



Antoine Deltour
Raphaël Halet
Edouard Perrin
Luxembourg

Brussels, 8 September 2016

Dear Raphaël, Edouard and Antoine,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are writing to express our support and solidarity with you in light of the on-going judicial proceedings against you in Luxembourg. We salute your courage over the past years and your tenacity in trying to overturn the 29 June verdict. Clearly, the Luxembourg Leaks had a decisive impact for the debate on tax transparency and tax justice. The European Citizen's Prize for Antoine Deltour in 2015 underlines this.

We can only but agree with judge Marc Thill who stressed in his deliberations that both of you should be considered as "whistleblowers" and that the facts which you exposed are of crucial public interest by virtue of their contribution to a more transparent and fairer tax system. We certainly respect the independence of the Luxembourg judiciary but we were shocked and angered by your conviction despite the recognition by the court of your status.

We also take very seriously the reference made in the verdict regarding the lack of comprehensive whistleblower protection legislation at national and at European Union levels. In fact, the European Parliament as a whole has repeatedly urged the European Commission and member state governments to introduce concrete proposals for a robust and comprehensive framework of protection for whistleblowers. Your ordeal and the ramification they have for all of us were also debated at the July Strasbourg plenary session of the Parliament.

We will continue to push for sufficient legislative protection for whistleblowers in the months and, if needs be, years ahead. The European Commission's recognition of the importance of the matter in its 5 July Communication on tax transparency will hopefully translate into tangible action soon.

Moreover, we remain hopeful that the additional revelations during your trial concerning the intimate ties between the Luxembourg tax administration and corporations like PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) - going as far as these corporations operating with government letter heads without any contractual basis - will be investigated upon by all possible means. Crucially, individuals such as Marius Kohl who regrettably collaborated little with your court case and our parliamentary TAXE committee will be hopefully requested to provide adequate responses concerning these practices before the relevant statutory limitation becomes applicable in Luxembourg.

We wish you well.

Yours sincerely,

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