

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002306/26
to the Commission
Fabio De Masi (NI)
(4 June 2026)**

Subject: OLAF and Mandelson in the context of priority Question P-000829/2026

On 27 February 2026, I submitted priority Question P-000829/2026 ⁽¹⁾ to the Commission for written answer. I asked whether the Commission or any other competent authority (e.g. Europol) was independently and systematically examining the Epstein files in order to identify links to individuals such as former EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson.

On 11 May 2026, 10.5 weeks later, I received an answer. However, on 25 April 2026, a German news website, SPIEGEL Online ⁽²⁾, reported that the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) was investigating Mandelson, thereby effectively providing an answer to my parliamentary question.

How does the Commission justify the delay of 7.5 weeks in answering my question?

Submitted: 4.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(8 September 2026)**

The Commission attaches great importance to parliamentary questions as a political scrutiny tool and integral part of the special partnership with the European Parliament.

To guarantee the quality of its answers, the Commission ensures that every reply is subject to an internal validation procedure, so that all relevant policy aspects are taken into account before the College adopts it.

In this particular case, several parliamentary questions on the same or closely related issues were received within a short period. Additional time was therefore required to carry out the necessary internal coordination and consultations and to ensure consistent replies, reflecting the latest state of play.

Article 230 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union requires the Commission to reply to questions from Members but does not establish binding time limits.

The timelines set by the European Parliament in its Rules of Procedure are not legally binding on the Commission. Nevertheless, the Commission has continued to do its utmost to reply to all parliamentary questions (between 4000 and 6000 annually) taking into account the timelines set by Parliament.

In 2025, the average response time was approximately 39 working days for normal questions and 30 working days for priority questions, compared with European Parliament's indicative timelines of 30 and 15 working days, respectively. The Commission constantly works to streamline its internal processes to ensure pertinent and timely replies.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2026-000829_EN.html.

² <https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/peter-mandelson-und-jeffrey-epstein-eu-ermittelt-gegen-britischen-ex-botschafter-a-bb652ef9-768f-4a41-959b-1d2bd3169323>.