



The Hague, 9 December 2014

DIRECTOR

Ms Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament

Via email

Subject: Your letter regarding 'Golden Visas'

Dear Ana,

Dear Ms Gomes,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 November 2014.

Europol has no mandate to investigate this case unless its assistance is requested by the relevant authorities. I confirm that no such request has been received to date, although I have taken the opportunity to remind our Portuguese counterparts that we are available to help as necessary.

Within the European law enforcement community it is generally accepted that the nature of investments required to apply for so-called 'golden visa' residence permits are capable of being misused for the purposes of money laundering. Such schemes are also vulnerable to being exploited in order to facilitate the migration of criminal suspects to the EU from other parts of the world. These risks are well known and understood by national authorities, and are mitigated through the implementation of anti-corruption and other counter measures. The significant action taken by the Portuguese authorities in this case through the arrest and detention of multiple suspects is evidence of such measures, although I repeat that Europol has no involvement in the case.

Thank you for bringing the matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Wainwright', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rob Wainwright

Director

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