



Brussels, 3 April 2014

Inge Gräßle (EPP/Germany):

European Parliament calls on Martin Schulz to resign his office

A large majority of the European Parliament today demanded Martin Schulz to lay down his office of EP President.

At today's plenary vote on the discharge of the Parliament budget, a majority of 399 MEPs from different political groups called on Schulz to separate the office of – bipartisan - President of the Parliament from his campaign activities.

In addition, the plenary requested information on how Schulz kept separate his official duties as parliament president from his campaign activities. The final vote on the parliament's discharge was postponed to the April plenary in protest against Schulz' attempt to remove a paragraph of the report critical of his activities as president.

The exact wording of the paragraph adopted today by a large majority of 399 votes in the plenary of the European Parliament:

The President's political activities

49. Calls for detailed information on how the President, as a politically neutral figure, has kept his duties in office separate from his preparations to head the Socialists and Democrats' list in the European elections, in particular with regard to the staff in his cabinet and in Parliament's information offices and to travel expenses; is of the opinion that in connection with many of those activities, no distinction has been made between the two roles; calls for clear segregation of office holders' functions, following the Commission's approach, so that Union taxpayers do not have to pay for the election campaigns of European list leaders;

"The European Union does not need a president who does not distinguish between campaign and office and who desperately clings to his post. EU commissioners standing as candidates in May have resigned their office. Only Mr. Schulz claims he does not need to do so", the spokeswoman of the EPP Group in the Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament, MEP Inge Gräßle (CDU) said.

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