

**Priority question for written answer P-003182/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Friedrich Pürner (NI)

Subject: Deletion of SMS messages relating to vaccine negotiations ('Pfizergate') – possible breaches of documentation and transparency obligations

According to media reports¹, key SMS exchanges between the President of the Commission and Pfizer's CEO relating to COVID-19 vaccine negotiations were deleted or never recorded. Notably, this applies to messages containing the details of contract negotiations exchanged through personal SMS channels, according to the New York Times.

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled in May 2025 that the Commission was wrong to refuse to disclose this communication. The Court rejected the Commission's reasoning that SMSs are not considered 'documents' within the meaning of the current Transparency Regulation (1049/2001).

1. How does the Commission explain, in concrete terms, that pertinent SMSs between the President and Pfizer's CEO can no longer be located? Were work mobile phones been reset, replaced or otherwise tampered with? Were no backups created? If they were, when and by whom were they deleted?
2. What concrete measures has the Commission taken to apply the CJEU ruling? Is there a forensic investigation of the devices concerned and is the entire message exchange relating to the vaccine negotiations being retroactively documented?

Submitted: 5.8.2025

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/01/world/europe/eu-texts-covid-new-york-times.html>;
<https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/eu-kommissionschefin-ursula-von-der-leyen-und-pfizergate-kurznachrichten-wurden-wohl-geloescht-a-2416eb67-db45-4385-a4e5-cb5b409d5a51>