

**Question for written answer E-001161/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ole Christensen (S&D)

Subject: Corruption in Romania

In recent weeks large numbers of people in Romania have taken to the streets in protest against a decree seeking to decriminalise corruption involving sums below EUR 44 000. The decree was brought forward owing to overcrowding in Romania's prisons, but it was scrapped in the wake of large-scale public protests. This case shows that Romania has major problems with corruption.

The EU is under fire too, with some sections of the public taking the view that it is turning a blind eye to the misuse of EU funding. On 1 February 2017 the Commission criticised Romania for its handling of the corruption affair.

Romania is a net beneficiary of the EU budget: in 2015 it received EUR 6 538 billion in net contributions from the EU, and contributed EUR 1 319 billion.

What specific action has the Commission taken to ensure that the EU funding allocated to Romania is not used for corrupt purposes?

Does the Commission check that assessments carried out locally are consistent with reality? Has the Commission, for example, sent staff to check whether EU funding is being misused, or whether a supervisory authority has been set up to monitor projects, or whether penalties are in place for projects that deviate from the relevant applications?

What is being done to ensure that ordinary Romanians are able to apply to the EU for funding?