

**Question for written answer P-001937/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: Issues with the agency granting agricultural subsidies in Slovakia

In the report by MEP delegation to Slovakia on the Ján Kuciak and Martina Kušnírova case, it is noted that the Slovak Supreme Audit Office (Najvyšší kontrolný úrad, NKÚ) found serious shortcomings in the 2016 audit of the agricultural payments agency (Poľnohospodárskej platobnej agentúry, PPA). The PPA was unable to explain its system for granting European agricultural subsidies. The project assessors did not meet the expertise requirements. The PPA also failed to prove that it was capable of granting EU funds in a transparent manner. The NKÚ found the error rate in the allocation of direct payments to be 6.7%.

Was the Commission aware of the issue of the PPA's non-transparent allocation of subsidies prior to the 2016 audit?

Has the Commission taken any action to protect the European budget from the PPA – on the basis of the SAO audit of 2016, for example, which revealed the lack of transparency in the allocation of European subsidies?

What steps is the Commission planning to take to protect the European budget against PPA projects, given that the agency has not acted on any of the 28 NKÚ recommendations of September 2016 in the year and a half since then, even though it has accepted all of the NKÚ's findings?

