

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF PEOPLES WITHOUT A STATE



Brussels, 22/7/2018

Letter for the attention of Mr. Christian LINDER, Head of Unit of the EC Ethics Unit

Subject: Appointment of Mrs. Joëlle MILQUET

Dear Mr. LINDER,

In another case concerning ethical behavior by the Commission, we have asked (with no reply) President JUNCKER to get rid of his special advisor Mrs. Joëlle MILQUET, whom he has appointed after (!) she was indicted before the High Court in Brussels:

<http://m.rtl.be/info/809315>

https://www.rtf.be/info/belgique/detail_joelle-milquet-nommee-conseillere-speciale-par-la-commission-europeenne?id=9726982

The reason we ask for this, is because in acting this way, President JUNCKER is possibly trying to influence the legal system in Belgium in her favour. A court system, which is indeed infamous for excessive outside political intrusion.

We understand that Mr. JUNCKER has sympathy for a political friend. We could possibly understand, if she were appointed before her indictment, one could invoke the (misplaced, considering the exceptional indictment procedures of sitting Ministers) presumption of innocence. However, a President that behaves ethically, would kick her out anyway at this point of time.

What is completely unacceptable, is that President JUNCKER appoints an known indicted politician awaiting her trial, who resigned a year before as a Minister, precisely because of her indictment before the High Court.

There are better experts than her imaginable on the task that she was assigned. Mr. JUNCKER should kick her out immediately, so she can have her day in court without external influence and intrusion. This would also be a sign, he does not intend to favor her before the Belgian electorate, in the coming European elections.

In short, indicted politicians should not be appointed to offices of high esteem like Special Advisor of the President of the European Commission. They should wait for their day in court.

This is indeed an ethical issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mohamed TALHAOUI

President

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