

**Question for written answer P-001785/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR)**

Subject: Frans Timmermans' lack of political neutrality

One of the most important rules governing all Commission representatives is the principle of political neutrality, the purpose of which is to help prevent conflicts of interests from arising in the performance of an official function. Unfortunately, this principle is not being strictly applied. A clear example is Frans Timmermans, who, as Vice-President of the Commission, ought to be a model for Commissioners and Commission staff. He has, however, violated the principle of political neutrality on a number of occasions, in particular over the last few months, during which he has disregarded the European treaties and put his personal political campaign and ambition above EU law.

There are plenty of examples of ways in which Frans Timmermans has infringed the principle of political neutrality. Particularly shocking was his most recent visit to Poland, during which he took part in the election convention of the 'Spring' political party.

- 1) Given that the Commission is launching proceedings against Member States for violating the rule of law, what action will it take against Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans, in connection with his repeated violation of the principle of political neutrality?
- 2) Given that Vice-President Timmermans is the socialists' candidate for President of the Commission, should he not take unpaid leave, as Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič did?
- 3) Was Frans Timmermans' trip to Poland funded by the Commission?