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زبانهای اروپایی

By Fernando Luengo

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Qatar, Europe and corruption



Sources: The tide [Image: Twitter/Ministry of Labour - State of Qatar via REUTERS - Ali bin Samikh Al Marri, Qatar's labour minister, speaks to Greek Eva Kaili, vice president of the European Parliament, during a meeting in Qatar, October 31, 2022]

"It is well known that large corporations have thousands of pressure groups whose objective is to influence and condition the agenda of the community institutions," writes Fernando Luengo.

It already has a name: *Qatargate*: The monumental bribery **and shenanigans** scandal of All kinds to legitimize the World Cup held in the Qatari emirate.

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A country that continuously and brutally tramples **on human rights** more Basic; those of workers, women, LGTBI people... A World Cup that it should not have been held in Qatar, but, as almost always happens, **the Business is business**. A lot of money involved: advertising, television rights, international transport, hospitality, construction. And also a formidable **machinery of distraction and propaganda** for the people, with the aim that, at least For a few weeks, be captivated by the *football homeland*.

But the Question has even more crumb. The **Vice-President of the European Parliament, Eva Kaili**, has received significant sums of money, for, from its privileged institutional position, to wash the image of the despotic regime of Qatar and I pass that of countries and companies that, renouncing democratic principles More basic, they have participated in the World Cup.

For more inri, the protagonist of the scandal is socialist!, member of the **Movement Panhellenic Socialist (PASOK)**. I'm not surprised, we already know about What the leaders of this party have been capable of, when they lent everything its support for the harsh **EU austerity measures** that contributed to the impoverishment of the majority of the Greek population, and to The harassment and demolition policies that ruined the government progressive **Syriza**.

The damage is It makes and supports the idea - which, of course, would be unfair to generalise - that the Politicians use institutions for their own benefit, always that they can, to **openly corrupt practices**. Everything seems to indicate, in any case, that we are facing a plot and that Eva Kaili It has not acted as a loose verse. We'll see how far the investigation goes. and the consequences that are obtained from it. This will be the test of the **Parliament's Democratic Health Cotton European and Community justice**.

But do we We will remain in this episode of open corruption, of blatant use of the institutional charges to make cash? I am afraid that, unfortunately, this is the case. Be. But what happened is an opportunity (as was the pandemic for addressing the climate crisis). To take advantage of it, you have to look up more beyond the (rotten) trees.

It's plenty of It is known that large corporations have thousands of **groups of pressure** (*lobbies*, in English), very well-funded, which aims **to influence and condition**

the the Community institutions to assert the interests of the corporations that represent (and pay for them). They have access to the European Union officials in the various fields, so that They continuously organize meetings under truly opaque conditions.

How little is He talks about these lobbies, which in fact mark the Community agenda. on key issues. Some examples: **negotiation with accused dyes Neoliberal treaties of free trade**, the permissive regulation of the chemical industry, the privileged treatment accorded to large energy companies and pharmaceutical companies and banking regulation tailored to the big banks.

Or, by mention something more obvious, the scandalous operation of revolving doors, that operate continuously, in both directions: from private groups to Community institutions, and vice versa. Thus, we find that highlights Community leaders have gone on to hold very important positions in the large corporations or already had them. This has been the case, to name a few. few examples, by **Mario Dragui** (president of the European Central Bank), **José Manuel Durao Barroso y Romano Prody** (former Presidents of the European Commission).

Not same, obviously. It is one thing to use institutions to enrich themselves in a mafia way, and another the capture that the groups make Economic policies of Community policies, taking advantage of access privileged to those responsible for them. But in both cases we are referring to **transparency, control democratic, the defense of the interests of citizens and decency.**

If I don't know Act with determination (I'm not very optimistic about it) we can go on talking until we get tired of the European project, its health and strength; But in practice, this project will have no other hallmark than **to serve. the interests of economic and political elites.**

Source: <https://www.lamarea.com/2022/12/16/qatar-europa-y-la-corrupcion/>

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