

The President

D 102396 11.06.2026

Mr Gilles Boyer
Chair-in-Office of the Advisory Committee

Dear Chair,

It has come to my attention that Mr Fernand Kartheiser, Member of the European Parliament, has signed a so-called “Saint Petersburg Declaration”, dated 4 June 2026. Under the heading “Dialogue between the Committee for International Affairs of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and Members of the European Parliament”, the document refers to four meetings held by videoconference and four meetings held in person in different locations, including two in the Russian Federation, with Russian parliamentarians.

The document contains statements that give rise to serious concern, first and foremost because it may create the impression that there exists an informal channel of communication between the European Parliament and the State Duma of the Russian Federation, in the name of parliamentary diplomacy. Any such impression would gravely misrepresent the position of the European Parliament.

Our Institution has repeatedly and unequivocally condemned Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and has consistently expressed its full solidarity with Ukraine and its people. Furthermore, the European Parliament has officially ceased cooperation with the State Duma, no official delegation has been sent to Russia since the start of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, and the Conference of Presidents has specified that this position should not be circumvented by individual meetings, in any format, with Russian counterparts subject to EU restrictive measures.

The Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament regarding integrity and transparency requires Members to observe a number of general principles, including respect for Parliament’s dignity and reputation. It also lays down specific transparency obligations. Notably, under Article 7(2) of the Code of Conduct, Members shall publish all their meetings with representatives of public authorities of third countries. In addition, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Code of Conduct, Members must declare to the President their attendance at events organised by third parties where their travel, accommodation or subsistence expenses are reimbursed by a third party. From the so-called “Saint Peterburg Declaration”, it appears that Members other than Mr Kartheiser may also have participated in the meetings referred to in the document.

In view of the above, I would like to refer this matter to the Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members. I would be grateful if the Committee could examine the situation and assess whether Mr Kartheiser or any other Members concerned, may have breached the Code of Conduct, pursuant to Article 11 thereof.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, slanted lines that form a stylized representation of the name 'Roberta Metsola'.

Roberta Metsola

Annex