

From: Mr. François Alfonsi  
President of the European Free Alliance –EFA–  
European Political Party.

Attn. Mr. SIPILÄ  
Prime Minister of Finland.  
Snellmaninkatu 1 A, Helsinki PO Box 23  
FI-00023 Government, Finland

Brussels, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

**Concerning: The legitimate representation of the Åland Islands in the European Parliament.**

Dear Mr. SIPILÄ  
Prime minister of Finland,

Through this letter I want to get your attention to a very relevant issue regarding the Constitutional rights of the Åland Islands to have representation at the European level, through a seat at the European Parliament.

In its last meeting, held on 13 April in Landshut, Bavaria, the General Assembly of the European Free Alliance – EFA- approved, by unanimity, a declaration on this particular matter.

When the Lisbon Treaty was about to be ratified by Finland and the Åland Islands, a political agreement was reached on the 12th of September 2008 between the Åland and the Finnish government, followed by an official decision by the Finnish Government the 23rd of April 2009. This agreement stated the following:

"The autonomous Åland Islands must be compensated for the legislative powers which have been transferred to the competence of the EU as a consequence of entering the union. The Finnish government will: -contribute to develop the possibilities for the Åland Islands to influence the process in the European Parliament;  
will when future negotiations in the EU regarding distribution of seats in the European Parliament will be held, keep this in account;  
-furthermore, will keep referring to the special international and autonomous status of the Åland Islands."

The decision, which is still valid, has furthermore been confirmed by several following Finnish governments, for instance in an official letter to the Åland Government the 26th of March 2013.

On top of this, a new situation arises from the withdrawal of the United Kingdom [UK] from the European Union [EU], Brexit, by which the seats that the UK held at the European Parliament will be redistributed among the remaining 27 Member states of the EU. It seems that, from this redistribution of seats, Finland will get an extra seat at the European parliament and thereby increases its number of seats from 13 to 14.

Taking these points into account, the European Free Alliance hereby calls the Finish government to respect and fulfil the above mentioned decision of 23th April 2009, and to take into account the new redistribution of seats at the European Parliament, so that Finland eventually complies with its constitutional obligations, the agreements reached, and the respect due to the statute of Autonomy of the Åland Islands and its people.

I would be very glad to be able to talk about this issue in a meeting at your best convenience. Please let me know if such a meeting would be possible.

Hoping to soon reach a positive outcome to this unfair situation for the Åland Islands and its citizens,

Sincerely yours,



François Alfonsi.  
President of EFA.