

## Enhancing fight against corruption in the EU institutions

Brussels, 20 March 2025

Dear President von der Leyen,

The recent bribery allegations against Huawei are another wake-up call exposing the vulnerabilities of our institutions. So far, Belgian prosecutors have been investigating since 2021, it seems with a focus on Huawei allegedly trying 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:**

If Huawei spies on us, this must be stopped. The Commission banned TikTok for civil servants due to the danger of exposure of confidential information. European Parliament joined this effort. Given the methods Huawei allegedly used, we have indication that the danger from Huawei devices is no less than from TikTok. We ask you to ban Huawei devices from being used for any Commission or EU applications.

### **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 would like to know how many former Commission staffers, after ending work in the EU Commission or agencies, started to work for Huawei. Since EU officials are obliged to inform the Commission or agency of their new jobs after leaving the institution, the Commission should have records of how many of these are concerned. Could you share this information with us?

### **Close the Loopholes in the Transparency Register:**

An inter-institutional agreement foresees a review for the EU Transparency Register this year. The current framework fails to regulate key players, including embassies, is resulting in misleading financial transparency and is too weak on non-registered lobbyists who break the rules. In order to improve the Register and close the remaining loopholes, we would like to ask you to start this review as a matter of urgency.

### **Strengthen the European Prosecutor:**

We must also leverage the expertise of agencies and bodies working on the fight against corruption. In December 2022, just four days after the Qatargate scandal broke, an NGO alerted OLAF to possible corruption involving several parliamentarians who may have advanced China's interests in the rollout of 5G technology in Europe. However, OLAF chose not to pursue the case. While it lacks the investigative powers of the European Public Prosecutor's Office or those of law enforcement and intelligence services, it could have referred the matter to the Belgian judiciary or, at the very least, to European authorities. This highlights the urgent need for Member States to expand the EPPO's mandate to include corruption cases. We are awaiting a proposal from the Commission to be able to amend the EPPO Regulation and the PIF Directive to this end.



Europäisches Parlament

## Anti-Corruption Intergroup

The credibility of the EU institutions 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,

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