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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. Cion doc.:	12308/17 - COM(481) final
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations <i>- Approval for a mandate for the negotiations with the European Parliament</i>

Delegations will find in Annex to this document a table presenting the above proposal, comparing:

- *in the first column*: the Commission proposal and the relevant text of the Regulation No. 1141/2014 affected by the EP amendments or the Presidency suggestions
- *in the second column*: the EP amendments (changes are highlighted in ***bold italics***)
- *in the third column*: Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018 (changes are highlighted in **bold** or ~~strike through~~) as a result of the discussions in the General Affairs Group (GAG) .

Commission proposal amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (COM(2017) 481 final)

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 224 thereof,				1
Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 106a thereof,				2
Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,				3
After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national Parliaments,				4

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Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee,				5
Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,		Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,		6
Having regard to the opinion of the Court of Auditors,				7
Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,				8
Whereas:				9
(1) Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 establishes a specific European legal status for European political parties and political foundations to benefit from and provides for their funding from the general budget of the European Union.				10

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
(2) A need has been identified to amend Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 in order to better meet the objective of encouraging and assisting European political parties and their affiliated European political foundations in their endeavour to provide a strong link between European civil society and the Union institutions, in particular the European Parliament.				11

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(3) It is necessary to better ensure a genuine transnational dimension of European political parties and political foundations as regards their acquisition of the specific European legal status through registration. Moreover, in order to strengthen the link between politics at national level and at Union level and to prevent the same national party from artificially creating several European political parties with similar or identical political tendencies, it should be excluded that members of the same national political party are taken into account in relation to different political alliances, for the purpose of the minimum representation requirements for those alliances to be registered as a European party. Therefore, only political parties and no longer individuals should be taken into account for the purpose of these minimum representation requirements.				12

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
(4) European political parties and foundations should be enabled to absorb a larger part of the appropriations dedicated to their funding in the general budget of the European Union. Therefore, the maximum share of financial contributions or grants from the general budget of the European Union in the annual reimbursable expenditure indicated in the budget of a European political party and in the eligible costs incurred by a European political foundation should be increased.				13

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
(5)For reasons of transparency and in order to strengthen the scrutiny and the democratic accountability of European political parties and the link between European civil society and the Union institutions, in particular the European Parliament, access to funding from the general budget of the European Union should be made conditional upon the publication by the member parties of the programme and logo of the European political party concerned, as well as information regarding the gender representation among the candidates at the last elections to the European Parliament and among the members of the European Parliament.	AM 1 (5)For reasons of transparency and in order to strengthen the scrutiny and the democratic accountability of European political parties and the link between European civil society and the Union institutions, in particular the European Parliament, access to funding from the general budget of the European Union should be made conditional upon the publication, <i>in a comprehensive, reliable and user-friendly way</i> , by the member parties of the programme and logo of the European political party concerned, as well as information regarding the gender representation among the candidates at the last elections to the European Parliament and among the members of the European Parliament.	(5)For reasons of transparency and in order to strengthen the scrutiny and the democratic accountability of European political parties and the link between European civil society and the Union institutions, in particular the European Parliament, access to funding from the general budget of the European Union should be made conditional upon the publication by the member parties of the political programme and logo of the European political party concerned, as well as information regarding the gender representation among the candidates at the last elections to the European Parliament and among the members of the European Parliament.		14

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
(6) To establish a more proportionate allocation of resources from the general budget of the European Union, objectively reflecting the genuine electoral support of a European political party, the funding of European political parties and, by extension, of their respective affiliated political foundations should be linked more closely to a demonstrable level of electoral support. Therefore, the rules on the distribution of funding should be adapted to take greater account of the share of elected members in the European Parliament of each European political party.				15
(7) Where a European political party or political foundation, due to a change in circumstances, no longer fulfils whichever of the conditions for registration, it should be removed from the Register.				16

