

**Question for written answer E-001693/2026  
to the Commission**

Rule 144

**Hristo Petrov (Renew), Nikola Minchev (Renew), Radan Kanev (PPE)**

**Subject:** Transparency, control and potential irregularities in cultural schemes in Bulgaria financed under the Recovery and Resilience Plan

Reports published<sup>1</sup> in the Bulgarian media have raised serious misgivings over the allocation of funding for cultural schemes financed through the Bulgarian Recovery and Resilience Plan. It has been broadly disclosed that several projects connected with the same person received funding through different companies, that the amounts approved or advanced for these projects significantly exceeded well-established industry practices, and that some of these decisions were taken during the latter days of the previous government. The Bulgarian authorities have since begun conducting checks<sup>2</sup>.

Given that Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 requires Member States to protect the financial interests of the Union and to take appropriate measures to prevent, detect and correct fraud, corruption, conflicts of interests and double funding, would the Commission please specify:

1. Whether it has requested clarifications from the Bulgarian authorities on these procedures and the funding granted under them?
2. Whether similar suspicions of irregularities have arisen regarding other projects under the same procedures or under other schemes financed through the RRP in Bulgaria?
3. Whether it considers that Bulgaria's control mechanisms under the RRP provide sufficient guarantees to ensure quality management of funding and whether it intends to take further action in response to signs of weak controls, irregularities and lack of transparency?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://clubz.bg/172433>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bta.bg/bg/news/bulgaria/1091564-razporedil-sam-proverka-po-temata-s-ivo-arakov-i-ochakvam-neyniya-rezultat-kaza>.