



Members of the European Parliament

**To Jean-Claude Juncker**  
*President of the European Commission*

**Concerns:** Commissioner Günther Oettinger

Brussels, 5th January 2017

Dear President Juncker,

We are writing to you as Members of the European Parliament and Co-Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI), the Intergroup on LGBTI Rights and the Intergroup on Integrity, Transparency, Corruption and Organised Crime (ITCO) to express our concern at the nomination of Commissioner Günther Oettinger as the Commissioner designate for Budget and Human Resources.

We believe that Commissioner Oettinger's recent actions in flying to Hungary on a Klaus Mangold's private aircraft as well as his racist, sexist and homophobic comments in Hamburg are not appropriate behaviour for a Commissioner and breach the Code of Conduct for Commissioners and in our opinion make him unfit to be Commissioner for Human Resources. If appointed in this role, Commissioner Oettinger would be responsible for ensuring European Commission employees adhere to the Commission's Code of Conduct and for creating an open and inclusive working environment in the European Commission.

The actions of Commissioner Oettinger clearly compromise his ability to achieve this and the appointment would send the wrong message to European citizens who expect holders of high authority to lead by example and to respect principles of democracy, transparency, diversity and inclusion. Offensive and stigmatising speech such as Commissioner Oettinger's is also symptomatic of the political discourse prevalent in many European Union countries, and strengthens the rhetoric of intolerance and mistrust towards women and minorities prorogued by certain political leaders and parties. Equally, disregarding the rules on lobby meetings does not send the right sign on integrity and transparency of decision making.

Therefore we ask you to reconsider your decision to nominate Commissioner Oettinger as Commissioner designate for Human Resources. We would also ask you to use this opportunity to assess how the Commission's Code of Conduct can be strengthened to prevent these sorts of actions occurring in the future and whether the tools and resources currently available are adequate to deal with breaches. We believe that there needs to be systematic investigations and stronger implementation of sanctions in cases of misconduct by Commissioners and employees. We ask you this also considering that these actions could not have been undertaken by a minister of a national government in a Member State and should definitely not be rewarded with a promotion.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP  
INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY  
CORRUPTION AND ORGANISED CRIME



The European Parliament's

**Intergroup on LGBT Rights**

Working for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people in the European Parliament

We look forward to receiving your swift action to enhance the trust of citizen's in the European Commission

Yours sincerely,

Dennis de Jong  
Co-Chair of ITCO

Benedek Javor  
Vice-Chair of ITCO

Ana Gomes  
Vice-Chair of ITCO

Soraya Post  
Co-President of ARDI

Cecile Kyenge  
Co-President of ARDI

Jean Lambert  
Co-President of ARDI

Cornelia Ernst  
Co-President of ARDI

Ulrike Lunacek  
Co-President of the Intergroup on LGBTI Rights

Daniele Viotti  
Co-President of the Intergroup on LGBTI Rights