Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

To the Executive Director of Europol,
Mrs. Catherine De Bolle,

Brussels, 20th of November 2018

Dear Executive Director,
Dear Mrs. de Bolle,

I write to alert Europol about the existence of a fake news outlet, currently spreading false content, which has recently targeted me as a member of the European Parliament and vice-president of the Special Committee on Financial Crime, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance (TAX 3).

The site, which can be found here[1], calls itself "European Union Anti-Corruption", clearly aiming at spreading confusion with the European program called "European Union Anti-Corruption Initiative"[2]. This website has several features that indicate its suspicious nature.

For example, its website domain is registered in Malaysia and does not have any "About" page, no address, contact details or any information related to the organization. Despite its thousands of followers, the organization seems not to have a single identifiable official. Moreover, anonymous people write most of its posts.

Its logo, recently changed because of the criticism around the website's fake news characteristics, originally represented a Syrian "Hawk of Quraish", a typical Syrian symbol, most likely to spread confusion with the traditional eagle that many western police institutions use in their logos. Even its Latin motto is incorrect: instead of "Lex Personae Non Est Superior" or "Lex Personae Non Superior Est" it reads "Lex Una Persona Non Est Super".

[1] https://euanticorruption.com/
[2] https://euaci.eu/

An analysis of the social network regarding the numbers of tweet followers and Facebook connections reveals also the "fake news" feature of the organization: its Facebook page had 23.000 followers only after 2 months over its creation, yet has only two community engagements, both critically denouncing the site as "Russian propaganda". The high number of Facebook followers, result from sponsored content, in connection to the small number of true social engagements, reveals the use of bots and other sources to boost their digital presence and attempt to provide credibility to its defamatory content.

On the 15th November 2018, this site published a piece[3] accusing me of ties with a person facing corruption charges in Kazakhstan, Mr. Mukhtar Ablyazov, in connection with the EP/AFET mission which visited Kazakhstan last September, in which I participated. I do not know this individual and was never contacted by him. I have however met lawyer Bota Goz Kardermali and her mother, who have alerted me to the situation of their brother and son - Iskander Yerimbetov - currently unjustly in prison as a retaliation for the fact that his sister (Bota) is Ablyazov's lawyer and is currently in exile. On the official meetings, during the parliamentary mission, I raised with the Kazakh authorities the situation of Mr. Yerimbetov and other political prisoners, as did other members of the delegation.

I note that all my initiatives in favour of human rights' victims are documented and open to public scrutiny through my personal site www.anagomes.eu. I do not have, and never had, any financial relation with any Kazakh citizen or any individuals for whose human rights I campaign.

It happens that, as soon as the defamatory content was published on the site, purporting to connect me to fraudulent activities, some members of the Maltese ruling party used this to slander me by further disseminating it, namely MP Rosianne Cutajar. This is most certainly because of my denunciation of the obstruction to justice in Malta in the fight against financial criminality and in the uncovering of the murder of Ms. Daphne Caruana Galizia.

For your information, I am sending you herewith the answers I have provided to an individual called "Kevin Holland", who introduced himself as part of this shady organization and submitted some questions.

I ask you to conduct an investigation on this website, to identify who is behind the slander directed at me and to demand the removal of all defamatory content published about the EP mission to Kazakhstan and any slanderous personal remarks against me. I am also writing to Facebook with this purpose.

I remain at your disposal to clarify any relevant matters.

[3] https://euanticorruption.com/2018/11/15/ana-gomes-meps-ties-to-murky-world-of-global-fraudster/

I also inform you that I entered a complaint with the Portuguese Criminal Police and will inform the Belgian Police against that fake news site.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes

Ana Gomes,

Member of the European Parliament

CC:

President of the European Parliament,
Mr. Antonio Tajani,

Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
MEP David Mcallister

Chair of the LIBE Committee,
MEP Claude Moraes

Chair of the TAX 3 Committee,
MEP Peter Ježek

Head of the EU Mission to Kazakhstan,
MEP Cristian Dan Preda