



Ms Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman
Cc: Mr David Sassoli, Ms Dorien Laermans

Vienna, 29 July 2020

Complaint 1094/2020/DL

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

Following reception of your letter of 28 July 2020, we warmly welcome your decision to open an inquiry into our complaint regarding the Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations (APPF).

We also take good note of your decision to broaden this discussion to the languages used by the APPF on its website, as well as to the European Parliament, which is also referred to by the transparency obligations laid down in Article 32(1) of Regulation 1141/2014.

With regards to the APPF, we look forward to their comments on these questions and hope that your intervention will lead to constructive feedback.

We would like to recall, however, that we have previously sought to engage with the APPF by providing them with our report and recommendations; as attested in our complaint, their response proved mostly defensive and not open to actively considering changes to their practices. Deferring to your experience in these matters, we therefore recommend caution regarding broad promises to consider changes, and instead strive for concrete measures aimed at guaranteeing the full implementation of the transparency provisions of Regulation 1141/2014 from the point of view of citizens' access to clear and user-friendly information.

In the interest of transparency and public information, we further recommend that the APPF go beyond these minimum requirements and provide any information and data useful to a better understanding of European political parties and European political foundations.

Finally, we strongly encourage the European Parliament to consider strengthening its funding of the APPF, so as to endow it with the proper means to carry out its mission in the interest of European citizens and of our common European democracy.

Louis Drounau
Founder, European Democracy Consulting