

## Juncker has to show his colours in the fight on corrupt...

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*This letter was in the Guardian this morning, and I warmly endorse its message:*

As investigative journalists, we believe in the critical role of the media in holding institutions to account, exposing corruption, and challenging threats to the social contract between states and citizens which are so critical to democracy.

The “Lux Leaks” scandal ([Revealed: tax deals saving firms billions](#), 6 November) is a recent example of the kind of corrosive deals that big companies are able to extract from countries when they think no one will see. Sweetheart deals, facilitated by accountants and law firms, are depriving European states and countries around the world of billions of euros at a time when austerity is undermining the ability of governments to provide basic public services.

Investigative journalists seeking to challenge corruption rely on the courage of whistleblowers. But equally, we need access to timely information on how companies and trusts are used to funnel corrupt money through the European financial system. The [EU anti-money-laundering directive](#) offers an opportunity to ensure that information on the ownership of companies and trusts is available to the public, allowing journalists, NGOs and indeed anyone to monitor the links between suspected criminals and their use of these currently secretive legal structures.

On International Anti-Corruption Day, we urge Jean-Claude Juncker to ensure the EU takes this critical step in the fight against corruption, which undermines the rights of people in Europe and around the world and threatens the credibility and integrity of the European market.

**Austin Agbenseurami** Director, political desk, AIT Parliamentary, Abuja, Nigeria  
François Arman, Media editor, France  
**Francesca Boddy** Editor-in-Chief, Atlatlzo, Hungary  
**Samuel Bowles** Senior financial reporter, The Guardian  
**Alannah Books** Reporter, Private Eye magazine, UK  
**Sterling Brundage** M&G Centre for Investigative Journalism  
**(amaBhungane)**, South Africa  
**Umar Cheema** Special Investigative correspondent, the News, Islamabad and founder, Center for Investigative Reporting, Pakistan  
**Osama Dahab** Anti-corruption advocate and investigative journalist, Egypt  
**Afrah Fahim** Kenyan Particularist Journalists Network, Kenya  
**Francis Kokutse** West Africa correspondent for Indo Asian News Service,

**columnist for the Finder and Weekend Sun, Ghana**  
**Napoli Powell Editor-in-Chief, Daily Times, UK**  
**Parviz Kavvayi Editor-in-Chief, Hasht-e-Subh daily newspaper, Afghanistan**  
**Mick Matheson Head of the Media and Journalism Programme, UK**  
**Emmanuel Mayah, Reporters 360, Nigeria**  
**Jeff Mwanga Business editor, The Observer, Uganda**  
**Traig McKumeri MoG Centre for Investigative Journalism, South Africa**  
**Moses Mchirira Investigative reporter for Standard Media in Nairobi, Kenya**  
**Nadine Mabroushi Investigative journalist, Egypt/UK**  
**Patrick Mavrogianni Investigative journalist, Greece**  
**Eric Mwamba Wealth Magazine, former president of the Forum for African  
Investigative Reporters, DRC**  
**Idege Odemwingie Senior correspondent, Leadership newspaper, Abuja, Nigeria**  
**Rachel Oldroyd Editor, Bureau of Investigative Journalism, UK**  
**Sandeep Parikh Investigative reporter, India**  
**Philipus Parera Managing editor for investigation desk, Tempo Magazine, Indonesia**  
**Peter Pashuk Radio Liberty and Anti-Corruption Action Centre, Ukraine**  
**Peter Papalik Financial journalist, Switzerland/India**  
**Juliane Schmid Senior presenter, Al-Jazeera/Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism**  
**Maria Sabagh Executive editor, Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism**  
**Natalia Sakhnko-Nagy Investigative reporter, Atlatszo.hu, Hungary**  
**Khadija Sharife Coordinator, African Network of Centers for Investigative  
Reporting, South Africa**  
**Drew Sullivan Editor, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Sarajevo/Bucharest/Tbilisi/Washington**  
**Manu Mulu Business reporter, Vietnam**  
**Patricia Mwinyi Journalist, UK**  
**Wong Joon Ian Journalist, UK**