

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker  
President of the European Commission  
Rue de la Loi, 200  
1049 Brussels

*24 April 2015, Brussels*

Dear President Juncker,

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), together with its affiliate in Luxemburg, the Association of Luxembourgers Journalists (ALJ) are very alarmed by legal proceedings launched by the Luxemburg authority against the French investigative journalist Edward Perrin, who was among the journalists revealing the tax avoidance scandal "LuxLeaks".

According to a statement issued by the prosecutors' office on 23 April, the investigative judge charged a French journalist (who has been identified as Edward Perrin) accused of being a co-author, if not an accomplice in crimes committed by a former PwC employee.

We consider that the charges against Perrin are disproportionate and violate Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which guarantee the right to freedom of expression and information.

We strongly believe that the public interest arguments in the "LuxLeaks" case are compelling. Following the revelation, it has led to heated public debates among citizens and policy makers about loopholes in taxation systems across the EU. The European Parliament has also set up a special committee on tax rulings. It is evident that the investigation and reporting of the "LuxLeaks" has been conducted in the public interest with the aim to inform the public that a small, privileged group of multinational corporations are given favourable tax regimes.

We would also like to draw your attention to the Council of Europe Recommendation on the Protection of Whistle-blowers on 30 April 2014: Individuals who report or disclose information on threats or harm to the public interest ("whistle-blowers") should be given the protection because disclosing such information can contribute to strengthening transparency and democratic accountability.

Journalists have the right to protect their confidential sources. During investigations, they often rely whistle-blowers to provide information in order to reveal the wrong-doings of officials or unjust systems. The prosecution of whistle-blowers in the "LuxLeaks" would have a serious impact on investigative journalism.

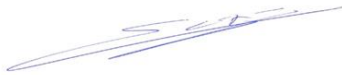
With this letter, we call on you and the First Vice-President, Mr. Frans Timmermans, who is also in charge of the Charter of Fundamental Rights to take the necessary measures to ensure that Luxemburg respects the European Union laws on freedom of expression and information.

We would also like to remind you that on 30 July 2014, you have responded to a letter from us requesting for a meeting with you. We would very much appreciate to meet with you and your cabinet soon to discuss further this particular issue and our concerns.

Thank you and we are looking forward to meeting you soon.

CC: Mr. Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission, Commissioner Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, Rule of Law and Charter of Fundamental Rights

Best regards,



Ricardo Gutiérrez

EFJ General Secretary



Roger Infalt

ALJ President



Mogens Blicher Bjerregård

EFJ President