

**Question for written answer E-001778/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Nessa Childers (S&D)

Subject: EU election observation and national rosters

Last year, Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade sought to replace the national election observation roster that is used to make Irish nominations to EU election observation missions. This process was carried out on the basis of paper applications only, with no candidates sitting an aptitude test or attending an interview. No formal education requirements were sought or awarded any marking weight. No prior experience of international election observation was required or awarded any marking weight. Applicants were required to be fluent in English. The roster was capped at just 200 members for the next five years. A request for the names of persons appointed to the roster was refused on the basis that the names are protected under the General Data Protection Regulation.

Could the Commission indicate whether it was consulted in advance of the 2018 call for applicants and what is its assessment of the appropriateness of following a paper recruitment process without aptitude tests or interviews?

Could it clarify whether it has received any complaints concerning this call for observers and what steps it has taken to investigate such complaints?

Could it also clarify whether there is any legal impediment to the disclosure of the names of the selected election observers?