



European Commission
Berlaymont
Rue de la Loi 200,
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 10 October 2018

First Vice-President Timmermans,
Commissioner Jourová,

In view of the latest revelations of the Daphne Project, a group of world-renowned journalists continuing the work of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, we feel it is our duty to draw your attention to the following facts relevant to the investigation into the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia:

- Politicians exposed by Daphne Caruana Galizia's reporting to be involved in corruption and money laundering continue to hold public office. Keith Schembri, the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff and Konrad Mizzi, the Tourism minister, were exposed by the Panama Papers leak as the UBOs of offshore companies into which they planned to funnel exorbitant funds that could not be legitimately explained;¹
- Ali Sadr Hasheminejad, the owner of Pilatus Bank, exposed by Daphne Caruana Galizia's reporting as being involved in money laundering for PEPs including Keith Schembri and the Azeri regime, is now facing a 125-year prison sentence in the United States.² The request to withdraw Pilatus Bank's license was only made after the arrest of Mr Hasheminejad;³
- Nexia BT, the firm that represented Mossack Fonseca in Malta and worked in concert with Mossack Fonseca to create the money laundering structures exposed by Daphne Caruana Galizia's reporting, continues to operate without consequence and continues to receive lucrative government contracts;⁴
- Silvio Valletta, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, led the investigation into the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia. He is the husband of a government minister who was also criticised by Daphne Caruana Galizia. The First Hall, Civil Court ruled that his involvement in the investigation constituted a breach of Article 2 of the ECHR. The

¹ <https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180418/local/mizzi-and-schembris-panama-target-client-received-16-million.676783>

² <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran-crime/u-s-arrests-iranian-over-alleged-115-million-sanctions-evasion-scheme-idUSKBN1GW32E>

³ <https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-eu-malta-pilatus/malta-asks-ecb-to-withdraw-license-of-scandal-hit-pilatus-bank-idUKKBN1JQ0V9>

⁴ <https://www.afr.com/news/policy/foreign-affairs/the-panama-papers-new-twist-to-maltas-mossack-fonseca-bank-saga-20160418-go92hv>



Attorney General appealed the ruling only for the First Hall, Civil Court's decision to be confirmed on appeal by Malta's Constitutional Court;⁵

- Chris Cardona, a senior minister and the deputy leader of the governing labour party was seen in the company of at least one of the alleged assassins both before as well as after the assassination;⁶
- Chris Cardona was the subject of Daphne Caruana Galizia's reporting. In January 2017 Ms Caruana Galizia reported that Cardona was in a brothel while on official government business in Germany;⁷
- Chris Cardona started libel proceedings against Daphne Caruana Galizia, enabling Ms Caruana Galizia's legal team to have phone TAP files preserved in court. The TAP files would conclusively establish the whereabouts of the minister at the time in question;⁸
- Daphne Caruana Galizia's death created a situation where the minister could choose to drop the libel proceedings, thus ensuring that the TAP files that would conclusively prove his guilt or innocence will remain concealed;⁹
- The Daphne Project revealed that Cardona was present at an intimate gathering with one of the alleged assassins prior to the assassination in 2017. A fact the minister has not denied but had chosen to conceal;¹⁰
- The Daphne Project also revealed that despite the Maltese Secret Service having placed the alleged assassins under surveillance prior to the assassination, the records of this surveillance were, at least until May 2018, withheld from the then inquiring magistrate Anthony Vella;
- Anthony Vella was promoted to judge in June 2017, preventing him from continuing his investigation into the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia;

⁵ <https://www.timesofmalta.com/mobile/articles/view/20181005/local/deputy-police-commissioner-must-step-down-from-caruana-galizia-case.690796>

⁶ <https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180417/local/cardona-presence-at-bar-frequented-by-murder-suspect-flagged-to.676636>

⁷ <https://daphnecaruanagalizia.com/2017/01/breakingmaltas-economy-minister-labour-party-deputy-leader-german-brothel-tonight/β>

⁸ <https://daphnecaruanagalizia.com/2017/05/chris-cardona-files-objection-use-phone-location-records-prove-night-january-30/>

⁹ <https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180531/local/cardona-brothel-libel-case-is-cancelled-tension-in-court.680499>

<https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181004/local/acupulco-brothel-claims-ministers-aide-drops-case-against-daphne.690712>

<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2017-05-08/local-news/Brothel-allegations-Minister-Cardona-files-objection-for-courts-to-preserve-phone-records-6736174009>

¹⁰ https://rep.repubblica.it/pwa/inchiesta/2018/10/08/news/daphne_project_malta-208497201/?ref=RHPPRB-BH-I0-C4-P1-S1.4-T1



In view of the above facts and in particular following the most recent revelations, we Members of the European Parliament coming from different political groups demand that the European Commission:

- Closely monitors the investigation into the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia;
- Supports the call for an independent public inquiry, as requested by the family of Daphne Caruana Galizia through their lawyers, into the role of the Maltese state in the assassination.

Sincerely,

David Casa (EPP)

Ana Gomes (S&D)

Monica Macovei (ECR)

Maite Pagazartundúa (ALDE)

Stelios Kouloglou (GUE/NGL)