

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004163/25
to the Commission
Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE), Krzysztof Śmiszek (S&D), Sophie Wilmès (Renew), Daniel Freund (Verts/ALE)
(22 October 2025)**

Subject: Reports of espionage against the EU by the Hungarian authorities

Several media have reported on illegitimate espionage against the EU by the Hungarian Information Office (IH) ⁽¹⁾. These IH agents are reported to have been employed at the Hungarian Permanent Representation for several years in the 2010s. They are reported to have recruited and contacted Hungarian EU officials to get access to confidential information and influence European policymaking on Hungary. These activities also took place in 2015-2019, when Commissioner Várhelyi headed the Hungarian Permanent Representation. Sources report that he was almost certainly aware of the stationing of these IH agents and is likely to have received the information gathered by them.

1. Does the Commission agree that such espionage by an EU Member State is unacceptable and requires the strongest of responses?
2. Is the Commission aware of such espionage activities by the Hungarian authorities in the past or present, and is it planning to share with Parliament an overview of the reports it received on these activities and any further information in its possession?
3. What measures will the Commission take to investigate these reports, to hold the Hungarian authorities and those involved accountable, and to ensure that espionage activities such as this do not continue in the present day or the future?

Submitted: 22.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(6 July 2026)**

The Commission takes the allegations of espionage by the Hungarian authorities against staff of the EU institutions very seriously, as such possible incidents undermine the principle of loyal cooperation between Member States and EU institutions.

On 27 April 2026, Commissioner Serafin reported to the European Parliament about the outcome of the inquiry launched following those media reports, as he undertook to do when the espionage allegations were discussed in the European Parliament's part session in October 2025.

The Commission has in place a robust security framework, with rules and processes aimed at identifying and mitigating risks, as well as protecting information, staff and networks from illicit intelligence-gathering actions.

Notably, the Commission has a specialised team at its disposal responsible for human and digital counterintelligence analysis, and benefits from a significant level of cooperation with the services of the Member States and other EU institutions.

Furthermore, the Commission carries out awareness raising campaigns to strengthen the resilience of staff regarding human and digital espionage. Through these campaigns, staff members are reminded regularly how to recognise and deal with intelligence-gathering attempts.

The Commission has robust protective measures in place to safeguard against espionage and other forms of interference. Should any such activities be discovered, the Commission is committed to react promptly and will not hesitate to take all necessary steps to prevent and respond to them.

¹ <https://telex.hu/direkt36/2025/10/09/sulyos-ugy-volt-igy-bukott-le-orbanek-titkos-kemhalozata-brusszelben>; <https://www.tijd.be/politiek-economie/europa/algemeen/hongaarse-premier-viktor-orb-n-bespioneert-al-jaren-eu-instellingen-in-brussel/10630092.html>; <https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/eu-wie-ungarns-agenten-in-bruessel-informanten-anzuwerben-versuchten-a-a44776c8-c8a6-4bf1-a7d1-7e92f643b748>; https://www.derstandard.at/story/3100000291158/orbans-agenten-in-bruessel-recherche-enthueilt-ungarisches-spionagenetz?fbclid=IwY2xjawNUZhHjleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHlQdRxeGN0N5AhhW36ODjLLQr_-9nla-c15VjSnHOf9TgeeQxEi0HwhB2CZY_aem_edatgUv9r75-8hQMd-5e_w.