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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.8.2026)

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

Article 230 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU 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 questions (between 4 000 and 6 000 annually) taking into account the timelines set by Parliament. It should be noted that the European Parliament's services carry out an admissibility check before transmitting a question to the Commission. The transmission date of a parliamentary question to the Commission is therefore different from the date of its submission. The Commission can only begin preparing its reply once the question has been received, and the response time is calculated from that date.

The Commission constantly works to streamline its internal processes to ensure pertinent and timely replies.

To guarantee the quality of its answers, the Commission ensures that every reply is subject to an internal validation process, so that all relevant policy aspects are taken into account before the College adopts it. The time required to prepare a reply depends, among other factors, on the complexity and cross-cutting nature of the question and the consultations required.