

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001838/26
to the Commission
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)
(6 May 2026)**

Subject: Systemic corruption scheme within the Slovak Paying Agency (PPA)

The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) has repeatedly identified serious deficiencies in the management and control of EU agricultural funds in Slovakia, including risks of corruption, conflicts of interest and political interference.

The 'Dobytkár' case exposed a systemic corruption scheme within the Slovak Paying Agency (PPA), involving bribes of up to 20-25% of allocated common agricultural policy (CAP) subsidies. Norbert Bödör has been charged in connection with this case.

Recent reports indicate new cases in which CAP subsidies have been granted to entities allegedly linked to Bödör, with suggestions that these funds were approved by individuals with personal or business connections to the beneficiaries. ⁽¹⁾

These developments raise concerns that previously identified networks of influence may still be active.

1. How does the Commission assess the allocation of EU funds to entities linked to a person charged in a major corruption case involving CAP funds?
2. Does the Commission consider that these new developments indicate a persistent failure to address conflicts of interest under Article 61 of the Financial Regulation?
3. What concrete measures will the Commission take to protect the EU budget, including possible financial corrections, suspension of payments or referrals to the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Public Prosecutor's Office?

Submitted: 6.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 July 2026)**

The Commission is assessing the legislative changes adopted by Slovakia on the provision of support in agriculture and rural development.

This assessment is currently ongoing. Member States are required to respect EU legislation, including provisions on the management of conflict of interests ⁽¹⁾.

As guardian of the Treaties, the Commission monitors the situation and may take appropriate action to protect the EU's financial interests if conflicts of interest have not been adequately addressed.

The Commission has taken concrete measures to protect the EU budget. In 2020, the management and control system of the Slovak Paying Agency was found to be gravely deficient, leading to a financial correction of almost EUR 28 million.

In 2021, the Slovak Paying Agency implemented an action plan to develop the legal framework, methodologies and tools needed to identify and manage potential conflict of interest affecting the Paying Agency's staff.

The Commission is following up on these matters in the framework of ongoing audits, in which it also assesses the compliance of the Paying Agency, responsible for the management and control of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) payments with accreditation criteria.

The Commission is also assessing rule of law developments in Slovakia in its annual Rule of Law report, including as regards Slovakia's anti-corruption framework. The Rule of Law report has repeatedly identified agriculture to rank among Slovakia's high-risk corruption areas.

When the Commission becomes aware of any suspected case of fraud, corruption or illegal activity affecting the EU budget, it informs the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and/or the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in accordance with applicable EU legislation.

¹ <https://zastavmekorupciu.sk/kauly/takacov-rezort-pustil-agrodotacie-aj-obvinenym-pomaha-to-projektom-ako-fafokan/>.

⁽¹⁾ The Financial Regulation (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R2509&qid=1729499536269>) and the Conditionality Regulation (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/2092/oj/eng>).