

Joint Press Release

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EP President preventing plenary vote criticising his own conduct

The President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, has prevented a plenary vote on his own conduct in office, by declaring inadmissible an article that formed part of tomorrow's vote on parliament discharge. The article declared inadmissible by Martin Schulz reads:

47. Criticises the fact that an OLAF Supervisory Committee report to Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control was not forwarded to it by the President but, rather, was held back for more than two months; criticises the fact that there was a three-month delay before Parliament's Administration forwarded witness summonses from a Belgian court to the three Members concerned; criticises the fact that the Committee on Budgetary Control was hampered in its work because a hearing on the work of the Task Force for Greece was cancelled and a hearing on 'Governance – the European Commission as administrative authority' was held up for more than a year;

The article refers to the investigation into the circumstances of the resignation of former EU Commissioner John Dalli in October 2012, a hearing on EU projects under supervision of the EU task force for Greece, and a hearing on the European Commission's administration.

"The President of the European Parliament first tried to obstruct the work of the budgetary control committee, and now tries to cover his tracks by misusing the parliament's rules of procedures to censure criticism of his actions. By acting the way he does Mr Schulz makes abundantly clear that the only thing he is concerned with is his own image", the coordinator of the EPP Group in the budgetary control committee, Inge Gräßle MEP (EPP, Germany), said.

Green MEP Bert Staes, coordinator of the Green Group in the budgetary control committee: "It is incredible that the president of an institution which is subject to a discharge procedure should delete parts of a report criticising his own work. Parliament cannot accept such behaviour, which concern the work of its budgetary control committee in 2012".

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