

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-002391/24  
to the Commission**

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*(4 November 2024)*

*Subject:* Scrutinising the declarations of interests made by Commissioners-designate

In accordance with Article 3 of Annex VII to Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) is responsible for scrutinising the declarations of interests made by the 26 Commissioners-designate.

This procedure has recently proven to be flawed in that it consigns JURI to a legitimising role with no real powers. In fact, for a number of reasons, it may very well provoke widespread suspicion of the new College of Commissioners:

1. declarations of interests depend solely on the goodwill of Commissioners-designate: they assess their personal financial interests that might constitute a conflict of interest as they see fit;
2. declarations are inadequate in terms of content; they are much less demanding than those that MEPs and national parliamentarians have to fill in;
3. the rules governing declarations are laid down in the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, i.e. by a decision taken by the Commission itself. That puts the Commission in the problematic position of being both judge and judged.

In view of the recent corruption scandals that have hit the European institutions, is the Commission planning at long last to reform its arrangements for declarations of interests, on a basis that is at least equivalent to arrangements for other policy-makers, in order to ensure genuine transparency for citizens?

Submitted: 4.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission  
(8 April 2025)**

The Commission follows the current rules, processes, and requirements for the Declarations of Interests (DoI) of Commissioners-designate, as set out in the Code of Conduct for Members of the Commission. In accordance with Article 3(2) of the Code, candidates for President of the Commission and Commissioners-designate must submit their declarations to the European Parliament in due time to allow for parliamentary examination.

These declarations, which are made public in an electronic format, ensure transparency and accountability throughout the appointment process.

The Commission is dedicated to promoting transparency, accountability, and trust within the EU's institutions. Another cornerstone of this effort is the establishment of the Interinstitutional EU Ethics Body, which will bring together representatives from currently eight participating EU institutions and bodies.

This Body aims to establish common minimum standards, potentially also harmonising Members' declarations of financial or non-financial interests across participating parties.

Such a unified approach could further enhance the meaningfulness of these declarations, strengthen public confidence, and respect the diversity of the participating institutions and bodies.

The Commission remains actively engaged in this initiative, working towards a robust and transparent framework that upholds the integrity of EU governance.

Through its participation in the EU Ethics Body, the Commission will contribute to reviewing best practices and exploring opportunities for further alignment of standards across institutions.

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