

The President

D 315403 31.08.2016

Professor José Pío Beltrán,
President of the European Plant Science Organisation
4 Rue de l'Industrie
1000 Brussels

Dear Professor Beltrán,

It is with deep concern that I read your letter of 01.07.2016, bringing to my attention the recent serious incident at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and earlier similar attacks and threats to scientists and research facilities in Europe and in the rest of the world. Any such attacks can indeed only be condemned strongly and unconditionally. They put lives at risk and undermine the important work of our scientists.

Let me assure you of my personal support and, I am sure, that of the European Parliament, in this regard. Our scientists need full protection against such unacceptable acts of aggression and need an open, independent and transparent working environment, free from any intimidation.

The European Parliament fully recognises the crucial role of scientific research for our society and the need for independent evidence meeting the highest scientific standards.

I have transmitted your letter to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) who, I am sure, will give this matter their due attention.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Schulz