

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000434/26
to the Commission
Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (S&D)
(4 February 2026)**

Subject: Commission investigation of Peter Mandelson following Epstein file disclosures

Following the latest releases of information regarding Peter Mandelson's sharing of sensitive trade information with Jeffrey Epstein during his time as a secretary of state in the UK Government, I wish to ask the Commission if it will investigate the actions of Peter Mandelson as a former EU Trade Commissioner and if it will undertake the following actions to support that investigation:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of the 'Epstein files' released by the US Government in order to identify all communications between Peter Mandelson, Epstein and related parties during his period as Trade Commissioner;
2. Conduct a review of Commission files related to Peter Mandelson's activities as Trade Commissioner in order to identify any behaviour or activity which would indicate a conflict of interest or any other activity breaching EU rules;
3. Conduct a comprehensive review of the Epstein files to identify any other person with a potential conflict of interest or in breach of EU rules?

Submitted: 4.2.2026

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

Members of the College are subject to strict obligations arising directly under the Treaties as well as to the ethical obligations emanating from the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission is aware of the allegations against Peter Mandelson, who was Member of the Commission between November 2004 and October 2008. It takes these allegations very seriously and has referred the matter for appropriate follow-up to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), within the latter's independent investigative function.

OLAF has confirmed it has opened a case but is not in a position to share details on individual cases or probes beyond the information and data already made public. This is in order to protect the confidentiality of investigations and of possible ensuing judicial proceedings, as well as to ensure respect for personal data and procedural rights. OLAF fully respects the presumption of innocence and the rights of defence of the persons/entities concerned.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Decision of 31 January 2018 on a Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission, C(2018) 700 final [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018D0221\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018D0221(02)).
In 2008, the version Code of Conduct of 24 November 2004 was applicable, available at the following link: https://www.cvce.eu/obj/code_of_conduct_for_commissioners_24_november_2004-en-eb3c996a-b728-496e-b06c-49ef61f70d16.html.