



Plenary sitting

B9-0583/2022

13.12.2022

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on suspicions of corruption from Qatar and the broader need for transparency
and accountability in the European institutions
(2022/3012(RSP))

Jeroen Lenaers, Sven Simon, David McAllister, Michael Gahler
on behalf of the PPE Group

European Parliament resolution on suspicions of corruption from Qatar and the broader need for transparency and accountability in the European institutions (2022/3012(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament,
- having regard to the legal principle of the presumption of innocence,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas trust in Parliament's integrity and the rule of law is paramount for the functioning of European democracy and whereas any allegations that Members have engaged in criminal behaviour are taken most seriously;
- B. whereas an Interinstitutional Agreement between Parliament, the Council and the Commission on a mandatory transparency register¹ entered into force on 20 May 2021; whereas the non-governmental organisation (NGO) 'Fight Impunity' has not to date been registered;
- C. whereas on 24 November 2022 Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights in the context of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar² condemning the Qatari authorities' systematic violations of the basic rights of migrant workers;
- D. whereas on 30 November 2022 the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs voted in favour of visa-free access to the Schengen area for Qatari citizens; whereas the procedure was referred back to the committee by the plenary on 12 December 2022;
- E. whereas between 9 and 11 December 2022, four people closely connected to the European Parliament, including its Vice-President Eva Kaili, were arrested by the Belgian authorities on suspicion of money laundering, corruption and participating in a criminal organisation;
- F. whereas Parliament cannot assume the role of a court and does not intend to prejudice the ongoing investigations of the Belgian authorities;
- 1. Is alarmed by the corruption scandal involving Members of the European Parliament and staff; declares in the strongest possible terms that Parliament operates a policy of zero tolerance towards corruption;
- 2. Strongly condemns the acts of corruption allegedly carried out by the State of Qatar in complicity with current and former Members of the European Parliament and their staff;

¹ OJ L 207, 11.6.2021, p. 1.

² Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0427.

3. Considers these alleged crimes to be an attack on European democracy and congratulates the relevant Belgian and European authorities on having thwarted further criminal actions through their work; supports Parliament's full cooperation with the ongoing criminal investigation;
4. Welcomes the initiation of a procedure under Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure for the immediate termination of office of Vice-President Kaili;
5. Notes that NGOs were allegedly used in this case as vectors of foreign interference in European parliamentarism; calls for a review of the current rules for NGOs, in particular those related to governance, budget, foreign influence and persons of significant control, with the aim of increasing their transparency and accountability;
6. Reiterates its call for stronger defensive tools for combating foreign interference in European democracy;
7. Calls for stronger anti-corruption mechanisms within the European Parliament;
8. Calls for swift and dissuasive consequences for any foreign actor that is proven guilty in this ongoing case;
9. Emphasises that some informal friendship groups may pose various problems for the work of the official bodies of Parliament; emphasises that proper regulation and monitoring of friendship groups is a prerequisite for their continued existence in Parliament; calls for the mapping of friendship groups and other informal groupings in the European Parliament, as well as for an accessible and up-to-date register of declarations;
10. Reiterates that the scope of its urgency resolutions should be well defined in order to ensure proper scrutiny of third-party influence;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, to the governments and parliaments of the Member States, to the Government and Parliament of Qatar and to all registrants of the Transparency Register.