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
(8) For reasons of legal certainty and transparency it should be explicitly provided that a European political party or political foundation can be removed from the Register, within a reasonable period, where the party or foundation has provided false or incomplete information on the basis of which a decision has been made to register that party or foundation.				17
(9) The protection of the EU financial interests should be strengthened by providing that, in cases of infringement, the effective recovery of funding from the general budget of the European Union would be ensured through a recovery of amounts unduly paid also from natural persons responsible for the infringement in question.				18

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
(10) In order to evaluate the implications of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 as amended by this Regulation on the basis of substantial evidence of its practical operation, the date of the proposed comprehensive review should be delayed.		In order to evaluate the implications of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 as amended by this Regulation on the basis of substantial evidence of its practical operation, the date of the proposed comprehensive review should be delayed. This comprehensive review will pay particular attention to implications of the amended Regulation for the position of small European Political Parties and Foundations.		19

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
(11) The new requirements regarding publicity of the programme and logo of European political parties and of information regarding gender representation should apply to the largest possible extent already to applications for funding for 2019, the year in which elections to the European Parliament will take place. Therefore, transitional arrangements should be provided for.		(11) The new provisions requirements regarding publicity publishing of the political programme and logo of European political parties and of information regarding gender representation should apply to the largest possible extent already to applications for funding for 2019, the year in which elections to the European Parliament will take place. Therefore, transitional arrangements should be provided for.		20
(12) Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 should therefore be amended accordingly,				21

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
<i>PRESENT TEXT OF REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) NO. 1141/2014</i> <i>(12) European political parties and their affiliated European political foundations wishing to obtain recognition as such at Union level by virtue of European legal status and to receive public funding from the general budget of the European Union should respect certain principles and fulfil certain conditions. In particular, it is necessary for European political parties and their affiliated European political foundations to respect the values on which the Union is founded, as expressed in Article 2 TEU.</i>	AM 2 (12) European political parties and their affiliated European political foundations wishing to obtain recognition as such at Union level by virtue of European legal status and to receive public funding from the general budget of the European Union should respect certain principles and fulfil certain conditions. In particular, it is necessary for European political parties and their affiliated European political foundations to respect, <i>especially in their programme and in their activities,</i> the values on which the Union is founded, as expressed in Article 2 TEU, <i>namely respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.</i>			22

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
PRESENT TEXT OF REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) NO. 1141/2014	AM 3 <i>(-1a) Recital 30 a is inserted:</i> <i>(30a) In accordance with the provisions and the procedures laid down in Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) is called to investigate alleged criminal offenses in the context of the funding of European political parties and European political foundations which affect the financial interests of the EU, within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and the Council. The obligation under Article 24 of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 to report to the EPPO any conduct that could constitute an offence within the competence of the EPPO also applies to the Authority for European political parties and European political foundations."</i>			23

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<i>Article 1</i>				
Article 1 Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations is amended as follows:				24
		Article 2(10) is replaced by the following:		25

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
<i>PRESENT TEXT OF REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) NO. 1141/2014</i> <i>(10) 'National Contact Point' means one of the liaison points designated for issues related to the central exclusion database referred to in Article 108 of the Financial Regulation and in Article 144 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 ⁽¹²⁾, or any other person or persons specifically designated by the relevant authorities in the Member States for the purpose of exchanging information in the application of this Regulation;</i>		(10) 'National Contact Point' means one of the liaison points designated for issues related to the central exclusion database referred to in Article 108 of the Financial Regulation and in Article 144 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 authorised persons designated for issues related to the early detection and exclusion system referred to in Article 142 of the Financial Regulation [with footnote: Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/XXXX⁽¹²⁾, or any other person or persons specifically designated by the relevant authorities in the Member States for the purpose of exchanging information in the application of this regulation.		26

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[footnote] <i>(¹²) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).</i>		[footnote] (¹²) –Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1). [reference of the new Financial Regulation entering into force in the first half of 2018]		27
(1) In Article 3(1)b, the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:				28
"its member parties must be represented by, in at least one quarter of the Member States, members of the European Parliament, of national Parliaments, of regional parliaments or of regional assemblies, or"				29

