

Beat: Politics

## ECOLGY MINISTER DE RUGY RESIGNS AFTER 6 DAY OF TURMOIL OVER LUXURY LOBSTER DINNER

### AND SUCCESSIVE REVELATIONS OF MEDIAPART

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**USPA NEWS** - François de Rugy resigns after six days of turmoil over luxury lobster dinner parties in informal fashion, hosted in his official residence when he was the President of French National Assembly, at Hotel Lassay (Residency of French Parliament's President). François de Rugy was a prominent French Environment (Number two of Government) minister for a week under pressure after a report published by MEDIAPART investigative Journal, claimed he had hosted luxury dinners while parliament speaker with allegedly little connection to his position. Socialist politician Delphine Batho, a former environment minister, called on de Rugy to resign, over reports of lavish dinner parties paid for by the French State.

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER FRANÇOIS DE RUGY COULD NOT BEAR THE PRESSURE & SUCCESSIVE REVELATIONS OF MEDIAPART OVER LUXURY DINNERS ETC.

The French environment minister François de Rugy, an outspoken campaigner for greater transparency in public office, is engulfed this week by Mediapart's revelations of how he and his wife Severine, regularly organised grand dinner parties (About a dozen) with fine wines and food provided for by the public purse. This happened while also ordering the redecoration of their ministerial grace and favour apartment at a cost of more than €60,000 also paid for by public funds. He is accused to have spent taxpayers money on lavish luxury dinners and home renovation, yet de Rugy does not deny the dinner, refuses to apologize and says he shall pay back every cent of this money spent if only the investigation would confirm these allegations. His chief of staff has now been forced to resign after Mediapart also revealed this week how for 12 years she held on to an apartment allocated to her on subsidised rent by the Paris social housing department when she was in fact posted elsewhere in the country.

MINISTER FRANÇOIS DE RUGY RESIGNS AFTER THE CLAIM OF TAXPAYERS MONEY ON LAVISH DINNERS & HOUSE RENOVATION & USING HIS FEES

François de Rugy submitted his resignation on Tuesday at 2h40pm, following the numerous revelations of MEDIAPART publishing the allegations on lobster dinners and expensive fine wines. His decision to resign comes after new MEDIAPART publications about his low-rent apartment for low-income people (Public Housing) and the non-payment of the Minister. The number 2 of the government was indeed expected at the National Assembly, as every Tuesday, but his place will remain empty because he is no longer Minister of Ecological Transition. This "surprise" has caused discomfort in the majority and the government. President Macron and his Prime Minister Édouard Philippe, must quickly find a new candidate to succeed the position of Minister of the Environment and energy transition, because the climatic urgency can not wait any more, in these times of heat wave that spread in all Europe.

MEDIAPART reported allegedly that « The minister of ecological transition resigned on Tuesday from the government. Mediapart was preparing to publish this new survey on the use of his professional expenses as a Member of Parliament. He (François de Rugy) took the lead and left the government. François de Rugy submitted his resignation from the government at 2:40 pm on Tuesday, facing new questions from Mediapart. On Monday evening, we asked him questions, particularly about how he used his mandate fees to pay his dues as an elected member of his Europe Ecology-Greens (EELV) party.

Tuesday, July 16, 2019, in the morning, François de Rugy presents his resignation to the Prime Minister, Édouard Philippe, who accepted it. The Minister of Ecological Transition considers himself the victim of a "media lynching" and files a complaint of defamation against Mediapart. "Since the beginning of last week, Mediapart attacks me on the basis of stolen photos, gossip, approximations, elements outside my office, writes François de Rugy on the social network Facebook.

The attacks and the media lynching that my family is undergoing today lead me to take the necessary step backwards - which everyone will understand. (...) I am too attached to the ecology to which I devoted all my militant commitment, to accept that our ecological action is weakened by incessant personal questions. The Minister of Ecological Transition is proud of "the actions undertaken with the support of the parliamentary majority to implement important transformations for climate, energy, water, the fight against waste and biodiversity". Mediapart was preparing to publish a new survey on the use of his business expenses as a Member of Parliament. Indeed, Monday night, the journalists of Mediapart had sent him questions, "including how he used his office fees to pay

his dues to elected to his party EELV, they said in an article.

**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-15746/ecolgy-mnister-de-rugy-resigns-after-6-day-of-turmoil-over-luxury-lobster-dinner.html>

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