

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003117/25
to the Commission**

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(28 July 2025)

Subject: Transparency and quality of Commission's replies to MEPs' written questions

The ability of MEPs to carry out their task of scrutinising the Commission depends directly on the quality, accuracy and punctuality of the Commission's answers to written questions.

For some time now, however, we have seen replies submitted late or containing just superficial content, eroding institutional transparency and citizens' trust in the EU.

The inadequacy of these replies undermines the exercise of parliamentary scrutiny and limits public access to clear information on the Commission's work.

1. In the light of these shortcomings, is the Commission aware that the delay and lack of depth in its answers to MEPs' written questions undermine the effectiveness of parliamentary scrutiny, and that this contravenes the principle of transparency in the political process?
2. What specific measures will it take to ensure strict compliance with the response deadlines and the quality and relevance of the content provided?

Submitted: 28.7.2025

Answer given by Mr Šeřčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(7 October 2025)

1. The Commission has repeatedly acknowledged the importance of providing pertinent, high quality and timely replies to parliamentary questions to enable Members of the European Parliament to carry out their scrutiny role effectively. Parliamentary questions are an integral part of the Commission's partnership with the European Parliament.

2. Although the timelines for replies set by Parliament in its internal rules of procedure are not legally binding on the Commission, the Commission makes every effort to respect them. Parliament's services conduct an admissibility check before transmitting questions to the Commission. The Commission can only start working on the question when it is received from Parliament, and it is from this point that the timeline is calculated.

In line with the principle of sincere cooperation, the Commission continually seeks to improve the efficiency and quality of its replies by streamlining its internal procedures and processes.

The Commission receives 4 000 to 6 000 parliamentary questions annually and responds to each one individually with a reply adopted by the College of Commissioners.

Each reply is subject to internal consultation and validation at both service and political levels, ensuring that all relevant policy aspects are considered.

This multi-step process ensures that the Commission's replies are legally accurate, consistent with its policies and aligned with its institutional goals.