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
	AM 4 <i>(1a) in Article 3, paragraph 1, the following point is inserted:</i> <i>(b a) its member parties are not members of another European political party. '</i>			30
	AM 5 <i>(1b) the first subparagraph of Article 10(3) is replaced by the following:</i>			31

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
<i>PRESENT TEXT OF REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) NO. 1141/2014</i> <i>The European Parliament, the Council or the Commission may lodge with the Authority a request for verification of compliance by a specific European political party or European political foundation with the conditions laid down in point (c) of Article 3(1) and point (c) of Article 3(2). In such cases, and in the cases referred to in point (a) of Article 16(3), the Authority shall ask the committee of independent eminent persons established by Article 11 for an opinion on the subject. The committee shall give its opinion within two months.</i>	‘The European Parliament, <i>on its own initiative or following a reasoned request from a group of citizens, submitted in accordance with the relevant provisions of its Rules of Procedure</i>, the Council or the Commission may lodge with the Authority a request for verification of compliance by a specific European political party or European political foundation with the conditions laid down in point (c) of Article 3(1) and point (c) of Article 3(2). In such cases, and in the cases referred to in point (a) of Article 16(3), the Authority shall ask the committee of independent eminent persons established by Article 11 for an opinion on the subject. The committee shall give its opinion within two months.’			32

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
(2) Article 17(4), is replaced by the following:				33
"4. Financial contributions or grants from the general budget of the European Union shall not exceed 90 % of the annual reimbursable expenditure indicated in the budget of a European political party and 95 % of the eligible costs incurred by a European political foundation. European political parties may use any unused part of the Union contribution awarded to cover reimbursable expenditure within the financial year following its award. Amounts still unused after that financial year shall be recovered in accordance with the Financial Regulation."				34
(3) In Article 18 the following paragraph 3a is inserted:		(3) In Article 18 the following paragraph 3 2a is inserted:		35

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
"3a. A European political party shall include in its application evidence demonstrating that its member parties have continuously published on their websites, during 12 months preceding the moment at which the applications is made, the political programme and logo of the European political party as well as information, in relation to each of the member parties of the European political party, on the gender representation among the candidates at the last elections to the European Parliament and among the Members of the European Parliament."	AM 6 3a. A European political party shall include in its application evidence demonstrating that <i>the majority of its member parties and in any event a minimum of seven of them</i> have continuously published on their websites, <i>in a comprehensive, reliable, user-friendly way</i> , during 12 months preceding the moment at which the applications is made, the political programme and logo of the European political party. <i>In addition, European political parties are encouraged to include in their applications</i> information, in relation to each of the member parties of the European political party, on the gender representation among the candidates at the last elections to the European Parliament and among the Members of the European Parliament	" 32 a. A European political party shall include in its application the evidence demonstrating that its member parties have continuously published on their websites, during the 12 months preceding the moment at which date of the applications is made , the political programme and logo of the European political party as well as information, in relation to each of the member parties of the European political party. on the gender representation among the candidates at the last elections to the European Parliament and among the Members of the European Parliament. "		36

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(4) Article 19(1) is replaced by the following:				37
"1. The respective appropriations available to those European political parties and European political foundations which have been awarded contributions or grants in accordance with Article 18 shall be distributed annually on the basis of the following distribution key:				38
- 5 % shall be distributed in equal shares among the beneficiary European political parties,	AM 7 - 10 % shall be distributed in equal shares among the beneficiary European political parties,	- 5 10 % shall be distributed in equal shares among the beneficiary European political parties,		39

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- 95 % shall be distributed in proportion to their share of elected members of the European Parliament among the beneficiary European political parties.	AM 8 - 90 % shall be distributed among the beneficiary European political parties <i>in proportion to their share of elected members of the European Parliament who are members of a European political party.</i>	- 95 90 % shall be distributed in proportion to their share of elected members of the European Parliament among the beneficiary European political parties.		40
The same distribution key shall be used to award funding to European political foundations, on the basis of their affiliation with a European political party."				41
(5) Article 27 is amended as follows:				42

