

Dear Minister,

I would like ask for your response to the content of an interview with Vice President Viviane Reding, which appeared in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on 9 March 2013. In my opinion the interview implies certain assumptions about not only the justice system of Hungary, but also about that of Ireland.

In Commissioner Reding's interview she seeks to make a direct link between the decision by Irish courts to effectively prevent the extradition to Hungary of Francis Ciarán Tobin and an allegedly questionable level of independence in the Hungarian judicial system. The implication is that the latter was a factor in the Irish courts' decision to reject the extradition warrant. Putting aside for a moment the details of Mr. Tobin's case, I would like to ask you – as Ireland's Minister for Justice and Equality – whether you share Mme. Reding's views on the judgement of the case, and whether you agree with the assertion that Irish courts can at any time be said to base their verdicts on political considerations.

Given that Mme. Reding's views on this matter are in the public domain – and therefore known not only by the Irish judges in question, but also by other Irish and Hungarian citizens – perhaps we can agree that in the current circumstances our silence on the matter might be interpreted as tacit agreement. For precisely this reason I have categorically rejected the basis for any such assumption in an open letter addressed to Commissioner Reding, and for this reason also I look forward to your earliest possible response to the above questions.

In the meantime, allow me to congratulate you on the success of the Irish Presidency so far, and to wish you every success in the next meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council in June – which we expect to be an extremely interesting one for all of us.

Yours sincerely,

Tibor Navracsics