deception of an electorate that put its trust in the hands of Mr. Ransdorf to represent them in Europe, and even the entire European public that is represented in and by the European Parliament.

As a Member of the European Parliament, Mr. Ransdorf is bound to the rules set for its members. With his acts and subsequent behavior, Mr. Ransdorf violated the guiding principles as formalized in Article 1 of Annex 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament². This article states that in exercising their duties, Members of the European Parliament:

(a) are guided by and observe the following general principles of conduct: disinterest, integrity, openness, diligence, honesty, accountability and respect for Parliament's reputation,

(b) act solely in the public interest and refrain from obtaining or seeking to obtain any direct or indirect financial benefit or other reward.

Mr. Ransdorf appears to have violated a number, if not all of these guiding principles. This reflects poorly on the credibility of his Czech party KSCM, his European party GUE/NGL, and the European Parliament as a whole. In order to restore the damage done, GeenStijl urges all parties involved to internally research and evaluate the behavior of their party member, Mr. Ransdorf, and to act upon the outcome of your findings.

On top of violation of the guiding principles, Mr. Ransdorf showed a striking lack of respect for journalists and the free press by verbally assaulting and physically threatening Mr. Staal. This resulted in rather painful video images that do damage to an institution like the European Union, that proudly claims to both possess and protect free press in Europe.

¹ http://www.dumpert.nl/mediabase/6549901/06a6b8fd/tom_staal_trekt_rioolput_eu_open_brussel.html

² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+RULES-EP+20130521+ANN-01+DOC+XML+V0//EN&navigationBar=YES>

Surely you will agree that this sort of conduct by members of the European Parliament is unbecoming for an institution that proudly totes a Nobel Peace Prize.

GeenStijl therefore urges you to take our complaint in serious consideration, and we thank you for your time and concern. We would appreciate it if you could actively keep us updated on the measures you take to prevent incidents like this to occur again in the future - both the potential fraud with subsistence allowances and the aggressive approach towards independent journalists by your Members of the European Parliament.

Best regards,

Van Rossem
p.p. GeenStijl.nl
Meeuwenlaan 100
1021JL Amsterdam
The Netherlands
redactie@geenstijl.nl