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His Excellency Nicos Anastasiades
President of the Republic of Cyprus

Strasbourg, 26 October 2017

Dear President Anastasiades,

We write to you with grave concern about the role that corrupt Russian government officials are playing in Cyprus in relation to the laundering of massive criminal schemes coming from Russia.

We are equally concerned that while Cyprus is neglecting its duties under the European Directives to combat money laundering, the Cypriot Government is actively assisting the Russian government in furthering human rights violations through assistance with politically motivated prosecutions, in contravention of its obligations under European Conventions.

While there are many examples, the most recent one that exemplifies this situation best is the Magnitsky case and the Russian proceedings against Mr Browder, the head of the Global Magnitsky Justice movement.

As you are probably aware, in 2008 Sergei Magnitsky uncovered a \$230 million Russian government corruption scheme, exposed it and was then falsely arrested by some of the implicated officials, tortured and killed in the Russian Interior Ministry custody.

The European Parliament along with many other European institutions has fought for the last eight years to get justice for Sergei Magnitsky.

In 2014, this Parliament unanimously passed a resolution calling on the EU to sanction people involved in Mr Magnitsky's arrest and killing and the corruption and money laundering that he had uncovered.

We are surprised and disheartened to learn that since then:

- Cyprus has not conducted a proper investigation into the money laundering of the \$230 million fraud proceeds, despite millions of dollars of those proceeds having been laundered through Cyprus;
- Cyprus has not prosecuted those involved in the US\$230 million fraud and money laundering despite the evidence of them holding assets in Cyprus;
- Cyprus has stalled or significantly delayed mutual legal assistance to other EU countries which have been conducting investigations into the US\$230 million money laundering, most significantly France where it took two years for Cyprus to respond;
- Finally, at the same time as Cyprus is neglecting its obligations to investigate this crime and money laundering, Cyprus has been actively assisting the Russian government in politically



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motivated proceedings against Mr Browder, the main person who is advocating for justice for Sergei Magnitsky.

While every other European country, INTERPOL and the Council of Europe have deemed the Russian proceedings against Mr Browder to be politically motivated, your country has taken a contrary position, and agreed to provide assistance to a Russian politically-motivated process, clearly in violation of your obligations under the rule of law.

We were appalled to learn that Cyprus agreed to cooperate with the Russian government in the case against Mr Browder despite the evidence of the high level of political direction and the political nature of those proceedings having been recognized internationally, including by the Council of Europe.

The Magnitsky case is the most emblematic case of corruption and human rights abuse in Russian modern history. The conduct of Cyprus in this case will have implications that go far beyond this case. We urge you to conduct an investigation into these events and correct Cyprus policy as a matter of urgency.

Sincerely,

Ana Gomes MEP
Monica Macovei MEP
Maite Pagazaurtundua Ruiz MEP
Sandra Kalniete MEP
Pier Antonio Panzeri MEP
Rebecca Harms MEP
Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar MEP
Judith Sargentini MEP
Marju Lauristin MEP
Laima Andrikiene MEP
Gunnar Hokmark MEP
Petras Austrevicius MEP
Anna Fotyga MEP
Lars Adaktusson MEP
Fredrick Federley MEP
Christofer Fjellner MEP
Bendt Bendtsen MEP

CC:

Commissioner Pierre Moscovici, European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs
Commissioner Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality
Andrea Enria, Chairperson of the European Banking Authority
Mario Draghi, President, European Central Bank
Santiago Otamendi, President, FATF