Commission proposal COM(2017) 481 final	EP Amendments	Presidency proposal for mandate to be approved by Coreper on 21/2/2018	Comments	
(a) Paragraph 1 (b) is replaced by the following: "(b) where it is established, in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 10(2) to (5), that it no longer fulfils one or more of the conditions set out in Article 3(1) or in Article 3(2); or"				43
(b) In paragraph 1, the following subparagraph (ba) is inserted:				44

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"(ba) where the party or foundation in question did not fulfil one or more of the conditions set out in Article 3(1) or Article 3(2) at the moment of its registration and where the party or foundation has provoked the decision to register it by means of false or incomplete information relating to those conditions; a decision removing the party or foundation from the Register shall be adopted within a reasonable period from the moment at which the Authority could have ascertained that the party or foundation in question did not fulfil the condition or conditions concerned;"	AM 9 (ba) where <i>a decision to register the party or foundation in question is based on incorrect or misleading information for which the applicant is responsible or where that decision has been obtained by deceit.</i>			45

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(c) The following paragraph 5a is inserted: "5a. Where the Authority imposes a financial sanction in the situations referred to in paragraph 2 (a) (v) or (vi) it may, for the purpose of recovery pursuant to Article 30 (2), establish that a natural person who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the European political party or the European political foundation, or who has powers of representation, decision or control with regard to the European political party or the European political foundation is also responsible for the infringement in the following cases:				46

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a. In the situation referred to in paragraph 2 (a) (v) where, in the judgment referred to in that provision, the natural person has been found also being responsible for the illegal activities in question;		a. In the situation referred to in paragraph 2 (a) (v) where, in the judgment referred to in that provision, the natural person has been found as also being responsible for the illegal activities in question;		47
b. In the situation referred to in paragraph 2 (a) (vi) where the natural person is also responsible for the conduct or inaccuracies in question."		b. In the situation referred to in paragraph 2 (a) (vi) where the natural person is also responsible for the conduct or inaccuracies in question." For the purpose of this paragraph, the financial sanctions referred to in paragraph 4 (a) of this Article are applicable and can be proportionally adjusted taking into account the specific situation of the natural person concerned and the circumstances of the case."		48

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<u>PRESENT TEXT OF REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) NO. 1141/2014</u> <i>In the event of such termination, payments by the Authorising Officer of the European Parliament shall be limited to the eligible expenditure actually incurred by the European political party or European political foundation up to the date when the termination decision takes effect.</i>	AM 10 <i>(5a) In Article 30, paragraph 2, subparagraph 2 is replaced by the following:</i> In the event of such termination, payments by the Authorising Officer of the European Parliament shall be limited to the <i>reimbursable</i> expenditure incurred by the European political party or <i>the eligible costs incurred by</i> European political foundation up to the date when the termination decision takes effect;			49

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(6) In Article 30(2), the following sentence is added:				50
"The Authorising Officer of the European Parliament shall also recover amounts unduly paid under contribution or grant agreement or decision from a natural person in respect of which a decision pursuant to Article 27 (5a) has been taken."				51
<i>PRESENT TEXT OF REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) NO. 1141/2014</i>	AM 11 <i>(6a) In Article 32, paragraph 1, the following point is inserted:</i> <i>“(ja) an updated list of Members of the European Parliament which are members of a European political party.”;</i>			52

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		(6a) In Article 34, the following point is inserted:		53
<i>PRESENT TEXT OF REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) NO. 1141/2014</i> <i>Before the Authority or the Authorising Officer of the European Parliament takes a decision which may adversely affect the rights of a European political party, a European political foundation or an applicant as referred to in Article 8, it shall hear the representatives of the European political party, European political foundation or applicant concerned. The Authority or the European Parliament shall duly state the reasons for its decision.</i>		"Before the Authority or the Authorising Officer of the European Parliament takes a decision which may adversely affect the rights of a European political party, a European political foundation, or an applicant as referred to in Article 8 or a natural person as referred to in Article 27(5a), it shall hear the representatives of the European political party, European political foundation, or applicant or the natural person concerned. The Authority or the European Parliament shall duly state the reasons for its decision."		54

