Question for written answer E-000185/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jean-Luc Mélenchon (GUE/NGL)

Subject: The Oettinger case: shame on the Commission

The German Commissioner Günther Oettinger has just been appointed to take over the Budget and Human Resources portfolio from the former Bulgarian Vice-President of the Commission, Kristalina Georgieva.

Jean-Claude Juncker’s decision came into effect on 1 January without being put to a plenary vote and without MEPs from the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Legal Affairs having the opportunity to give their opinion.

However, before being appointed, Oettinger made several decidedly shocking remarks about the Chinese, saying that they all ‘comb their hair from left to right with black shoe polish’. He also spoke about homosexuality, expressing his concern that gay marriage would ‘soon be compulsory’ in Germany.

1. Do his statements reflect the Commission’s opinion?

In May 2016, Günther Oettinger flew on a private plane owned by a lobbyist who was in discussions with the Hungarian Government about a nuclear power station project, despite an ongoing Commission investigation into the matter.

2. Will the Commission take steps to ban such collusion between lobbyists and EU representatives?