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Ana GOMES

Ms. Christine Lagarde
Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

Dear Ms. Lagarde,

As reported by the international press, you, as Finance Minister of France in 2010, handed over to George Papaconstantinou, Greek finance minister at the time, a file containing a list of 2,059 Greek citizens who held secret bank accounts in the HSBC Bank in Switzerland. Reportedly however, the total data retrieved by the French authorities in 2009 contained information regarding over 130,000 accounts of alleged tax evaders with assets in Switzerland, and several lists of EU Member States nationals included in the file were sent to Greek, Italian and Spanish authorities.

In my capacity as Portuguese Member of the European Parliament, I would like to know whether, at the time, the French authorities sent any list concerning Portuguese citizens with secret bank accounts in Switzerland or any other jurisdictions.

Moreover, and since IMF integrates the Troika overseeing the bailout and financial adjustment program in Portugal, I would like to know whether the IMF confirmed that there was any follow up from the Portuguese authorities with the aim of tracking the secret account holders, investigating, inciting them to pay any due taxes in Portugal or prosecuting those found tax evading or committing tax fraud.

Finally, I would ask you to let me know to what extent is the IMF pressing the Portuguese authorities to propose and implement policies to tackle tax evasion and foster tax justice, transparency and fight against corruption in the context of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Portuguese state, the IMF, the European Central Bank and the European Commission?

Best regards,

Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament

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