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Attorney General of Switzerland
Federal Government Office
Taubenstrasse 16
CH-3003 Bern
Switzerland

28 March 2018

Federal Prosecutor's Office: Money Laundering Investigations involving Russia

Dear Attorney General,

The European Parliament, following a Delegation to Switzerland that I chaired on the 14th and 15th September 2017, voted a report in December 2017, which made specific recommendations regarding the EU's relation with Switzerland¹. EU parliamentarians stressed the need to review relations with Switzerland, given the flaws we found in the Swiss supervisory system, which, in our view, still relies on strict internal banking secrecy and practices, which facilitate international tax evasion, money laundering and an aggressive judicial persecution of whistleblowers. I am writing therefore to express my concern regarding an apparent Russian interference in the Swiss money laundering investigations of Russian officials.

This concern has been prompted by recent public reports that a senior Swiss Federal Police officer, involved in money laundering investigations related to Russian officials, had inappropriate contact with Russian nationals prior to his dismissal.

It has also been reported that during a trip to Russia this police officer met with a representative of a family member of a senior Russian government official. This government official's assets have been frozen by your office in connection with the money laundering Magnitsky-case investigation, involving the money laundering of \$230 million.

¹ "Stresses that the EU should renegotiate its trade, economic and other relevant bilateral agreements with Switzerland to bring them into line with EU anti-tax fraud policy, anti-money laundering legislation and legislation on the financing of terrorism, so as to eliminate serious flaws in the Swiss supervisory system which enable a policy of internal banking secrecy to continue, the creation of offshore structures worldwide, tax fraud, tax evasion not constituting a criminal offence, weak supervision, the inadequate self-regulation of obliged entities, and aggressive prosecution and intimidation of whistle-blowers", Recommendation following the inquiry on money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion, [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/135340/P8_TA-PROV\(2017\)0491_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/135340/P8_TA-PROV(2017)0491_EN.pdf)



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This information leads to a serious concern that inappropriate contact between the Swiss officer and Russian officials and others may have impacted the overall progress of investigations.

I am reaching out in the hope that you could inform me on what type of measures - at the policy level - have been taken or will be taken by your office, in addition to the dismissal and the investigation of that particular officer, in order to ensure that:

1. the attempted Russian interference with Swiss money laundering investigations involving Russian officials is thoroughly examined and assessed to identify methods and instruments employed for such interference;
2. procedures have been put in place to prevent and detect any further inappropriate activity between members of the Swiss law enforcement and the Russian interests;
3. that the Russian interference is not allowed to effect the investigation outcomes in specific cases where it has been detected, including the Magnitsky case.

Switzerland is an important partner of the European Union and given the serious nature of this subject I sincerely hope that these questions will be answered and that these issues will be addressed.

Yours sincerely,

Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament