

Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group
The Co-Chairs

Mr Fulvio Martusciello
Member of the European Parliament
ASP 11E217

D 303026 18.06.2021

EXPO D ELEC D (2021) 5397

Dear Mr Martusciello,

As you may be aware, electoral observation is one of the most important instruments in the EU's toolbox to support and strengthen democracy worldwide. Being part of the overall EU effort in this regard, Parliament abides by the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and its Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which, under the umbrella of the United Nations, establish the basis for credible international election observation.

The DEG attaches the greatest importance to this international instrument, endorsed by our institution in May 2007. The Code of Conduct for International Electoral Observation, together with the Code of Conduct for participants in European Parliament election observation delegations, is annexed to the Implementing Provisions on democracy support and election observation activities adopted by the Conference of Presidents. As part of Parliament's set of rules and decision that organise the work of our institution, it ensures that all EP-related democracy support activities, as any credible and recognized international election observation, are carried out with strict political impartiality at all times.

Last January, several media reported your presence in Kazakhstan as linked to the monitoring of the legislative elections held on 10 January 2021. Press articles also revealed details of your three-day itinerary, including a State dinner.

The European Parliament did not observe these elections and no Member of the European Parliament had a mandate to observe or comment on proceedings on its behalf.

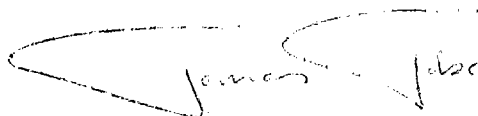
DEG had duly informed all the political groups that during this legislature, as in the last term, it would continue to consider instances of individual unofficial election observation in line with its procedure for "Cases of individual unofficial election observation by Members of the European Parliament".

We consider your behaviour to be in breach of DEG implementing rules, the rules of the European Parliament, as well as the international standards of electoral observation. Therefore, in accordance with Annex III of the DEG Implementing Provisions, we wish to inform you that any future unofficial observation of elections, even if unaccompanied by statements to the media, will be considered to be in breach of DEG implementing rules and will lead to the immediate suspension from future official EP election observation delegations.

Yours sincerely,



David McAllister



Tomas Tobé

cc: Mr Manfred WEBER, Chairman of the EPP Group