Question for written answer E-003003/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE)

Subject: Foreign influences in Brussels: who is paying to sway EU decisions?

Non-EU governments can use consultancies, lobbyists or other intermediaries to defend their interests, or to influence or destabilise the EU institutions.

The EU is currently discussing new transparency rules for influence activities carried out on behalf of non-EU countries. However, certain activities, including diplomatic, media, legal or academic ones, would not be included in the proposed arrangements.

At the same time, it has been highlighted, in various investigations and through other parliamentary work, that intermediary structures – consultancies, think tanks, non-governmental organisations, law firms and academic institutions – are increasingly being used to act, directly or indirectly, on behalf of foreign interests, without the real principals always being clearly identified.

1. Does the Commission support the creation of a single public register indicating which foreign governments are seeking to influence EU decisions, through which intermediaries and for what sums?

2. Will it publish the list of meetings between the representatives of those foreign interests and Commissioners, their cabinets and senior Commission officials?

3. How will it prevent the exceptions for certain activities from being used to hide influence operations, especially those conducted through consultancies, non-governmental organisations, think tanks or academic institutions?

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