

Brussels, 27 March 2017

Dear Mr. Dijsselbloem,

Earlier this week we have known the statements you have made to a communication media, which we consider unequivocally discriminatory and offensive against several EU countries as well as offensive and sexist towards women.

Shortly after the publication of your statements, you had the opportunity to rectify at the European Parliament, but you avoided doing so. On the contrary, instead of apologizing, you have said that the problem is that we do not understand the direct style of speech known to Calvinist culture. In our opinion, Calvinist culture has nothing to do with disdain for other people.

This is the reason why we are again asking you - as representatives of European citizens, who have chosen us directly - to reflect and to rectify.

Your statements attack one of the most important values that underpin our European Union: equality. In the last six decades, we have all managed together, Mr Dijsselbloem, to materialize a dream that once seemed unthinkable: that Europeans should be equal in opportunities, rights and obligations.

The EU is not just rules, meetings and political decisions. What supports all of this, what gives meaning to the EU, are our common values, and equality as the most important one.

Therefore, respecting these values should be the first obligation for any European leader, Mr Dijsselbloem. This includes assuming that European citizens, like any human being, are all equally respectable, regardless of our gender and our country of origin or residence.

Attacking a certain group of countries as you have done is attacking each one of the EU countries. Attacking women with humiliating expressions, equating them with things, is to attack all people, men and women. Without distinction.

Many of us have not felt represented by you since we knew your statements. That is why we respectfully ask you again to apologize and to resign from your current position.

Sincerely,