

**Letter to the European Commissioner Corina Crețu**  
**in preview of the meeting of the Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš**  
**taking place on 5 and 6 September 2018**

Honourable Commissioner Crețu,

We understand that you and colleagues from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy (including Director-General Marc Lemaître) are due to meet the Czech Prime Minister, Mr. Andrej Babiš, this week in the Czech Republic.

Incumbent Prime Minister is a beneficial owner of private trusts AB I and AB II into which were vested 100% shares of AGROFERT a.s. This company ultimately owns and controls companies belonging to the AGROFERT Group which maintains a dominant economic and media position, while also receiving subsidies from both national and European grants.

Based on a reasonable ground Transparency International - Czech Republic (TI-CZ) has filed a complaint against the Prime Minister due to a potential conflict of interest arising from Prime Ministers' substantial economic interests.

Considering the above mentioned TI-CZ's arguments and your planned negotiations with the Prime Minister concerning the implementation of the EU budget, we urge you to take appropriate measures to uphold the values of transparency regarding the good governance for example taking minutes of the relevant meetings that would be ideally publically disclosed.

During your visit in the Czech Republic, please bear in mind that the negotiations with the Prime Minister could be influenced by a possible conflict of interest that shall be decided by respective authorities both on local and European level.

We fully respect and acknowledge the authority of the Prime Minister to discuss the matters of state. Furthermore we would like to emphasize one of the main pillars of a legal state that is the presumption of innocence. However we have obligation towards civic society to inform you regarding matters related to the sitting Prime Minister.

TI-CZ believes that taking such measures during your visit would be a good practice in the prevention of conflict of interest. It would also be an important signal that publically demonstrates that no man is above the EU law.

Yours faithfully,



David Ondráčka

Director of Transparency International Czech Republic