

**Question for written answer E-001379/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Christine Anderson (ESN)

Subject: Secret service surveillance of the AfD during the election campaign: democratic principles at risk?

In the light of the ongoing legal proceedings against the Saxony-Anhalt branch of the AfD and the associated measures taken by the secret services¹ against the number one opposition party in the opinion polls, during a state election campaign no less, I have the following questions:

1. What view does the European Commission take of the use of secret service resources to monitor an opposition party that is currently leading in the opinion polls? This is fundamentally a matter of whether such measures are compatible with democratic principles and the rights of the opposition, in particular with regard to Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, which stresses the EU's values and democracy.
2. The AfD has not yet been given access to the 134-page report, which makes a well-founded judicial review considerably more difficult. How does the Commission view this course of action in view of the rights to an effective remedy and a fair trial enshrined in Article 47 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights?
3. How can the Commission ensure that such classifications and the associated intelligence surveillance comply with the rule of law and do not violate fundamental democratic rights? This includes, in particular, the protection of freedom of expression and political participation, as enshrined in Article 11 and Article 12 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Supporters²

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¹ <https://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/inland/einstufung-der-afd-sachsen-als-gesichert-rechtsextrem-rechtens-19859377.html>

² This question is supported by Members other than the author: Siegbert Frank Droese (ESN), Arno Bausemer (ESN)