



To Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament

Dear Mr. Schulz,

With this letter, I wish to complain about the unacceptable situation that took place yesterday in the European Parliament.

Under the title "*Freedom of association in Greece. A Loophole in European Minority Rights Standards*" I hosted a conference on the respect of the rights of persons belonging to minorities. This is one of the core values of the EU, which it is committed to promote and protect worldwide, but also in its Members States, as was the scope of the conference. The event aimed to point out the discrepancy between these EU values and the current practice on the ground, by addressing often overlooked violations of human and ethnic minority rights. This took place by presenting objective facts, rulings by the European Court of Human Rights within an open discussion among politicians, minority representatives, experts and civil society actors.

However, as you might be aware, this conference was violently disrupted by two MEPs, members of the Popular Association Golden Dawn, Mr. Lampros Fountoulis and Mr Eleftherios Synadinos and their assistants, some of whom used aggressive language and threats to intimidate both myself and the participants at the discussion.

The exchange of ideas, civilized debates and arguments with constructive intentions have always been the hallmarks of democracy, and I believe that the European Parliament should be the most prominent institution defending and standing for this fundamental principle.

I trust, Mr President, that you would take all appropriate measures to keep the European Parliament the agora of the 21st century for European citizens.

With respect,

Csaba SÓGOR, MEP

Bruxelles, 03.03.2016