

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002511/25
to the Commission
Jorge Buxadé Villalba (Pfe), Hermann Tertsch (Pfe)
(23 June 2025)**

Subject: Irregular contracts connected to Begoña Gómez under investigation by the European Public Prosecutor's Office

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) is investigating Juan Carlos Barrabés (businessman and co-director of a master's programme at Complutense University), Begoña Gómez (wife of the Spanish President and other co-director of the master's programme) and a manager at Red.es as part of its investigation into the alleged misuse of funds, influence peddling and misconduct in several EU-funded public contracts.

The investigation found evidence that procurement processes had been manipulated, with subjective overvaluations made on the basis of recommendations from individuals such as Pedro Sánchez's wife, Begoña Gómez. In particular, the company backed by Begoña Gómez was awarded three contracts amounting to EUR 10.2 million, under the European Social Fund and NextGenerationEU.

Considering the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the cases that EPPO is currently investigating in relation to Begoña Gómez?
2. Has the Commission alerted OLAF of this issue and requested information from the Spanish authorities to ensure that the EU's financial interests are safeguarded?
3. Will the Commission launch regulatory procedures to recuperate these public funds if it were to be proven that they were awarded irregularly?

Submitted: 23.6.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(12 August 2025)**

The Commission is aware of this ongoing investigation by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). The EPPO is an independent body responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes against the EU's financial interests, and it operates separately from the Commission.

The Commission does not interfere with investigations carried out by the EPPO and will await the results of the investigation once these can be disclosed.

The Commission has been in contact with the European Anti-Fraud Office and the Spanish authorities on this issue. As the EPPO investigation unfolds, the Commission will carefully consider the findings and take any potential necessary steps to safeguard the EU's financial interests.

This may include taking measures such as interrupting or suspending payments, applying financial corrections, or recovering funds.

If confirmed, all irregularities will give rise to a specific follow-up, and remedial actions needed to tackle the infringements identified, including underlying systemic issues, will be agreed with the programme authorities concerned.
