

**Question for written answer E-003222/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Friedrich Pürner (NI)

Subject: Deletion of text messages relating to vaccine negotiations ('Pfizergate') – amending the Commission's internal guidelines on keeping records of digital communications

According to the press¹², important text messages exchanged between the Commission President and Pfizer's CEO about the COVID-19 vaccine negotiations were deleted or never recorded. Notably, this concerns messages containing the details of contract negotiations exchanged through personal SMS channels, claims *The New York Times*.

1. Will the Commission amend its internal guidelines on keeping records of digital communications (e.g. SMS and messenger services) to prevent such events happening again? If so, by when and in what way?
2. Going forward, how will it ensure that communication via informal channels leading to political decisions is subject to democratic scrutiny and documented? How does it think this case has affected public trust in transparent decision-making processes in the EU institutions?

Submitted: 11.8.2025

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/01/world/europe/eu-texts-covid-new-york-times.html>

² <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/eu-kommissionschefin-ursula-von-der-leyen-und-pfizergate-kurznachrichten-wurden-wohl-geloescht-a-2416eb67-db45-4385-a4e5-cb5b409d5a51>