



17 December 2025, Strasbourg

To: Ms Roberta Metsola - President of the European Parliament

Subject: Urgent Call to Terminate Use of CWT for MEP and Parliament Travel Bookings

Dear President Metsola,

We are writing to express our grave concerns about the European Parliament's continued use of **Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT)** for booking official travel, following its recent acquisition by **American Express Global Business Travel**, a U.S.-based company. This acquisition subjects CWT—and by extension, the European Parliament, and its Members—to **U.S. sanctions law**, including the risk of arbitrary and extra-territorial enforcement actions by American authorities.

The European Union must not allow its sovereignty, nor the independence of its elected representatives, to be compromised by the legal and political reach of a third country. The use of CWT for our travel arrangements exposes MEPs and Parliament staff to the **real and present danger of U.S. sanctions**, which have already been weaponized. We need only look to recent cases where **European individuals have been threatened or sanctioned by the U.S.**, resulting in their exclusion from digital services, financial systems, and even travel. Such measures are not merely theoretical; they are a **direct threat to the operational independence and dignity of our institution**.

CWT has access to the most **sensitive information about members** and Parliamentary staff, including passport details, credit card data, travel arrangements and their exact whereabouts at any given moment. At a time when the US President and his administration are plotting regime change in member states, access to this information could be particularly dangerous. Using a U.S.-controlled travel agency puts every MEP at risk and **undermines our ability to fulfil our democratic mandate without fear of external coercion**.

The European Parliament must act decisively to **protect its autonomy and the integrity of its Members**. We urge you to **immediately terminate the contract with CWT** and transition to a **fully European-owned and operated travel agency**. This step is not only a matter of principle but a **necessary safeguard** against the overreach of foreign jurisdictions into the affairs of our Union.

The EU must lead by example in defending its strategic autonomy. By relying on a European alternative, we send a strong signal that the Parliament will not be subject to the legal or political pressures of non-EU actors. Our travel arrangements should reflect our commitment to **European sovereignty, data protection, and the unconditional freedom of movement for our elected representatives**.

We call on you to:

1. **Suspend all use of CWT** for MEP and Parliament travel with immediate effect.
2. **Initiate a transparent and competitive process** to select a European travel provider that operates under EU law and is shielded from extra-territorial sanctions.
3. **Publicly affirm the Parliament's commitment** to protecting its Members from undue foreign influence, including through the adoption of a resolution on this matter.

The stakes could not be higher. Our credibility as an independent legislative body depends on our ability to **act without the shadow of foreign legal threats**. We trust you will treat this matter with the urgency it demands and look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely,

Member of the European Parliament

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