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Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 26 June 2012 in relation to the European Arrest Warrant case between Hungary and Ireland concerning Mr Francis Ciaran Tobin.

I would first like to express my sincere sympathy to the family of the two young siblings who were killed in such tragic circumstances. I very much appreciate that the subsequent developments in this case will have compounded an already unbearable burden for this family, and I am sure that the Hungarian authorities give them all the support they need.

For the European Commission it is of the utmost importance that the European Arrest Warrant, which is based on a common decision of the Justice Ministers of all Member States, is fully and effectively implemented and applied by all national authorities across the European Union. The European Commission has repeatedly reminded all Member States about the importance of the European Arrest Warrant for the functioning for the European judicial area, notably in our latest implementation report on the European Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2011¹.

The functioning of the European Arrest Warrant requires a high level of mutual trust between the legal systems of the Member States. This means that all Member States and the institutions of the European Union must make continuous and sustained efforts to further develop and strengthen this trust, based on effective and independent national judiciaries.

The Commission will convene a meeting in Brussels in the coming weeks to discuss this matter with the Irish and Hungarian authorities in order to identify the reasons for the apparent malfunctioning of the European Arrest Warrant in the present case. On the basis of this, I would like to discuss the matter in person with you and our Irish colleague at the earliest possible occasion.

Yours sincerely,

*Minister Tibor Navracsics
Deputy Prime Minister
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¹ - COM(2011)175 and SEC(2011)430 of 11.4.2011.