

**Question for written answer E-000245/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Eurofound support for Friends of Europe and comments on burkinis

Friends of Europe is a lobby group registered with the EU institutions. According to its website, Friends of Europe receives financial contributions from the US Army (European Command – USEUCOM) and from Eurofound¹.

Eurofound is an EU agency responsible for issuing independent opinions on living and working conditions. There is therefore no reason why it should become involved with a lobby that receives contributions from the US Army and companies like Coca-Cola, Gazprom and ExxonMobil.

How much money has Eurofound and the Commission paid this lobby since it was set up in 1999?

Shada Islam, Friends of Europe's Europe director², wrote: 'France grabbed the headlines with the bizarre decision [...] to ban so-called "burkinis"³.

Will the Commission condemn those comments?

¹ <http://friendsofeurope.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/List%20of%20members.pdf>

² Shada Islam, Director, Europe & Geopolitics, Friends of Europe <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/about-us/about-us>

³ Shada Islam, 3 September 2016, <https://shadaislam.wordpress.com/category/refugees-and-migrants>