

**Question for written answer E-000061/2019/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: The Commission has sent more than EUR 10 million from the European Social Fund to Chile

According to a decision taken by the European Ombudsman on 12 November 2018¹, a complaint was lodged by a Chilean whistleblower with regard to the allocation of EU funds, via the European Social Fund, to the Chilean National Institute for Human Rights (NHRI) between 2014 and 2016. In 2018, the complainant also wrote to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to report suspected fraud. In June 2018, OLAF told the complainant that an investigation would not be opened.

As far back as 2007, the Commission decided to send Chile EUR 25.4 million, including EUR 10.25 million for social cohesion. However, at that time Chile already had a much higher GDP per capita (USD 10 526)² than that of Bulgaria (USD 5900), an EU Member State.

Today, Chile imports primarily from China (22%), the US (18%) and Brazil (9%). France ranks only eleventh on this list³.

How much, in total, has Brussels sent this South American country since 2007?

Following this complaint, could the Commission explain whether the administrator(s) responsible for this grant carried out a specific audit or administrative investigation?

¹ https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/decision/en/106358#_ftn1

² <https://www.google.com/search?q=gdp+chile+per+capita&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b>

³ <https://www.lemoci.com/fiche-pays/chili/>