

**From:** KALNIETE Sandra  
**Sent:** 03 June 2016 13:08  
**To:** SCHULZ Martin, President; TAJANI Antonio; McGUINNESS Mairead; WIELAND Rainer; VALCÁRCEL SISO Ramón Luis; GÁLL-PELCZ Ildikó; VĂLEAN Adina Ioana; GUILLAUME Sylvie; CRETU Corina; SASSOLI David-Maria; JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Anneli; LAMBSDORFF Alexander Graf; LUNACEK Ulrike; PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios; CZARNECKI Ryszard  
**Cc:** GRIGULE Iveta; KARIŅŠ Krišjānis; ZILE Roberts; PABRIKS Artis; VAIDERE Inese; KALNIETE Sandra  
**Subject:** Request to consider European Citizens' prize nomination

Dear Mr President,  
Dear Members of the Bureau,

We, Members of European Parliament coming from three political groups, and representing 68% of the citizens who voted in the 2014 elections, would like to express our regret about the recommendation of the Committee of the European Citizen's Prize to not award prize to the single candidate from Latvia - the philanthropist and civic activist Mr Vilis Vitols.

We appeal this decision and ask you to reconsider it. We reaffirm our support to the candidate whom we all supported and who was recommended for the Prize by the National Jury.

Vilis Vitols has supported education of disadvantaged Latvian youth in European universities. Over the last 14 years his foundation awarded 10 million euros to more than 2000 students. By his actions, he has consistently been supporting the fundamental right to education and promoting European values, particularly respect for human dignity, equality and solidarity.

We are strongly convinced that Mr Vitols meets the criteria for receiving the Citizen's Prize.

We are concerned that a decision to not award a prize to Mr Vitols, a leading figure in the civic community of Latvia with no political affiliation, will diminish the standing of the European Parliament in Latvia.

We hope that this matter can be discussed at the Bureau before a final decision is taken as we believe that Mr Vitols deserves this prize.

Sincerely,

Iveta Grigule, ALDE, Member of National Jury  
Krišjānis Kariņš, EPP, Member of National Jury  
Roberts Zīle, ECR, Member of National Jury  
Sandra Kalniete, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group  
Artis Pabriks, EPP  
Inese Vaidere, EPP