



Confidential & Without Prejudice

Dear Sir/Madam,

We act for [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. We have been following your speeches and writings in relation to our client's financial conduct and have serious concerns about your suggestions of impropriety and misconduct.

Our client recognises that, as a public figure, he is accountable to the public and has a right to be asked questions about his financial activities. He recognises that as a Member of the European Parliament you are entitled to ask these questions and advance the issues that matter to your constituents. He respects your right to speak out on matters of public interest.

However, our client notes that the right to freedom of expression as protected by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) does not extend to malicious lies and defamatory statements. In this respect, your allegations grossly overstep the mark of protected speech.

It is clear from just a cursory review of your speeches and writings on the issue that you have failed to take into account my client's contrary perspective, and have instead relied on dubious material from demonstrably biased NGOs and activists. Your statements suggest an intimate knowledge of my client's financial arrangements – knowledge which, as is evident from the allegations you made against my client, you quite clearly lack.

You will note that a number of media outlets and NGOs that made similar allegations to yours have since retracted their comments, apologised publicly to my client, and paid a discretionary fee to his charitable foundation.

This letter is marked without prejudice because it is a confidential and genuine attempt to resolve a dispute before further damage is caused and the matter is escalated. My client wants to give you the opportunity to retract your statements before further action is taken.

Should you not publicly retract your statements and apologise for your defamatory statements, my client will not hesitate to take further action – including, if necessary, legal action.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Buller

*Partner
Buller & Belligerence Lawyers*