

Il Presidente

Ms Kornelia Ninova
Chairwoman
Bulgarian Socialist Party
20, Pozitano Str.
BG-1000 Sofia

D 316069 11.10.2018

Dear Ms Ninova,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 August concerning the statements made by Mr Angel Dzhambazki, Member of the European Parliament, in an interview for an electronic medium, and for sharing with me your concern about what you perceive as a clear trend towards increased use of hate speech by nationalist and far-right political leaders.

I wish to assure you that I consider it my duty, as President of the European Parliament, to ensure that all Members act in full compliance with our internal Rules of Procedure. This entails in particular that their conduct is characterised by mutual respect, based on the values and principles laid down in the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and that they respect the dignity of Parliament.

I firmly believe that, while fully entitled to criticise, question and challenge during a political debate, Members of the European Parliament do not have the right to use offensive language, damaging the dignity and reputation of the European Parliament.

However, my powers to intervene in this case are limited, as the statements referred to have been made outside the European Parliament thus preventing the application of Parliament's internal rules.

Cases such as this fall exclusively within the competence of the Member State in which they occurred.

Yours sincerely,



Antonio Tajani