

Enhancing fight against corruption in the European Parliament

Brussels, 20 March 2025

Dear President Metsola,

The recent bribery allegations against Huawei are another wake-up call exposing the vulnerabilities of our institutions. Belgian prosecutors have been investigating since 2021, uncovering claims that Huawei sought to manipulate European Parliament decisions through luxury trips and lavish gifts to MEPs. The decision to suspend Huawei lobbyists' access is good, but more needs to be done.

As Members of the European Parliament and the Anti-Corruption Intergroup, we propose urgent action.

Stop the Spying:

As Parliament, we joined the Commission in banning TikTok due to the danger of confidential information being passed on to the Chinese government. Given the methods Huawei allegedly used, we have indication that the danger from Huawei devices is no less than that from TikTok. We ask you to consider banning Huawei devices from being used for any EP applications. In this regard, we would also like you to provide us with the amount of Huawei devices of MEPs, assistants and EP staff being registered with ITEC.

Start Independent Lobby Control Now:

Our lobby transparency rules must be beyond doubt. Parliament's capacity to enforce its own lobby transparency rules remains too weak. To this end, the new EU Ethics Body must start its work without any further delay. Since the inter-institutional agreement on the EU Ethics Body was signed ten months ago, Parliament has blocked a first meeting and the appointment of the independent experts. In light of the recent developments, the Body must meet as soon as possible so that it can finally start working. Parliament really should not block this.

Watch Revolving Doors to Huawei:

Huawei must not be allowed to buy internal knowledge of the EU institutions. To get to the bottom of the allegations against Huawei, we are concerned how many former Members, assistants and EP staff, after ending work in the European Parliament, started to work for Huawei. Since Members, assistants with more than 5 years in service and senior EP staff are obliged to inform Parliament of their jobs after leaving our institution, Parliament should have records of how many this concerns. Could you share this information with us?

The credibility of the European Parliament is at stake. We cannot afford half-measures or political complacency. We urge you to take decisive action now.

We remain at your disposal for further discussions.

Yours sincerely,
MEP Chloé Ridet (S&D, FR)
MEP Daniel Freund (Greens/EFA, DE)
MEP Michał Wawrykiewicz (EPP, PL)
MEP Irena Joveva (Renew, SI)
MEP Moritz Körner (Renew, DE)

Anti-Corruption Intergroup

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