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Press Release

New request for waiver of immunity of Béla Kovács, MEP

Mr. Dr. Péter Polt, Prosecutor General of Hungary has made a new request to the President of the European Parliament for the waiver of immunity of Mr. Béla Kovács, Member of the European Parliament. This time Béla Kovács is reasonably suspected of having committed the felony of budget fraud resulting in substantial financial loss and the misdemeanour of use of forged private document.

Upon the former request of the Prosecutor General of Hungary, the European Parliament waived the immunity of Mr. Béla Kovács MEP on 14 October 2015 with regard to the offence of espionage against the institutions of the European Union.

On 4 December 2015 Mr. Kovács was interrogated as a suspect of the offence of espionage against the institutions of the European Union by the Chief Prosecution Office of Investigation. Mr. Kovács filed a complaint against him being suspected, denied the commission of the offence and at the same time presented his defence.

The Office of the Prosecutor General of Hungary dismissed Mr. Kovács's complaint.

In the course of the criminal proceeding the prosecution office interviewed witnesses, conducted house searches at different premises and submitted requests for legal assistance.

This time the waiver of immunity has been requested because immunity can be waived only with regard to a concrete criminal offence, so the former waiver cannot be applied in the present case.

Mr. Béla Kovács is reasonably suspected of having committed the crime of budget fraud as he concluded traineeship agreements with four individuals in 2012 and 2013. According to the traineeship agreements these individuals were Member's trainees for four and six months with work places in Brussels and were required to comply with the Member's instructions during their traineeship. These individuals have not actually been in Brussels and did not do any work there for Mr. Béla Kovács MEP.

In this way, Mr. Béla Kovács provided unlawful financial advantages for the fake trainees by deceiving the competent unit of the European Parliament, which made the actual payments.

Done in Budapest, on 20 September 2016

Office of the Prosecutor General of Hungary

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