**From:** PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios
**Sent:** 19 February 2020 18:54
**To:** REYNDERS Didier (EC) <Didier.REYNDERS@ec.europa.eu>
**Cc:** CAB REYNDERS CONTACT (EC) <CAB-REYNDERS-
**Subject:**Urgent // Violation of EU law on public interest witnesses
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr.Reynders,

I am writing to you, as Commissioner responsible for Justice, due to an urgent and unseen situation we are facing in Greece, which consists an atrocious violation of the European Law that provides for the protection of public interest witnesses.

To be more precise, key witnesses (whistleblowers) in the Novartis scandal are facing threats for the disclosure of their identities.

As you probably already know, the Novartis scandal constitutes a scandal of cross-european and international concern and was revealed thanks also to the contribution of whistleblowers. While the investigation is ongoing, there are attemps to use another case to force the whistleblowers to testify without keeping their anonymity. As you can imagine, this will put in danger their lives as well as the well-being of their families, because the scandal is very big. Also, it will damage the investigation itself since the witnesses are now afraid to present themselves in order to testify.

Contrary to the above, the European Union supports and continues to enhance the protection of witnesses of public interest. Most recently, Directive 2019/1937 of 23 October 2019 lays down common minimum standards providing for a high level of protection of persons reporting breaches of Union law (whistleblowers) in order to enhance the enforcement of Union law and policies.

Given the above, I would like to ask for an urgent meeting with you the soonest possible so that we can discuss further on the matter.

Looking forward to your promt answer.

Kind regards,

Dimitrios Papadimoulis

Vice-President of the European Parliament

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