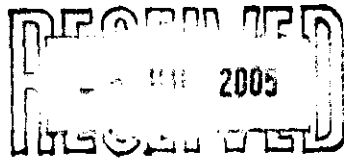


Franco Frattini
Vice-President of the European Commission

28.06.05 07:00 1060



Brussels,

Honorable Mr. Allister,

In your letter of 19 May, you made enquires related to the resolution adopted by the European Parliament some days before and arising from the murder of Robert McCartney.

To answer first your question on the precise budget line which might provide funds for a civil action, Point 7 of the resolution calls for this to be the line for aid for the victims of terrorism. Formally, this is line 18.0504 of the general budget of the European Union for 2005, entitled "pilot project for the victims of terrorist acts".

I am in full agreement with you on the second issue you raise, that there can be no justification for being selective and denying other deserving victims help similar to what may be given in the McCartney case. The terms of the pilot project are set down in the commentary of the 2005 budget signed by the President of Parliament last December. They are concise enough to be quoted here in full:

This appropriation is intended to support the financing of projects which are intended to help the victims of terrorist acts and/or their relatives to recover by means of social or psychological support provided by organisations and/or their networks, as well as projects which are intended to mobilise the public against terrorism in all its forms.

The Commission is implementing this budget line through a call for proposals which is currently open, with a closing date of 15 July 2005. It is advertised under "Funding" for Justice, Freedom and Security on the Commission's section of the Europa website. I am enclosing for your information a hard copy of the full text of the call for proposals. You will see from this that funding is being made available on a non-discriminatory basis to all victims of terrorism.

You will also see, however, that the pilot project is not aimed at individuals and the specific types of action envisaged are not ideally suited to funding a civil action in the circumstances of the McCartney case.

The murder of Robert McCartney and the circumstances surrounding it were horrific, despicable and, first and foremost, indisputably criminal. It is the duty of everyone, especially public representatives, to do all that is necessary to see that the perpetrators face justice. Witnesses should be encouraged to testify and those who would intimidate them must be repudiated and condemned. All of these points are made very strongly in the resolution

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adopted by Parliament, which envisaged the possibility of civil action only in the event that a prosecution could not be brought.

It is my firm view that the McCartney murder, and all other crimes, should be dealt with through the criminal justice system. I believe that the strong and broadly-based backing by parliament and so many others for the McCartney family's search for justice has had a positive effect. In the weeks since parliament adopted its resolution, people have been charged and brought before the courts charged with murder and other serious crimes. Justice may now take its course.

*best regards
James H Allister*

*European Parliament
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