Question for written answer E-000357/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Commission funding to environmental NGOs to condition the views of Members of the European Parliament

According to Dutch press sources, the previous Commission – under the influence of former Vice-President Frans Timmermans – spent at least EUR 700 000 on funding NGOs promoting green policies, with the explicit aim of lobbying MEPs and influencing their freedom of expression.

On 22 January 2025, Commissioner Serafin declared that ‘it was inappropriate for some services in the Commission to enter into agreements that oblige NGOs to lobby members of the European Parliament’, acknowledging a serious breach of fairness, transparency and loyal cooperation.

An additional EUR 15 million may have been allocated by other agencies for the same purpose.

We therefore ask the Commission:

1. Will it disclose a complete list of the NGOs involved, the funds earmarked for lobbying, related expense reports, beneficiaries, and a complete list of officials overseeing these activities?

2. Will it provide complete lists of the legislative measures targeted, the MEPs approached or those who were earmarked to be approached, the intended outcomes of the lobbying, and what actions the Commission plans to take – including referrals to the European Anti-Fraud Office or the European Public Prosecutor’s Office – to investigate and sanction any irregularities in the work of the Commission, the EU agencies or their officials?

3. Is it aware of similar lobbying initiatives, particularly in relation to environmental, agricultural or migration policies?

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