



Fighting corruption



Posted by: Restarting the Future



2014 Restarting the Future petition

Prior to the 2014 European Elections, Restarting the Future began a campaign and petition aimed at promoting transparency and fighting corruption and organized crime in the EU. Restarting the Future mirrored the efforts of its sister organization in Italy, [Riparte il futuro](#), which leading up to the political elections of February 2013, promoted a petition in Italy which required candidates from all political parties to act transparently and commit to improving Italian anti-corruption laws. More than 900 candidates joined the campaign and 388 of these were elected to the Italian parliament. Based on our success in Italy, we decided to extend this campaign as Restarting the Future for the EU elections in 2014.

As a result, the Restarting the Future campaign and petition focused mainly on asking:

1) MEPs to create a parliamentary Intergroup set up with the objective to fight

corruption and organized crime.

2) All MEPs and the proposed Intergroup to promote a European Directive to protect whistleblowers that risk reprisal and retaliation to report wrongdoings and expose corruption.

What happens if you denounce corruption? from [riparte il futuro](#) on [Vimeo](#)

Non-binding resolution on effective and comprehensive European whistleblower protection programme (14/02/17)

Vote Breakdown

 607

For

 16

Against

 70

Abstain



Absent

Several MEPs from the Intergroup on Integrity, transparency, anti-corruption and Organised Crime, including its co-chair Dennis De Jong and others such as Julia Pitera, Benedek Jávor and Marco Valli in fact spearheaded a resolution in the EU Parliament on February 2017 that the European Commission propose “immediately” an “effective and comprehensive European whistleblower protection programme.” The non-binding resolution was approved and advocated for whistleblower protections mechanisms for companies, public bodies and non-profit organizations.

Progress

More than 360 European candidates from 27 European countries joined our campaign and media from all around Europe covered it and its objectives. Our petition was supported by more than 145,000 citizens in the first six months and has now a total of more than 150,000 signatures. We also received encouragement and support from Martin Schulz, the former President of the European Parliament.

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After the European elections, of the candidates who supported our campaign, 69 MEPs were elected. Moreover, the Restarting the Future campaign was able to achieve one of its principle objectives: MEPs agreed to form the “Intergroup on Integrity, transparency, anti-corruption and Organised Crime” (ITCO) on December 11, 2014.

The Intergroup ITCO provides an opportunity to fight against corruption in both public institutions and the private sector, and is a forum for MEPs from all over Europe to discuss and exchange different points of view in an informal way, share their experiences and improve together. The ITCO is therefore a great tool to develop and discuss issues such as the protection of whistleblowers, which can help to prevent and uncover serious wrongdoing from the public and private sector.

Further, the EU Commission has recently indicated in 2017 that it is looking at proposing a law to protect whistleblowers and recently initiated a [public consultation on whistleblower protection](#), which completed on May 29, 2017.

During the campaign to raise awareness about our asks, we build a network with European NGOs such as Libera, the most prominent Italian NGO working

to fight mafia and corruption founded by Luigi Ciotti in 1995, and additionally with Fundación Baltasar Garzón, Mafia?Nein, danke!, Atlatszo, Coordination EAU Île-de-France and Anti Cor. Additionally, we drafted a report on December 9, 2014 called “**Blowing the Whistle on Corruption**,” which contained our recommendations for a European Directive on the Protection of Whistleblowers.

Towards 2019

While we still do not have a European Directive to protect whistleblowers in the EU, Restarting the Future along with its sister organization Riparte il futuro continues to campaign and build public pressure to implement a legislation that protects whistleblowers in the EU in the near future.

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Whistleblowers in Europe who risk their livelihood to speak out against corruption and wrongdoing in the workplace are still without protection. This is why the European Commission must urgently propose a EU-wide Directive on the protection of whistleblowers for both the public and private sectors. And why current MEPs or candidates running in the 2019 elections must campaign for such a Directive and ensure that the EU Parliament approves a comprehensive legislation that fully protects whistleblowers.

Standout MEPS



Benedek Jávor

Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

In the parliament, MEP Benedek Jávor has continuously shown support for whistleblowers in Europe. Through personal engagement, plenary votes and organizing events

including hosting the seminar “Human Rights and Whistleblowing” on November 2016 along with ITCO co-chair Elly Schlein where three whistleblowers were invited to Parliament to share their stories, he continues to advocate for the implementation of a EU Directive that fully protects whistleblowers against retaliation and prosecution.
