Question for written answer E-001060/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Concerns about the Commission's neutrality in elections, given past cases of perceived interference amid Commissioner Virkkunen's recent statement

Concerns have arisen over Commissioner Virkkunen's neutrality in the round table talks to discuss media freedom ahead of the 2025 Polish presidential elections. This is due to the Commissioner's previous political support for Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, as evidenced by her tweets supporting Mr Trzaskowski in his election campaign in 2020. This previous political partisanship demonstrates that the meeting may be seen as political interference from the Commission in the upcoming election, favouring the candidate from the Warsaw Mayor's party.

Statements and actions by Commission members have previously been seen as attempts to influence elections in EU states. Examples include comments before elections in Italy and post-election pressure on Romania regarding judicial matters. These instances raise concerns that the Commission's involvement in Poland's pre-election talks could be viewed as political interference rather than a neutral effort to uphold democratic standards.

Therefore, we ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Does the Commission have specific guidelines to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure neutrality in Commissioners' work?

2. Will the Commission commit to full transparency by publishing transcripts of the meetings between Commissioner Virkkunen and Mayor Trzaskowski to refute any possible claims of interference in the presidential election?

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