

To the attention of the President of the European Parliament, Antonio TAJANI

Brussels, 11 April 2018

Dear Mr. President,

First, I would like to thank you for your fruitful collaboration within the tourism and transport sectors. You have been a valuable partner over the last years and together, we have managed to organise multiple successful events and make tourism a priority on the EU's agenda. I am thankful for your kind support and strategic leadership within these fields and I sincerely hope that we will manage to maintain this level of collaboration.

Mr. President, recently there were many public discussions around the topic of the current reforms in the area of justice and rule of law in Romania. Many of these public statements were made during the Catholic and Orthodox Easter holidays. Now that the holidays are over, I would like to take a stand in this regard.

I am well aware of the fact that you, Mr. President, recently made a few public remarks regarding the state of law in Romania. As a Member of the European Parliament and a citizen of Romania, I would like to express my concerns regarding this matter.

Mr. Tajani, I strongly believe that all statements coming from the President of the European Parliament should be based on strong arguments and firm evidences. Moreover, it should take into account the voices of all Romanian and European citizens, as well as the position of all Members of the European Parliament, who took a stand on this matter. Unfortunately, some of my Romanian colleagues within the European Parliament continued to make public statements that have contributed to the denigration of the national image at the European level and have neglected our national interest. Thus, your public declarations regarding such a sensitive topic shall not be based on a selective approach.

I regretfully underline the fact that your public statements from **29 March 2018** did not take into account all perspectives within the above-mentioned matter. I consider that these kind of declarations are having a negative impact on our national image and are inaccurate towards millions of Romanian citizens. As Members of the European Parliament, together we shall work in our country's best interests by fixing these internal matters and not trying to multiply them on the European level.

Mr. President, I would like to highlight the fact that in these situations there is **a clear need of understanding the structure of the judiciary system in Romania, as well as its decision-making processes**. Therefore, considering your professional expertise within the legislative procedures, I kindly invite you at your earliest convenience to have a working visit in Romania and have discussions with *the representatives of our Government, of the Romanian Parliament, respectively with the President of the Chamber of Deputies and the President of Senate, as well as with the Romanian Minister of Justice*. This would give you a possibility of obtaining a deeper understanding of the current situation on the rule of law in our country and I am positive that it will offer you an alternative on this specific issue.

Thank you in advance for taking this point into consideration.

S&D



**With highest consideration,
Claudia Tapardel**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Tapardel", written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Transport and Tourism
Co-President of the Intergroup on the European Tourism Development and Cultural Heritage