



Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for **Europe**
Alliance des Démocrates et des Libéraux pour l'**Europe**

Jose-Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi
Brussels

Brussels, 10 April 2012

CC Olli Rehn - Vice President of the European Commission

Dear President,

I write to you concerning the payments to be made by the Greek government to the established political parties in advance of the election expected on 6 May.

It seems that €29 million have been provided to a few political parties based on the results they achieved during the previous elections. This is therefore an advance payment on the expected result of elections that are still to be held. Do you believe that it is appropriate for the two main parties that are largely responsible for the current situation in Greece to receive such money from the tax payer? Do you not think that such a system provides a huge advantage to the main established parties? Is it in any way justifiable to provide more money to political parties that are already in serious debt and who still owe millions to their employees and to the state?

In the context of the reforms Greece has to undertake and the negotiation on the second aid package, was such a payment in anticipation ever discussed? Did the troika and your representative within it ever give his agreement to such a payment? Was such a payment discussed with your services? Furthermore, none of these €29 million euros can be used to reimburse the banks who are owed millions by the two main parties. Do you therefore believe that it is acceptable for the European tax payer to effectively pay for the recapitalisation of the Greek banks?

Finally, do you not think that when most Greek citizens are facing severe cut backs, facing unemployment and significant reduction in their income, that the same should also apply to politicians and to political parties?

I very much look forward to your answer.

Yours sincerely

Guy Verhofstadt
President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)