

**Question for written answer E-003062/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Mariusz Kamiński (ECR)

Subject: Defence of Russian spy by the Commission, credibility of reports on the rule of law and procedural violations

The arrest of the spy Pablo González, AKA Pavel Rubtsov, was a major success for the Polish secret services – Rubtsov was an agent of the Russian military intelligence agency GRU, operating under cover as a journalist. This success has been publicly acknowledged by people such as Sir Richard Moore, head of MI6, the secret intelligence service in the UK. At the Aspen Security Forum in July 2022, Moore described Rubtsov as an ‘illegal’¹.

He posed a serious risk to the security of Poland and our allies and supports Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, and he was greeted at a Moscow airport by Putin as part of a recent prisoner swap². Rubtsov also had his supporters in the Commission, which cited his arrest as an example of a threat to press freedom. For five months the Commission has been ignoring procedure and has avoided answering my written question (E-001534/2024³) relating to the compromising defence of the Russian spy in the Commission’s 2023 rule of law report.

This matter adds to the controversy surrounding the previous Commission. I firmly believe that the credibility of the new Commission’s reports and its relations with the Member States requires a reply to the following key questions:

1. Who in the Commission lobbied for the defence of this Russian agent, leading to his name being included in the rule of law report?
2. I once again ask: will the Commission withdraw the document containing the disgraceful support for Rubtsov?
3. Why has the Commission failed to follow procedure by delaying its answer to my question E-001534/2024?

Submitted: 19.12.2024

¹ <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2024-08-14/poland-indicts-espionage-russia-swap-14864028.html>

² <https://www.voanews.com/a/putin-s-welcome-ends-speculation-around-true-identity-of-pablo-gonzalez/7730055.html>

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-001534_EN.html