

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004405/25
to the Commission
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)
(7 November 2025)**

Subject: Potential conflict of interest and irregular use of NextGenerationEU funds in Spain

The Centre for Technological Development and Innovation (CDTI), an agency reporting to Spain's Ministry of Science, has awarded EUR 22.2 million in Recovery and Resilience Facility funds to Openchip & Software Technologies, whose vice-president is the partner of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, José Manuel Albares.

Although this aid is not channelled through it, the Council of Ministers is not exempt from the oversight obligations laid down in Article 61 of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046), Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 and Article 41 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. Whether it considers that, in not intervening, the Council of Ministers has failed in its duty to assess the conflict of interest.
2. Whether it intends to take any action to verify whether these funds were allocated in a manner compliant with the principles of transparency, impartiality and good administration required under EU law.

Submitted: 7.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(31 March 2026)**

The Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation ('RRF regulation')⁽¹⁾ states clearly that the first line of defence against potential fraud and conflicts of interest is the Member State. It is the responsibility of Member States to take all appropriate measures to protect the financial interests of the EU (Article 22.1 of the RRF Regulation).

The Commission undertakes checks on the adequacy of national control systems. In its assessment of the Spanish recovery and resilience plan, the Commission considered that altogether, the control system and other relevant arrangements, including for the collection and making available of data on final beneficiaries, are adequate with respect to preventing, detecting and correcting corruption, fraud, conflict of interest when using the funds under the RRF Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021.