Question for written answer E-001367/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
Petra Steger (Patriots)

Subject: Impunity for X in exchange for quiet censorship

On 12 July 2024, the European Commission informed X about the preliminary results of its investigation into possible infringements of the Digital Services Act (DSA), threatening the company with fines.[1] Elon Musk, the majority shareholder and Chairman of X Corp., responded by alleging that the Commission had offered an illegal secret deal to the company. He said that those who were prepared to quietly censor speech without telling anyone would not be punished and that, unlike other platforms, X had not accepted that deal.[2]

1. Who conducted the discussions with representatives of the company X Corp. on behalf of the Commission during the ongoing investigation into infringements of the DSA and when did these discussions take place and what specifically was discussed?

2. What specific demands, proposals or offers did the Commission make in this context and in particular, was 'quiet censorship' – e.g. by means of deleting, blocking or suppressing certain content or accounts – discussed?

3. With which platforms was a 'deal', as described by Elon Musk, reached and what did this deal entail?

Submitted: 16.7.2024

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_24_3761
[2] https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1811783320839008381