

Question for written answer E-004092/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Piotr Müller (ECR)

Subject: No press conference by Competition Commissioner Teresa Ribera on the fine imposed on Google and conflicting messages from the Commission

The Commission's decision to impose a fine of nearly EUR 3 billion on Google is one of the most serious competition cases in recent years.

This makes it all the more surprising that, contrary to previous practice, there was no press conference with Competition Commissioner Teresa Ribera to allow the public and journalists to ask questions.

Instead, the Commission limited itself to a press release and a closed briefing by officials.

An even more serious problem concerns credibility: Commissioner Teresa Ribera publicly admitted that her absence from the conference was a conscious decision, while the Commission had previously given a completely different explanation. This lack of consistency and transparency in communication is undermining the institution's credibility.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission explain Commissioner Ribera's decision to avoid direct contact with the media on such a crucial issue?
2. Does the Commission not consider that, on issues of fundamental importance to citizens and the internal market, a press conference with a question and answer session should be the norm, particularly given the international context of this case?
3. How does the Commission intend to clarify and remedy a situation in which conflicting statements – first by the spokesperson, then by Commissioner Ribera – misled the public, undermining confidence in the Commission's integrity and transparency?

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