

20.11.2020

A9-0226/44

**Amendment 44**

**Clare Daly**

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Report**

**A9-0226/2020**

**Clare Daly**

Situation of Fundamental Rights in the European Union – Annual Report for the years 2018-2019

(2019/2199(INI))

**Motion for a resolution**

**Recital W**

*Motion for a resolution*

W. whereas *whistle-blowers play an essential role in any open and transparent democracy; whereas whistle-blowers are instrumental in promoting transparency, democracy and the rule of law, by reporting unlawful or improper conduct that undermine the public interest such as acts of corruption, criminal offences or conflicts of interest, which represent threats against citizens' rights and freedoms;*

*Amendment*

W. whereas *whistleblowing is a fundamental aspect of freedom of expression and plays an essential role in detecting and reporting wrongdoing, and in strengthening democratic accountability and transparency; whereas whistleblowing represents a key source of information in the fight against organised crime, and in investigating, identifying and publicising cases of corruption within the public and private sectors; whereas journalists and other media actors in the EU face multiple attacks, threats and pressures from state and non-state actors; whereas the detention and criminal prosecution of Julian Assange sets a dangerous precedent for journalists as affirmed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe<sup>1a</sup>; whereas the adequate protection of whistle-blowers at EU, national and international level, as well as the acknowledgement of the important role played by whistle-blowers in society, are preconditions for ensuring the effectiveness of such a role;*

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<sup>1a</sup> *Resolution 2317 (2020) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on threats to media freedom and journalists' security in Europe.*