

Question for written answer E-004996/2025/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

Maciej Wąsik (ECR)

Subject: Corruption scandal and detentions in the European External Action Service and the College of Europe in Bruges

On 2 December 2025, it was reported that Belgian law enforcement authorities had entered the premises of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels and the College of Europe in Bruges in relation to the ongoing investigation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the investigating judge in West-Flanders into possible fraud in the use of EU funds.

The investigation concerns suspicions of favouritism and unfair competition related to the EEAS awarding the College of Europe in Bruges a nine-month training programme for junior EU diplomats in 2021-2022¹.

In connection to this, I ask:

1. Was the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy aware of the fraud and corruption in the public procurement of the nine-month training programme run by the College of Europe from 2021 to 2022?
2. Could the VP/HR please indicate the reasons for the failure and the procedures that failed, leading to the corruption in the European External Action Service reported by the media?
3. What specific actions has the VP/HR taken against the individuals and structures responsible for allowing these irregularities and why were the EEAS anti-corruption mechanisms ineffective?

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¹ <https://www.lesoir.be/714418/article/2025-12-02/soupcons-de-fraude-au-college-deurope-la-rectrice-federica-mogherini-en-garde>, (accessed: 2.12.2025)