

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000116/25
to the Commission
Christine Anderson (ESN)
(14 January 2025)**

Subject: Avoiding the impression of undue influence by the President of the Commission on the outcome of elections in Member States

On a number of occasions, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the Commission, made statements in the run up to elections in Member States in a manner that was interpreted as an attempt to influence the outcome of the elections:

- On 23 September 2022, two days ahead of the parliamentary elections in Italy, she was asked how the EU would react to possible election victories by far-right parties. She replied that the EU had instruments to deal with Member States that were moving in a problematic direction. She sought thus to support the Italian Christian Democrats as opposed to the Fratelli d'Italia and the Lega.
- In January 2024, the Commission President visited Croatia and publicly praised the government's reforms under Prime Minister Andrej Plenković. This visit was interpreted as support for Plenković's HDZ party in the run up to the parliamentary elections in February 2024.
- Ahead of the parliamentary elections in France in June 2024, where the Rassemblement National (RN) under Marine Le Pen became the strongest party with 31.4% of the votes, von der Leyen was critical of far-right parties in Europe, in a bid to support President Emmanuel Macron's party.

In future, does the Commission President intend to refrain from anything that could be interpreted as an attempt to influence the outcome of the elections in Member States, in particular with regard to the parliamentary elections in Germany in February?

Submitted: 14.1.2025

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(24 March 2025)**

Democracy is a founding value of the EU. Free and fair elections are at its core. Their organisation and conduct are the competence and responsibility of the Member States in line with their legislation, subject to their international obligations and EU law.

The Commission supports open debate and discussion in full respect for national constitutional prerogatives and does not intervene in the domestic political debate in Member States.

The President has been, is and will continue to be a promoter and defender of all the common values of the EU, including democracy and freedom of expression.
