



Dimitrios Papadimoulis

Vice-President of the European Parliament

Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)

Substitute Member of the Committee on Regional Development (REGI)

Dear President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,

Please allow me to draw your attention to the following incident:

A Greek newspaper called "Makeleio" of extreme far right orientation published an unscrupulous article and photos targeting female Greek ministers, the Prime Minister's wife included, with the headline "the whores of the traitor", thus committing a violent fascist and sexist attack and fuelling hate.

Taking into consideration:

- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- the International Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination,
- Article 2 of the TEU stating that the Union is founded on the values of respect of human dignity,
- the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU,
- the EU code of practice of disinformation,
- the Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech on line,
- the relevant EU Directives and many relevant EP resolutions.
- that the above-mentioned article and photos express fascist and sexist tendencies, which are absolutely incompatible with the values and principles we all share,

I am deeply concerned that if such media behaviour remains unsanctioned, this will undermine the trust of the European citizens to our capacity to defend our common values and the extreme far-right throughout Europe will then feel tolerated and even encouraged.

- Therefore I urge you, to take note of such incidents and to strongly condemn media for their offensive, discriminatory, sexist and provocative wording.

- Furthermore, I request that the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), who is responsible for matters related to the fight against all forms of racism and discrimination, takes notice and deals with the issue directly.

The article and photos of this Greek newspaper which spread hate propaganda falls clearly under this category of unethical and dishonest media and constitutes an attack on democracy itself.

Yours sincerely,


Dimitrios Papadimoulis

- Vice President of the European Parliament

- Chair of the High-level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity

- Head of the SYRIZA Delegation