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## **Backroom deals & rushed process wholly inadequate - quote from Heidi Hautala MEP**

### **Quote from Heidi Hautala MEP on European Parliament Secretary General appointment**

On the outcome of tonight's decision to appoint Mr Chiocchetti as new Secretary General of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA MEP and Vice President of the European Parliament, **Heidi Hautala**, comments:

*"The sordid saga to install Mr Chiocchetti as the new Secretary-General of the European Parliament is bound to damage the Parliament's reputation in the eyes of European citizens and representatives of other EU institutions. It bears a striking resemblance to the Selmayr case that the European Parliament and Ombudsman Emily O'Reilly both heavily criticised at the time.*

*"The head of the Parliament's administration, with a staff of over 8 000 and a budget of nearly two billion euros, was selected from a pool of four candidates after a 10 minute presentation of each candidate – with only the President asking questions. This is wholly inadequate and does not even begin to meet the requirements for recruitments to senior management positions at the Parliament. It is a slap in the face of the other three candidates who all hold Director-General level positions at the Parliament.*

*"It is clear that President Metsola, with the support of a majority in the European Parliament's Bureau, was keen to rush through the appointment of Mr Chiocchetti before the Italian elections to fulfil a political deal. The deal also led to the establishment of a new Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships and the appointment of the Left's Sanna Lepola to lead the new DG.*

*"Backroom deals involving the highest positions at the Parliament shows that the Parliament has clearly not learned from its own 2018 resolution calling for appointments to high-level posts such as that of Secretary-General to be made independently of other appointments to avoid any suspicion of non-transparent package deals.*

*"It is now incumbent on the newly appointed Secretary-General to start a reform of the rules and procedures guiding recruitments at the European Parliament to ensure that future recruitments to high-level posts are done through an open, competitive and transparent process."*

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## **Responsible MEPs**



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