

MEP Daniel Attard
Parlement Européen
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4th September 2024

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman
1, Avenue du Président Robert Schuman
CS 30403
67001, Strasbourg Cedex
France

Subject: Complaint Regarding Nepotism and Conflict of Interest by the President of the European Parliament

Dear Ombudsman O'Reilly

I am writing to lodge a complaint regarding serious allegations of nepotism involving the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, concerning the appointment of Matthew Tabone, her brother-in-law, as her Chef de Cabinet.¹ As a Member of an institution that prides itself on its commitment to the highest ethical standards, I am deeply concerned that this may constitute a significant breach of such standards.

Regrettably, this is not an isolated incident. Metsola planned to appoint Tabone as her Chef de Cabinet in 2022,² and only reversed her decision following intense media scrutiny and the resulting public outcry.³ This followed her decision to back the controversial appointment of her former Chef de Cabinet, Alessandro Chiocchetti, as Secretary-General of the European Parliament.⁴ Just today, *Politico* raised significant questions about the European Parliament's conflict of interest rules, reportedly bypassed by President Metsola.⁵

It is profoundly troubling to observe that President Metsola, and as such the European Parliament, is once again embroiled in a situation that echoes past controversies. Despite the previous scrutiny and the resultant reversal of her decision in 2022, it appears that this was only a temporary measure to appease her critics and she has now pressed on with this appointment, thereby undermining the commitment to ethical governance and transparency in the European Parliament.

¹ [New Head of European Parliament President's Cabinet](#)
[EU Parliament President Roberta Metsola Appoints Brother-in-Law Matthew Tabone Chef de Cabinet](#)

² [To clean up the EU's image after Qatar gate, Metsola chooses her brother-in-law as head of cabinet.](#)

³ [Metsola was forced to reverse her brother-in-law appointment as Chef de Cabinet following great criticism.](#)

⁴ [EU Parliament deflects cronyism cries as it appoints top civil servant](#)

⁵ [The Metsola exception: The European Parliament president and her lobbyist husband](#)

The standards adopted before the election should not have been downgraded or even worse, discarded, after the election. Such recurring practices in complete disregard of established rules and ethical standards not only compromise the credibility of this institution but also erode public trust in politicians.

In such context, one begs the question: Are we subscribing to the highest standards which this house of European Democracy rightfully proclaims and which our citizens demand, or are we going to portray an image of blatant double standards?

The integrity and credibility of the European Parliament are at stake.

I look forward to your response and any steps taken to address this complaint.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Attard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MEP Daniel Attard