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**“My comments on the 2021 report on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations“**

Consideration of the 2021 report on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations

**Meeting of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs**

**European Parliament, Brussels, 22 June 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank you for this report, which is an important contribution to the application of Regulation No. 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations.

The report is a comprehensive analysis of how the regulation is being applied and which improvements could be made and I appreciate that it takes on board the suggestions made by the experts during the public hearing of 25 of May as well as the concerns of the European political parties expressed in the exchange we had with them last week.

This report is important in indicating possible changes to be made to the statute and funding systems, which will hopefully feed into the legislative proposal of the Commission of the revision of the Regulation No. 1141/2014, expected at the end of the year.

European political parties and political foundations can significantly enhance the European dimension in the political debate among citizens, thereby strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the Union. In this spirit, the ban on financing referendum campaigns on European issues goes against the purpose of European political parties and foundations and should be lifted.

I salute the fact that the report clearly underlines the need to make the definition of indirect funding from European political parties and foundations to national counterparts and members more precise in order to avoid hampering their required

cooperation in promoting and explaining European policies; this request was clearly stated by all European political parties and foundations on several occasions.

I agree that a clear set of rules and conditions should be established setting out the ability of European political parties to organize and co-finance activities together with national member parties concerning European issues and I support the creation of further categories of revenue, in order to cover all sources of income of political parties rather than just contributions or donations.

Another important issue for the European political parties and foundations is the narrow interpretation of the definition of members of a European political party, which prevents European political parties from receiving financial contributions from such members. There should be a recognition of the different categories of party membership in order to allow the affiliation of members from candidate countries for accession to the Union, from the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association, from EU neighborhood countries, and, indeed, from U.K., so that membership fees can be legally collected.

There are many good proposals and I trust they will make the system truly better.

Thank you