

Brussels 22 February 2023

Dear Ms Metsola,

We are writing to you to raise our concerns regarding the actions of the European Parliament's Information Analysis and Security Unit. According to an article published in the newspaper el Diario on 20th of February 2023, employees of DG SAFE circulated a list of MEPs requiring "increased vigilance" ahead of Holocaust Remembrance Day on 26th of January 2023.

Among those MEPs are at least five MEPs from our group who were included for criticising human rights abuses of the Palestinian people by the Israeli government.

As stated in the article, the head of the Analysis and Information Security Unit of the European Parliament, Isabelle Montoya, sent an email on January 25 to Brussels and Strasbourg security units, to the Technologies and Information unit and to the Security Operations department.

The establishment of such lists goes against established rules of parliamentary democracy and interfering with the full respect for the status of the members of the European Parliament and their independence, conferred in the Electoral Act of 1976.

We therefore ask for further clarification about the extent of this list regarding our parliamentary group and the reasoning and consequences tied to the inclusion of our MEPs.

We also ask about your direct knowledge of this list. Additionally, we call on you to take immediate action with the Information Analysis and Security Unit to prevent the establishment of such security lists in the future; and to take appropriate action in the regards to the individuals concerned.

Furthermore, this happened in the worrying context of our MEPs being denied access to Israel: last week, Israel blocked the participation of the Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Palestine (DPAL), Left MEP Manu Pineda, in an official Parliamentary visit to Palestine for the second time.

We also ask what action the President has taken with regard to the denial of entry of two MEPs by the Israeli authorities.

Sincerely,


Manon Aubry


Martin Schirdewan

Co-chairs The Left