

**Question for written answer E-011282/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Allegations of illegal espionage by the German Federal Intelligence Service

In April 2015, serious allegations were levelled against the German Federal Intelligence Service (BND), which had supposedly engaged in surveillance of senior French and Commission officials on behalf of the American NSA. If it did in fact take place, in addition to being illegal this espionage would deal a further blow to mutual trust and effective cooperation in the European Union. The European institutions have apparently not yet responded to these worrying revelations.

Articles 4 and 13 of the Treaty on European Union lay down the principle of sincere cooperation, in keeping with which the Member States are required, in full mutual respect, to assist each other in carrying out tasks which flow from the Treaties. They must 'facilitate the achievement of the Union's tasks and refrain from any measure which could jeopardise the attainment of the Union's objectives'. This principle, confirmed by the case law of the CJEU, applies in all circumstances and is fundamental to the proper functioning of the European institutions.

1. How has the Commission responded to these allegations of espionage against it and others by the German BND?
2. If it were to be confirmed that illegal surveillance has taken place, could the Commission launch infringement proceedings against Germany for a breach of the principle of 'sincere cooperation'?