



Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels
Belgium

11th April 2016

Dear Mr. Schulz,

RE: Current Political Crisis in Malta in relation to the Panama Papers Scandal

We write to draw the attention of the European Parliament to the on-going political crisis that has taken over the member state of Malta, namely in relation to the Government's non-action in face of the crisis brought to the fore by the Panama Papers scandal.

As you may be notably aware, Malta has been drawn into this unsavoury international incident by means of the involvement of members of its Cabinet as well as prominent figures within the secretariat of the Prime Minister himself. As referenced across the local and foreign media, Minister for Health and Energy Hon. Konrad Mizzi, who noticeably yet unsurprisingly also serves as deputy leader of the Labour Government, and the Chief of Staff of the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Keith Schembri, have both been revealed to have opened Panama companies and trusts across New Zealand and the British Virgin Islands in a manner which raises a worrying number of questions.

Our concern mainly lies with this last point. We believe that in civil, democratic society which prides itself on EU membership, the latter in turn rightly promoting a culture of good governance and accountability of highest offices, the nation of Malta is being taken for a ride by the sheer indifference shown by Government in absolutely refusing to answer any queries on this matter, let alone the possibility that these politically exposed persons should shoulder any form of political responsibility.

Whilst not entering the merits of legal or taxation consequences or otherwise as we believe other fora are responsible for such matters, we stand with the Nationalist Opposition in demanding that our right to a transparent Government be upheld. We are currently faced with a scenario whereby two of the closest allies of the Prime Minister, Hon. Joseph Muscat, have been found to have opened offshore companies for whatever reasons they have yet to fully disclose, with enquiries as to the setting up of these starting just five (5) days upon this Government being elected to power on the 9th of March 2013, and attempts being made by both to open accounts in Dubai and Panama – once more for reasons which have fallen way short of the standard we have come to expect from modern, European leaders.



The very fact that a member state which up until recently prided itself in being an exemplary model to the rest of the European Union and is very active in the work of the European Parliament is being subjected to a situation whereby Government is simply shutting up shop and refusing to heed the deafening pleas for accountability is simply not on. It is our understanding that as the highest institution of the European Union, the European Parliament is to address the Panama Papers scandal in Strasbourg this week for and we are formally requesting that this local matter be given the adequate level of importance.

The situation has reached a point whereby former Prime Ministers and Presidents of the Republic of Malta have called for responsibility to be shouldered and a solution to be attained – and fast – whilst independent members of parliament, media outlets across Malta and Gozo as well as international news agencies such as Euronews, Politico, the EU Observer and countless others have hit out at the Government's complete lack of action and stood by the Opposition's call for the resignation of those involved.

Yesterday, MZPN stood with the Opposition against the Government's corrupt practices in the national demonstration held in the capital, attended by thousands of Maltese citizens who demanded action from those who have tarnished the reputation of our nation with their actions.

We strongly feel that the European Parliament should never, in this or other cases, turn a blind eye to such political developments. The European Union has succeeded through thick and thin because it has always stood up for what is right and has always been on the right side of history, be it with its own members and also with others who have required the voice of the European institutions.

In the words you yourself have exemplarily chosen to define your work in the European Parliament, you emphasise that *"this Parliament is the heart of democracy at the EU level. The European Parliament will always be on the side of the people, working to improve the daily lives of hundreds of millions Europeans... On behalf of this Parliament, I will work with even greater vigour, transparency and visibility in all that I do for Europe."*

We have taken this stand as it seems that others lack the courage and integrity to stand up for what is ultimately right and just.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Mark Grech
President

for and on behalf of

Moviment Żgħażaġh Partit Nazzjonalista (Nationalist Party Youth Movement)