



Der Vorsitzende - The Chairman - Le Président

Mr Antonio Tajani
President of the European Parliament
PHS 09B011

Brussels, 29 November 2017

Dear President Tajani,

I am writing to you in anticipation of a visit to Malta by a delegation of the European Parliament on November 30 and December 1 2017.

A number of Members of this Parliament have recently been threatened with their lives for speaking out in defence of the Rule of Law in Malta, which this delegation's work will be focusing on.

The European Parliament resolution of 15 November 2017 on the rule of law in Malta (2017/2935(RSP)), makes clear that the developments in Malta in recent years have led to serious concerns about the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights, including freedom of the media and the independence of the police and the judiciary.

The serious threats made against European politicians in Malta is not something this Parliament should take lightly. MEPs and national politicians have reported in court that the threats they are receiving for doing their duty are becoming increasingly frequent and are grave enough to cause these politicians worry about their personal safety and that of their families.

The violent assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia by a car bomb last month has shocked Europe and exposed how sensitive the situation in the country is at the moment.

The delegation to Malta will be carrying out work that is politically sensitive in an environment where Members have been threatened. In light of these facts, I underline the need for suitable protection for the Members of the European Parliament's delegation to Malta and would urge you to also remind the Maltese authorities of their duty to protect Members of the European Parliament and allow them to carry out their duty free from fear.

Yours sincerely,



Manfred Weber MEP
Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament

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