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(7) Article 38 is replaced by the following:				55
"Article 38 Evaluation				56
The European Parliament shall, after consultation of the Authority, publish five years after the moment at which this Regulation becomes applicable, a report on the application of this Regulation and on the activities funded. The report shall indicate, where appropriate, possible amendments to be made to the statute and funding systems.	AM 12 The European Parliament shall, after consultation of the Authority, publish <i>at the end of the third year</i> after the moment at which this Regulation becomes applicable <i>and every five years thereafter</i> , a report on the application of this Regulation and on the activities funded. The report shall indicate, where appropriate, possible amendments to be made to the statute and funding systems.	“The European Parliament shall, after consultation of the Authority, publish five years after the moment at which this Regulation becomes applicable by mid-2020 , a report on the application of this Regulation and on the activities funded. The report shall indicate, where appropriate, possible amendments to be made to the statute and funding systems.		57

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No more than six months after the publication of the report by the European Parliament, the Commission shall present a report on the application of this Regulation accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal to amend this Regulation."		No more than six months after the publication of the report by the European Parliament, the Commission shall present a report on the application of this Regulation <u>in which it will pay particular attention to its implications for the position of small European Political Parties and Foundations</u> accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal to amend this Regulation.		58
(8) The following Article 40a is inserted:				59
"Article 40a Transitional provision				60

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By the way of derogation from Article 18(3a) and as regards applications for funding for the financial year 2019, the Authorising Officer of the European Parliament shall, before deciding on an application on funding, request evidence from a European political party demonstrating that its member parties have continuously published on their websites, for a period beginning one month after the entry into force of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No. XX/2018, the political programme and logo of the European political party as well as information, in relation to each of the member parties of the European political party, on the gender representation among the candidates at the last elections to the European Parliament and among the members of the European Parliament."	AM 13 By the way of derogation from Article 18(3a) and as regards applications for funding for the financial year 2019, the Authorising Officer of the European Parliament shall, before deciding on an application on funding, request evidence from a European political party demonstrating that <i>the majority of its member parties and in any event a minimum of seven of them</i> have continuously published on their websites, for a period beginning one month after the entry into force of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No. XX/2018, the political programme and logo of the European political party as well as information, in relation to each of the member parties of the European political party, on the gender representation among the candidates at the last elections to the European Parliament and among the members of the	By the way of derogation from Article 18(3a) and as regards applications for funding for the financial year 2019, the Authorising Officer of the European Parliament shall, before deciding on an application on funding for the financial year 2019 , request the evidence referred to in Article 18(2a) evidence from a European political party demonstrating that its member parties have continuously published on their websites, for a period beginning on ... [one month after the entry into force of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No. XX/2018]], the political programme and logo of the European political party as well as the information, in relation to each of the member parties of the European political party, on the gender representation among the candidates at the last elections to the European Parliament and		61

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	European Parliament.	among the members of the European Parliament."		
	AM 14 <i>1a. European political parties registered before the [date of application of Regulation (EU) 2018/... (the Amending Regulation)] shall, by 31 December 2018, submit documents proving that they satisfy the conditions laid down in points (b) and (ba) of Article 3(1).</i>			62
	AM 15 <i>1b. The Authority shall remove a European political party and its affiliated European political foundation from the Register where the party in question fails to prove within the period of time set out in paragraph 1a that it meets the conditions laid down in points (b) and (ba) of Article 3(1).</i>			63
Article 2				

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This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.				64
	AM 16 <i>Article 2a</i> <i>However, the provisions of Regulation(EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, applicable prior to the entry into force of this Regulation, shall continue to apply in their original versions to acts done and commitments made in respect of the funding of political parties and political foundations at European level for the budget year 2018.</i>			65

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Done at Brussels,				66
For the European Parliament The President				67
For the Council The President				68