

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-001960/19**  
**to the Commission**  
**Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL)**  
(17 April 2019)

*Subject:* Funding the European Far Right

According to recent reports (Der Standard, *The Guardian*, etc.), citing an investigation by the Federal Criminal Police Office of Germany, the far-right terrorist Brenton Harrison Tarrant responsible for the attack in New Zealand had sent many thousands of euros to far-right organisations in Europe, in particular to Martin Sellner, head of IBO, the Identitarian Movement of Austria.

Harald Vilimsky, an ENF MEP and senior FPO official, appears through paid advertisements in a number of issues of magazines published by the pro-Nazi IBO, thereby making indirect donations of many thousands of euros to that movement.

Moreover, Susanne Winter, another FPO politician, is a member of the Alliance for Peace and Freedom, which until September 2018 had access to EU funding.

Will the Commission say:

- Does it know whether a share of funding for the ENF ends up indirectly financing far-right movements across Europe?
- Does it have a detailed account of actions that indirectly boost, at national level, the funding received by the ENF?
- How does it ensure that EU party funding does not end up being combined with funding received by far-right organisations from far-right racist terrorists around the world, such as Brenton Harrison Tarrant?

**Answer given by First Vice-President Timmermans on behalf of the European Commission**  
(5 July 2019)

The political groups of the European Parliament are funded by the Parliament's budget and it is the Parliament's Bureau that sets the rules on how these funds and facilities are to be managed and audited. The funds available to the groups are intended not only to cover the administrative and operational cost of the groups' staff but also the cost of political and information activities in connection with the European Union's political activities.

The Honourable Member's question regarding the Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF) Group should therefore be addressed to the administration of the European Parliament.

Funding of the European political parties from the general budget of the European Union is governed by Regulation 1141/2014 <sup>(1)</sup> and is also administered by the European Parliament together with the independent Authority for European Political Parties and Foundations established by the regulation.

Such parties must observe, in their programmes and activities, the values on which the Union is founded, such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

Funding of the European political parties shall not be used for the direct or indirect funding of other political parties, in particular national member parties or candidates. The donations to the European political parties cannot exceed a value of EUR 18 000 per year per donor, cannot be anonymous or come from public authorities or private entities based in third countries.

Control of compliance by European political parties with these obligations is exercised by the Authority for European political parties and foundations, established on the basis of Regulation 1141/2014, whose resources have been strengthened by a recent amendment to the regulation <sup>(2)</sup>.

In this context, the Authority analyses the European political parties' annual financial statements and accompanying notes covering revenues and expenditures as well as external audit reports on the annual financial statements. The Authority must be informed of donations to the European political parties including the list of all donors.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 1).

<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2019/493 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2019 amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 as regards a verification procedure related to infringements of rules on the protection of personal data in the context of elections to the European Parliament (OJ L 851, 27.3.2019, p. 7).