

Committee of Inquiry into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion  
The Chair

D 200694 15.03.2017

Mr Louis Grech  
President in office, European General Affairs Council  
Rue de la Loi 175  
B-1048 Bruxelles  
Belgium

**Subject: Request for documents pursuant to Article 3(4) of Decision 95/167/EC, Euratom, ECSC.**

Dear President,

Thank you for your letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2017 in reply to our letter of 29th of November of last year.

On behalf of the PANA committee, I regret to say that we are very disappointed about this late reaction but even more surprised about its content.

As you are aware, my committee attaches great importance to the cooperation with the Council as we have shown on a number of occasions. My committee requested the Council access to some documents relevant to its work and specified in the Annex to the letter cited above which according to me seems to be sufficiently clear, precise and unequivocal.

Both of our institutions want to enhance transparency and cooperation in the fight against tax evasion, tax avoidance and anti-money laundering. In our opinion, this should also imply that EU citizens should be aware of their respective government's positions on such important issues. We would appreciate if the Council contributed to this by being more transparent about it. We therefore would like to express our concern about some of the documents received from the Code of Conduct Group where a substantial amount of text has been blackened (e.g. related to definitions and to some Member States' positions). This makes it more difficult for my committee to understand and appraise the information contained in these documents. With regard to the issues related to Anti-Money Laundering (AML), we think that in the frame of the inquiry it is appropriate to understand better Members States' positions and requests related to especially the 3rd and 4th AML Directives.

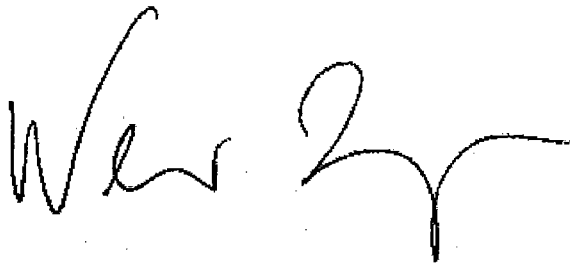
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We take your letter very seriously also in view of the key constitutional Treaty principle of sincere cooperation between our institutions. We are co-legislators and we need to stand up together against practices of money laundering, tax evasion and tax avoidance. This is the least our citizens can expect from us!

We therefore reiterate our demand for access to documents as outlined in the Annex of our letter of 29 November 2016 as soon as possible and in the spirit of loyal cooperation between our institutions as well as in the interest of transparency towards Europe's citizens.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Werner Langen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent 'W' and 'L'.

Dr. Werner LANGEN