

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004777/25
to the Commission
Jorge Buxadé Villalba (Pfe)
(2 December 2025)**

Subject: Are EU funds protected from corruption involving the PSOE and Pedro Sánchez's inner circle?

Spain is being rocked by a string of corruption scandals that directly implicate the PSOE and the political circle of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. Judicial investigations have uncovered an organised network of kickbacks, rigged contracts and illicit payments involving former senior Socialist officials, including ex-ministers and close Moncloa associates.

The seriousness of the facts has led to the pre-trial detention without bail of three key figures in the network: Ábalos, Santos Cerdán and Koldo. This state of affairs casts doubt on the integrity of public management under Pedro Sánchez's current government.

Some of the companies investigated have been awarded projects financed by means of EU funds, raising concerns about the robustness of Spain's anti-fraud control system and the risk that corrupt practices may have affected areas linked to the Recovery and Resilience Facility or other EU instruments.

In the light of these facts:

1. Is the Commission concerned about the corruption cases affecting Pedro Sánchez's socialist government?
2. Is the Commission considering suspending payments of funds to Pedro Sánchez's government?
3. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that no project potentially tainted by these schemes can commit EU resources?

Submitted: 2.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(26 February 2026)**

The Commission is fully committed to fighting fraud, including that involving Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funds. To that end, several safeguards are in place:

First, Member States must ensure the functioning of an effective and efficient internal control system to prevent, detect and address fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest as well as to recover amounts unduly paid or misused.

Second, the Commission monitors compliance by the Member States with the above obligations (through robust oversight mechanisms, including *ex ante* checks and *ex post* audits) and can take corrective measures if necessary (notably, reducing or recovering funds if serious irregularities are confirmed and Member States fail to address them ⁽¹⁾).

And third, when the Commission learns about alleged corruption cases with possible implications on RRF funds, it informs the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), which is responsible for investigating fraud and corruption affecting EU funds.

After a careful evaluation, OLAF may consider that an alleged fraud case entails criminal grounds. The case is then transferred to the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).

⁽¹⁾ Annex IV of updated Guidance on Recovery and Resilience Plans of 23 July 2024.