

Herr Martin Schulz  
President of the European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz 60  
1047 Bruxelles  
Belgique

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 1 July 2013

Subject: Complaint against Mr. Ransdorf, MEP and Mr. Baldassarre, MEP

Dear Mr. Schulz,

Last week, Dutch journalist Tom Staal of weblog GeenStijl.nl ran into two MEPs in Brussels. They were Mr. Miloslav Ransdorf and Mr. Raffaele Baldassarre. Both men entered the European Parliament early in the evening to sign the attendance register to collect their subsistence allowance of 304 euro, before exiting the Parliament building again – without subsequently attending a session or meeting of parliament. Mr. Staal confronted both gentlemen with their behavior, but was met with verbal and physical aggression<sup>1</sup>. In this writing, GeenStijl formally files a complaint against both Mr. Ransdorf and Mr. Baldassarre for their actions against Tom Staal and his cameraman, but also for their questionable and peculiar behavior that breathes the suggestion of the deception of an electorate that put its trust in the hands of these MEPs to represent them in Europe, and even the entire European public that is represented in and by the European Parliament.

As Members of the European Parliament, Mr. Ransdorf and Mr. Baldassarre are bound to the rules set for its members. With their acts and subsequent behavior, both men violated the guiding principles as formalized in Article 1 of Annex 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament<sup>2</sup>. 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 and Mr. Baldassarre appear to have violated a number, if not all of these guiding principles.

Not only their behavior, but also the absence of a proper response from the European Parliament (e.g. an internal audit) reflects poorly on the credibility of not only their national parties and their European parties, but most importantly on the European Parliament as an institution. In order to restore the damage done, GeenStijl urges you, Mr. Schulz, as president of the European Parliament, to act responsively and decisively to uphold the Rules of Procedure. Therefore, apart from remarking on the quality (or suggested lack thereof) of the media company that filmed these two MEPs while engaging in questionable conduct, we kindly ask you to take on your primary responsibilities and tasks: to research and evaluate the behavior of these members of your Parliament, and act upon the outcome of your findings.

On top of violation of the guiding principles, Mr. Ransdorf and Mr. Baldassarre 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 claims to both grant full access for the press and to protect free press in Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.dumpert.nl/mediabase/6549901/06a6b8fd/tom\\_staal\\_trekt\\_rioolput\\_eu\\_open\\_brussel.html](http://www.dumpert.nl/mediabase/6549901/06a6b8fd/tom_staal_trekt_rioolput_eu_open_brussel.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+RULES-EP+20130521+ANN->  
<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 the members of your European Parliament.

Best regards,

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