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STRASBOURG, le 14 janvier 2026

Subject: Request for Right of Reply and Correction – Article dated 28 June 2021 entitled "MEPs blacklisted for fake election-monitoring trips"

Dear Ms. Elena Sánchez Nicolás, Editor-in-Chief,

I am Virginie Joron, Member of the European Parliament and candidate in the STRASBOURG municipal elections in 2026.

Pursuant to your editorial policy adhering to the Munich Declaration of the Duties and Rights of Journalists, which commits to promptly correcting factual errors and welcoming additional informations or opinions, as well as the Belgian law of 23 June 1961 on the right of reply, I request the publication of the following response to the inaccurate information in your article of 28 June 2021, entitled "MEPs blacklisted for fake election-monitoring trips".

This article states that I was placed on a "black list" by the European Parliament in 2021 for participating in "fake election-observation trips" in Crimea or in Kazakhstan, resulting in a ban on official observation missions.

This information is erroneous.

It has been **formally denied by Ms. Roberta METSOLA, President of the European Parliament, in an official letter dated 3 December 2025.**

The letter explicitly states that "**the European Parliament has never established a black list of its members**" and that Ms. Joron "**is in no way prevented from participating in election observation delegations organized by the European Parliament**".

Therefore, I kindly ask you **to publish the following response** in the same section and with similar prominence as the original article, within the shortest possible time :

"Virginie Joron, Member of the European Parliament and candidate in the Strasbourg municipal elections, wishes to rectify the erroneous information published in the article of 28 June 2021. Contrary to what is stated, I have never been placed on a "black list" by the European Parliament, nor banned from election observation missions on behalf of this institution. The President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, officially confirmed this in a letter dated 3 December 2025 : "The European Parliament has never established a black list of its members" and "you are in no way prevented from participating in election observation delegations". These allegations, based on unverified sources, harm my reputation and my electoral campaign. I remain fully committed to Strasbourg and Europe."

This text is concise and factual.

In the event of non-publication, I reserve the right to pursue legal action for rectification and damages under Belgian law.

Please confirm receipt of this request and inform me of the publication date.

Thank you for your attention.

Best regards,

Virginie JORON