

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000623/26
to the Commission
Mariusz Kamiński (ECR)
(12 February 2026)**

Subject: The case of former Commissioner Peter Mandelson, the possibility of withdrawing his EU pension, and the need to apply the same standards to other Commissioners

The media are reporting that British politician Peter Mandelson faces having his pension as a former European Commissioner withdrawn ⁽¹⁾. He is accused of violating EU rules in connection with his dealings with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Newly disclosed documents have revealed how Mandelson, who was a senior British minister at the time, helped pass on information to Epstein about a EUR 500 billion bailout package designed to rescue the euro in 2010.

The Commission is investigating whether Mandelson violated its rules, which continue to apply even after Commissioners leave office. Ethics activists have called for a full, independent investigation into the matter. If he is found to have broken the rules, Mandelson should lose his Commissioner's pension and other entitlements ⁽²⁾.

1. Does the Commission intend to take similar action against Didier Reynders, the former Commissioner for Justice, who has been charged with money laundering during his term of office as Commissioner?
2. Does the Commission intend to investigate the highly controversial information being examined by the Belgian authorities concerning the nature of Reynders' dealings with Russian entities and controversial individuals, including Oleg Deripaska, a sanctioned oligarch closely associated with Vladimir Putin, which clearly violate ethical principles and raise serious doubts as to their intentions and connection with the work of the Commission, including in relation to sanctions against entities and individuals from the Russian Federation?
3. Does the Commission intend to launch a similar investigation into Reynders for breaching EU rules as it did in the Mandelson case, and to consider withdrawing his pension rights?

Submitted: 12.2.2026

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(10 April 2026)**

First and foremost, the Commission recalls that former Commissioner for Justice, as any other citizen, benefits from principle of the presumption of innocence until a possible conviction by the competent judicial authorities.

At this stage, and as far as the Commission is aware, the allegations regarding former Commissioner for Justice do not concern the exercise of his duties as Member of the College.

The Commission has not conducted any internal investigations following the allegations published in the media regarding former Commissioner for Justice and will not interfere in any investigations which might be carried out by the Belgian competent authorities, yet remaining ready to cooperate with these authorities, where relevant.

The Commission is not aware of any allegation of breach of EU rules by former Commissioner for Justice.

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/brussels-european-commission-looking-into-peter-mandelson-jeffrey-epstein-links/https://www.politico.eu/article/mandelson-should-lose-pension-if-broke-eu-rules-epstein-scandal-campaigners/>

² <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/pensions/news/peter-mandelson-lose-eu-pension-epstein-emails/>