

January 12, 2020

Dear Commissioner Johansson,
Dear Mr O'Flaherty,

Nearly all EU leaders have condemned the assault on the United States Capitol by far-right groups trying to stop the Congress' certification of President-elect Biden. It is important that we all unreservedly condemn the far right's attempt to destroy the US' constitutional system. It is not an isolated disturbance but the consequence of fake news and hate speech and policies. It is a far-right coup attempt, with organizations behind it that have been feeding hate for years.

It would be a mistake to consider this attack as an isolated incident affecting only the US. The global change created by Trump's victory in the US has had direct consequences for the European Union. There are international networks of right-wing organizations that include the reactionary groups 'Trumpism' is based on, as other violent incidents of this kind have proved before. These networks have allies within the European Union and have a strong influence on it, attacking the most elementary principles of democracy and equality.

A study by OpenDemocracy¹ calculated that in recent years fundamentalist groups of the United States financed far-right organisations and campaigns in the EU with a minimum of €56 million. The American Center for Law and Justice and the Alliance Defending Freedom are among these organisations, and they are both directly linked to key figures of the Trump administration. These organisations would therefore be financing groups and campaign against women's sexual and reproductive rights, or against laws granting equality for LGBTI people. Through figures such as Steve Bannon, European far-right parties are also directly linked to the 'alt-right' of the US.

These far-right movements are a clear threat to our democracy and jeopardise our social conquests and the principle of equality on which the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union is built. We must react to the dangerous precedent established by the assault on the US Capitol and end the influence of this kind of organisations in the EU. We must also adopt immediate measure to end the possibility of having foreign organisations funding campaigns and speeches of hate in the EU. For this, we urge your agency to open an immediate investigation in line with its mandate on the true links of Trump's European partners with the far-right organisations of the US, and to shed transparency on how those who want to end our democracy act. We urgently need European guidelines to make our institutions take this threat seriously.

Best regards,

Martin Schirdewan – The Left MEP / Co-president

Sira Rego – The Left MEP / Vice President

Maria Eugenia Rodríguez Palop – The Left MEP

Konstantinos Arvanitis – The Left MEP

¹ Revealed: Trump-linked US Christian 'fundamentalists' pour millions of 'dark money' into Europe, boosting the far-right - <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/revealed-trump-linked-us-christian-fundamentalists-pour-millions-of-dark-money-into-europe-boosting-the-far-right/>