

**Question for written answer E-003900/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Removal of the European Commission logo from the Second Ventotene conference programme following Taiwan's participation

From 10 to 12 September 2026, the Second Ventotene Conference for Freedom and Democracy was held in Ventotene, an event conceived by MEP Pina Picierno as Vice-President of the European Parliament and organised by the European Parliament Liaison Office in Italy with the support of the European Commission Representation in Italy.

In light of its financial support, the official programme initially featured the Commission's logo.

However, once the participation of Taiwan's Vice-President, Hsiao Bi-khim, in the conference became public, Beijing reacted with fierce diplomatic outrage, lodging formal protests with both the EU and the Italian authorities. Chinese official statements harshly condemned the invitation, labelling the Taiwanese presence as 'despicable' and a deliberate provocation under the guise of democracy. Following those protests, the Commission ordered the immediate removal of its logo.

The aim of the conference is to promote the core values of freedom and democracy through international debate.

Therefore, can the Commission clarify the following:

1. What are the official reasons that led to this removal?
2. Did any external diplomatic pressures, formal or informal, contribute to this decision?
3. Does it not consider such conduct to be potentially inconsistent with the stated objectives of promoting democratic dialogue and international freedom that the event seeks to uphold?

Supporter¹

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¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Pekka Toveri (PPE).