



Brussels, 5 December 2024

Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

subject: Investigation on money laundering by the Commissioner for Justice

Dear Madam President,

In recent days the EU citizens have been appalled by press reports that Belgian Police have taken legal action in the form of searches of properties belonging to former European Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders. He has been suspected of money laundering for more than a decade, through a mechanism of speculation on the fate of the national lottery.¹

At the same time, he held one of the highest positions in the European Commission, being responsible for assessing the rule of law throughout the European Union and vis-à-vis individual Member States. During term of office he initiated a number of often controversial activities in this area.

Didier Reynders frequently participated in the work of various bodies of the European Parliament, presenting, inter alia, reports on the rule of law and periodic reports on their implementation. Commissioner Reynders made recommendations to the institutions and the Member States on behalf of the European Commission in this regard.

¹ <https://www.lesoir.be/640105/article/2024-12-03/suspecte-de-blanchiment-didier-reynders-perquisitionne-et-auditionne-par-la>

The fact that Didier Reynders has been investigating money laundering since 2023 casts a great shadow on the seriousness of the European Commission, but also on the credibility of the European Parliament, which has adopted the opinions and recommendations of the Commissioner for Justice. The authority of the European Union has been undermined, citizens' trust in its institutions as well as the European Parliament has been challenged.

What's more, even before Didier Reynders was appointed, Belgian services accused him of involvement in corruption. This fact alone should serve as a warning sign and strengthen the vigilance of the President and the College as a whole.

In this situation, the European Commission has a special duty of openness, transparency, dynamism of actions taken to clarify all the circumstances of the case, as well as cooperation with all parties potentially affected by the actions or omissions of the former Commissioner for Justice of the European Commission.

In the light of the above, we call on the President to urgently set up a special committee to review the official activities and documents produced by the former Commissioner for Justice in order to rule out or confirm the impact of criminal activity on the performance of official duties.

In our opinion, the President of the Commission should ask the Belgian Police and Prosecutor Office to provide necessary data to identify the actions of the former Commissioner for Justice within the Commission and in relation to Member States that may have been initiated or motivated by his activities, which are subject of the investigation.

The European Parliament, as the EU institution with which the former Commissioner for Justice of the European Commission actively cooperated, deserves extensive explanations from the European Commission.

We also call on the President of the European Commission to present extensive information on the actions she has taken within the institution in connection with the investigation against the former Commissioner for Justice during next plenary session on 16-19.12.2024.

Yours sincerely,