Question for written answer E-002338/2026/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE)

Subject: Sponsored media events and circumvention of European transparency rules

According to an investigation published by *Euractiv*[1] on 3 June 2026, several specialist media outlets are organising dinners, round-table discussions and conferences in Brussels sponsored by companies and trade associations, thus giving them access to EU Commissioners, their staff and officials.

It refers to 1 102 media events between 2019 and 2025 covered by sponsorship packages costing up to EUR 85 000, as well as table placements offering lobbyists the opportunity to engage directly with European decision-makers on sensitive issues.

The transparency register covers meetings, conferences or events aimed at influencing European decision-making, but excludes ad hoc or private/social gatherings.

1. Does the Commission consider a sponsored media event, when it organises or facilitates targeted access to European decision-makers, in particular Commissioners, to constitute a lobbying activity that should be declared?

2. How many Commissioners, members of their staff or directors-general have taken part in such sponsored events since 2019, and have details of these meetings been made public?

3. What changes will the Commission propose to address this shortcoming?

Submitted: 8.6.2026

[1] https://www.euractiv.com/news/pay-to-play-in-brussels-how-media-events-became-the-new-lobbying-frontier et https://www.euractiv.com/news/rapporteur-how-eu-media-became-events-businesses