

President Antonio Tajani
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

Brussels, 27 October 2017

Dear President,

Over the last few days, we have read appalling accounts of sexual harassment occurring within the European Parliament.

MEPs have rightly expressed shock and anger at these accounts, but we must recognise that condemnation alone, along with a restating of existing procedures, is not sufficient in dealing with this problem.

Along with the recent similar revelations in various other sectors, we must acknowledge that these reports highlight a deep-rooted, cultural issue with sexual harassment throughout society. The European Parliament can and should do its part in challenging that culture.

In the case of the European Parliament, we are concerned that the victims of such acts do not appear to be provided with the necessary tools and support to ensure that they are able and encouraged to report incidents or that the perpetrators are held responsible for their actions.

This is why, as British Labour MEPs, we are writing to you in support of the initiative proposed by Eduard Martin MEP and many other colleagues in calling for action to investigate and address the issue of sexual harassment within this institution. This investigation should aim to create a fundamental change in the culture within the European Parliament and recommend provisions to be put in place to protect people from harassment, better enable the reporting of such incidents and ensure that action is taken in cases where harassment has taken place.

We thank you for underlining your commitment to tackling this issue in the plenary this week and look forward to seeing more specific proposals in the very near future.

With best wishes,

The UK Labour MEPs

Lucy Anderson MEP
Paul Brannen MEP
Richard Corbett MEP
Seb Dance MEP
Neena Gill MEP
Theresa Griffin MEP
Mary Honeyball MEP

John Howarth MEP
Wajid Khan MEP
Jude Kirton-Darling MEP
Linda McAvan MEP
David Martin MEP
Alex Mayer MEP
Claude Moraes MEP

Clare Moody MEP
Rory Palmer MEP
Siôn Simon MEP
Catherine Stihler MEP
Derek Vaughan MEP
Julie Ward MEP