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Brussels, 10th March 2021

To:

President of Parliament Sassoli

Dear Mr President Sassoli,

Reports are published today in the German media about meetings between the current MEP Jörg Meuthen and the Swiss billionaire Henning Conle. The meetings are said to have started in 2015, i.e. before Jörg Meuthen entered the EU Parliament.

The subject of the talks is said to have been the financing of election campaigns of the AfD by Mr Conle. It has been proven that Mr Conle repeatedly came to the attention of investigations by the administration of the German Bundestag as a hidden financier of the AfD by means of illegal party donations.

The Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament states in Article 4(2)(g) that "any financial, personal or material support granted to the Member by third parties in addition to the resources provided by Parliament in the course of their political activities, the identity of such third parties being disclosed" should be presented in a precise manner in the declaration of financial interests.

Article 8 of the Code of Conduct states: "If there is reason to suspect that a Member of the European Parliament may have breached this Code of Conduct, the President may refer the matter to the Advisory Committee."

In my opinion, the reports in the German media give reason to ask whether the contacts of MEP Meuthen with Henning Conle continued during his membership in the European Parliament and also included financial support.

Against this background, I would ask you to examine whether it is appropriate to involve the Advisory Committee.

Kind regards

Özlem Alev Demirel, MEP