



Maria Efimova



Cyrus Engerer

~~Cyrus Engerer writes to MEPs and urges them to retract calls to protect Efimova from extradition~~

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~~The Prime Minister's former Special Envoy to the European Union, and now PL MEP candidate Cyrus Engerer has "communicated with 36 MEPs who on March 21st asked authorities to protect Maria Efimova from extradition to Malta". He further stated his belief that, "following clear Egrant inquiry conclusions, such calls should now be lifted and justice should be allowed to take its course".~~

~~In his letter to the above mentioned MEPs he attached an English translation of the inquiry report by Magistrate Aaron Bugeja which "left no stone unturned". He made particular reference to the documents and fraudulent signatures, and to how Maria Efimova and Daphne Caruana Galizia's testimonies contradicted each other.~~

~~Efimova did not take kindly~~

~~to this, hinting that the partial publication of the inquiry findings is not enough to garner her extradition. Taking it further, she warned that Malta has now become even more dangerous for her, claiming that people connected to the Maltese Government openly call for her execution, whilst also making reference to the method used on assassinated investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia by tweeting "there is no death penalty, but there are bombs placed in cars".~~

~~She is currently facing two separate cases of criminal proceedings. She stands accused of defrauding Pilatus Bank of approximately €2,000, and also faces accusations by the police of having made false accusations against Superintendent Denis Theuma, inspector Lara Butters and Jonathan Ferris, who were present for her interrogation.~~

Copy of Egrant inquiry conclusions handed over to First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans

Labour MEP Miriam Dalli has asked First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and European Commissioner Věra Jourová to consider the latest political developments in their analysis of Malta, passing them a copy of the Egrant inquiry conclusions.

"I was present in meetings where Malta was attacked and MEPs tried to pressure Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioner Jourová to take a stand against Malta. On the basis of my experience in these meetings, I felt that I should communicate to

the two the conclusions of the magisterial inquiry into the Egrant allegations and to insist on the need to remain impartial in any analysis of our country," the Labour MEP said.

The letter to the two European Commissioners follows separate letters, which Dalli sent to European Parliament President Antonio Tajani and MEPs who are members of the LIBE committee.

In her letter to the two European Commissioners, Miriam Dalli said Malta was repeatedly

attacked by politicians who presented allegations as facts and who preferred to reach conclusions based on false statements.

MEP Dalli spoke of the framework orchestrated against Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and his family and "how fake documents were presented as evidence to prove allegations, which had been fabricated".

"The inquiring magistrate interviewed almost 500 witnesses, roped in international experts and took 15 months to conclude his thorough investigation."

~~'Attorney General should not do anything which might prejudice innocent third parties'~~

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~~This newsroom asked Professor Aquilina whether he believes the Prime Minister had a right to be given a copy of the full inquiry.~~

~~In response, Aquilina said that the Criminal Code provides that "a procès-verbal and any depositions and documents filed therewith shall be open to inspection, and copies thereof shall be given, only at the discretion of the Attorney General and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed by the Minister responsible for justice".~~

~~"It is therefore the Attorney General who decides if, when, and to whom to give copies of magisterial inquiries, whether in full or in part. The Criminal Code does not establish any guidelines that the Attorney General has to follow when deciding on such matters. In the Egrant inquiry, due to its sensitive public interest, the Attorney General did well to publish the main findings and conclusions of the Inquiring Magistrate. This is because the Egrant inquiry was not an ordinary inquiry such as one relating to petty theft, but one which had~~

~~national implications on the governance of Malta.~~

~~"The Attorney General gave a full copy thereof to the Prime Minister because the inquiry was requested by the Prime Minister himself and concerned him personally and his wife. I do agree with the Prime Minister that the whole inquiry should be published because of the public interest involved therein. However, before doing so, the Attorney General will have to delete those parts of the inquiry publication thereof which might affect the privacy of third parties or prejudice ongoing criminal investigations. More so if the Magistrate might have requested the police to carry out further investigations to establish who was the perpetrator of any offence/s identified in the inquiry, or if the Magistrate might have identified a person/s against whom criminal charges should be issued by the Police, or if the Attorney General might seek and obtain from the Inquiring Magistrate further evidence to assist him in deciding what criminal action, if any, needs to be taken in connection with the inquiry," Aquilina said.~~



Attorney General Peter Grech

~~"Notwithstanding the public interest attached to this inquiry, the Attorney General should not do anything which might prejudice innocent third parties or the criminal action. That is why, should he opt to publish the full inquiry, it needs to be redacted in the interests of the better administration of justice."~~

~~Given that a press statement by the Office of the Prime Minister published on Wednesday read that the inquiry is being analysed, this newsroom asked Aquilina whether there would be any legal implications for third parties to review the inquiry, or for the Prime Minister's lawyers to do so.~~

~~"I would understand that once the Prime Minister has received a full copy of the inquiry, he would share it with his legal advisor/s to obtain legal advice thereon as to whether he, his wife, or both of them should take any further action to protect their rights at law.~~

~~"What the Prime Minister should not do at this stage is to share that copy with the media or in any way disclose its contents because he does not have the authority to do so and because such publication can prejudice innocent third parties (who might sue him in his personal capacity in court or the Attorney General or both) and affect ongoing police/magisterial/Attorney General investigations/prosecutions/compilation of further evidence," Aquilina said.~~