

Question for written answer E-004094/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Fabrice Leggeri (Pfe)

Subject: Commission's extravagant spending in times of crisis

According to press reports¹, the Commission launched a call for tender with a value of EUR 500 000 for internal medal ceremonies for its own officials. The budget covers the rental of reception rooms for 1 500 guests, lavish buffets, a bar service, hundreds of champagne bottles and a number of other festive frills.

This splurge comes at a time of deep economic and social crisis. Millions of citizens across Europe are caught in a chokehold by inflation, the energy prices, the declining purchasing power and the tight fiscal policies imposed on the Member States. This blatant contrast between the comfortable lifestyle of the senior civil service in Brussels and the daily reality of Europeans illustrates a drift: the European elite are living in a bubble, disconnected from the people they claim to represent.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission explain the legal and budgetary basis for using such sums for internal parties?
2. Can it give the total estimated cost of these ceremonies for the entire period covered by call for tender?
3. How does it politically and morally justify such expenditure, at a time when it is asking the Member States and European families to tighten their purse strings and make sacrifices?

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¹ <https://www.lecanardenchaine.fr/international/52116-les-couteuses-medailles-des-fonctionnaires>