

**Question for written answer E-001753/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Barbara Bonte (PfE)

Subject: The secret German report on the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic

Investigative journalists recently revealed the existence of ‘Operation Saaremaa’, a secret German investigation from 2020 that reportedly demonstrates that COVID-19 originated in a Chinese laboratory and not in a market in Wuhan. The report on the investigation was not released and shared with US and German authorities until 2024. The CIA stated in January 2025 that a ‘lab leak’ is the most likely cause.

1. Is the Commission aware of this German report or similar reports from EU Member States?
2. Does the Commission agree with the intelligence services’ assessment and regard a laboratory leak as the most likely cause of the pandemic?
3. If the Commission does not agree with that assessment, on what scientific or factual basis does it maintain the theory that the virus originated in a market in Wuhan?

Submitted: 30.4.2025