

Mdm. Liliane Maury Pasquer
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
STRASBOURG

4. December 2019

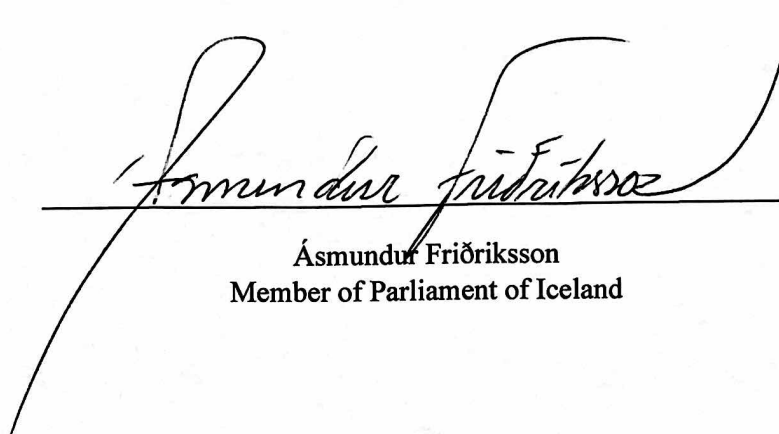
Dear Mdm. President.

I write you this letter because I am compelled to draw your attention to the fact that Þórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, the vice-chairperson of the Icelandic delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in the Parliamentary Assembly, has formally been found to have violated the Code of Conduct for Members of the Althingi, Icelandic parliament. Ms. Ævarsdóttir is the first Member of parliament in Iceland to be found in violation of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Althingi.

On June 26th of this year the Speakers' Committee of Althingi approved the conclusion of the Ethics Committee of Althingi, which ruled that Ms. Ævarsdóttir had violated the Code of Conduct for Members of the Althingi. Ms. Ævarsdóttir was found not to have carried out her duties responsibly with integrity and honesty as well as having brought the Althingi into disrepute and tarnished its image.

The reason I am compelled to alert you to this is that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has greatly encouraged its member states to adopt a code of conduct for its parliament members and emphasized that the code of conduct should contain measures in the event of non-compliance. The Parliamentary Assembly has also adopted its own Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly which contains measures in case of non-compliance. It should therefore in my opinion be considered if Ms. Ævarsdóttir's violation should lead to measures, for example temporary deprivations of rights in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Also in light of the fact that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has previously demanded action regarding how the member states compose their delegations, for example on the account of gender equality, it should accordingly merit action from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe when a delegate has formally been found to have violated a code of conduct.



Ásmundur Friðriksson
Member of Parliament of Iceland