



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
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Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

June 18, 2019

Minister of Justice, Mrs. Francisca Van Dunem

Dear Minister,

The Signals Network and the undersigned Members of the European Parliament write to you today to request a meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss the progress made by the Portuguese judicial authorities to investigate financial crimes in Portugal revealed by what is known as “Football Leaks”. We are particularly interested in discussing how the cooperation with the other Eurojust Prosecutors might be beneficial to the investigation in Portugal.

We sincerely hope that Rui Pinto could soon be released from prison to allow him to prepare for his trial and cooperate freely with the Eurojust Prosecutors.

We strongly believe that the Football Leaks are revelations of high public interest. They have been investigated and published by major European media organisations including *Expresso*, *Der Spiegel*, *Mediapart*, *El Mundo*, *Le Soir*, *Falter*, *NRC*, *Politiken*, *The Sunday Times*, *Reuters* and other members of European Investigative Collaborations (EIC Network) since 2016. As one of the publishers, [Mediapart](#), has highlighted, none of the published articles provided grounds for defamation, which attests to the accuracy of the information Pinto provided. We estimate that 35 millions euros of fines have already resulted from information revealed by Football Leaks.

We are heartened to see [prosecutors from ten countries cooperating to explore evidence from the Football Leaks](#) as part of a new initiative of the European Judicial Cooperation agency, Eurojust.

We acclaimed the new Directive adopted on April 16, 2019 by the European Parliament to better protect whistleblowers in the European Union. Therefore, we look forward to discussing and hearing your views on the best ways to achieve our common goals of accountability and transparency.

Not extending sufficient protection to the sources of information used as evidence to fight corruption is not just a double standard. It is a regression in the European Union battle against corruption.

Sincerely,



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Eva Joly, Member of European Parliament, Vice-Chair Special committee on financial crimes, tax evasion and tax avoidance

Ana Gomes, Member of European Parliament, Vice-Chair Special committee on financial crimes, tax evasion and tax avoidance

Delphine Halgand, Executive Director, The Signals Network

Miguel Urbán Crespo, Member of European Parliament

Sven Giegold, Member of European Parliament

Maria Arena, Member of European Parliament

Dietmar Köster, Member of European Parliament

Molly Scott Cato, Member of European Parliament

On behalf of the following civil society organizations:

Simona Levi, Founder, Xnet

Suelette Dreyfus, Executive Director, Blueprint for Free Speech

CC:

Mr. António Costa, Prime Minister

Mrs. Lucília Gago, General-Attorney

[The Signals Network](#) is a European-American foundation dedicated to working with top tier medias launching international investigations. The Signals Network also provides support to selected [whistleblowers](#).

The Signals Network, founded by Gilles Raymond, a successful French entrepreneur, operates in Europe and North America. It partners with seven media groups representing a cumulative audience of 144 million readers in four languages.