

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000502/26
to the Commission
Markus Buchheit (ESN)
(6 February 2026)**

Subject: Alleged disclosure of confidential information to Jeffrey Epstein

According to media reports, recently published documents (including in the context of the ‘Epstein files’) indicate that former UK Secretary of State and EU Commissioner Peter Mandelson passed on confidential or potentially market or politically sensitive information to Jeffrey Epstein — including information on state or euro-related stabilisation and rescue measures. Reports also indicate that a criminal investigation or an investigation into possible misconduct in public office is underway or being prepared in the United Kingdom.

1. What information does the Commission have about the aforementioned allegations or about the documents and communications being circulated and since when?
2. Irrespective of any assessment under national criminal law, will the Commission actively cooperate with the relevant UK authorities (in particular the police and/or prosecution) in order to ensure full investigation where EU information or interests may be concerned, and how does it plan to provide such assistance?
3. What specific measures is the Commission taking to prevent private networks — in particular those that include people convicted of sexual offences — from accessing internal political information or using it for the purposes of information brokerage?

Submitted: 6.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(11 May 2026)**

The former Commissioner for Trade became a Member of the Commission in November 2004, and his office ended in October 2008.

Members of the College are subject to strict obligations arising directly under the Treaties as well as to the ethical obligations emanating from the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission ⁽¹⁾.

In accordance with the applicable rules, including Articles 245 and 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, former Members of the Commission are bound by certain life-long obligations even after their mandate. Especially, they must continue to behave with integrity and discretion and are also required to observe the obligation of professional secrecy.

The Commission takes the allegations regarding the former Commissioner for Trade very seriously and has referred the matter to the European Anti-Fraud Office (‘OLAF’) for appropriate follow-up, within its independent investigative function.

OLAF has confirmed it has opened a case but is not in a position to share details on individual cases or probes beyond the information and data already made public. This is in order to protect the confidentiality of investigations and of possible ensuing judicial proceedings, as well as to ensure respect for personal data and procedural rights. OLAF fully respects the presumption of innocence and the rights of defence of the persons/entities concerned.

OLAF’s mission is to detect, investigate and stop wrongdoings related to EU funds. However, OLAF reports without undue delay suspected criminal conduct to the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO), which has full competency to investigate and prosecute such offences.

The investigation of other criminal offences remains the competence of national authorities.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Decision of 31 January 2018 on a Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission, C(2018) 700 final: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018D0221\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018D0221(02)). In 2008, the version Code of Conduct of 24 November 2004 was applicable, available at the following link: https://www.cvce.eu/obj/code_of_conduct_for_commissioners_24_november_2004-en-eb3c996a-b728-496e-b06c-49ef61f70d16.html.