

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000024/25
to the Commission
Mariusz Kamiński (ECR)
(7 January 2025)**

Subject: List of organisations that have raised concerns with the Commission about the arrest of Russian spy Pavel Rubtsov

For many months now, the Commission has been evading providing clear answers on its shocking defence of Russian spy Pavel Rubtsov. Furthermore, in its answer of 6 January 2025 (E-001534/2024 ⁽¹⁾) to my question submitted on 21 August 2024, the Commission indicates that ‘different organisations’, which are not specified, had been lobbying in Rubtsov’s case. The effectiveness of these organisations in defending a Russian spy, as well as the Commission’s evasiveness in explaining the case, is of serious concern.

The concealment of such crucial details not only violates the obligation of transparency and Parliament’s right to scrutinise the Commission’s actions, but is also in contravention of the right of access to public information, including documents provided to the Commission by third parties.

In this connection, I once again call on the Commission to provide a clear answer to the following questions:

1. Which specific organisations (by name) lobbied the Commission on behalf of the Russian spy Pavel Rubtsov, and did the indicated lobbying activities comply with the Commission’s rules on transparency?
2. What was the Commission’s reasoning when it decided, under the influence of external lobbying, to criticise a Member State for exercising its national security responsibilities — especially when a full-scale war is being waged across its border and Poland is being targeted by hybrid attacks from Moscow and Minsk?
3. Has the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, taken steps to determine whether, and to what extent, this compromising case was the result of operations by the Russian secret services?

Submitted: 7.1.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(4 March 2025)**

As mentioned in the reply to E-001534/2024, the Commission’s position on Russia’s espionage, hybrid threats and disinformation campaigns is one of strong condemnation.

As also stated before, the country chapter for Poland of the 2023 Rule of Law Report ⁽¹⁾ contains a factual reference to the case and indicates the sources of the relevant information, which include the Council of Europe platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists. The Commission usually refers to such alerts in the Rule of Law Report under the pillar of media freedom in relation to all Member States.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-001534-ASW_EN.html

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/b576c76e-0755-4690-9266-7895c4294433_en?filename=48_1_52627_coun_chap_poland_en.pdf