Question for written answer P-002381/2019 to the Commission
Rule 138
Maite Pagazaurtundúa (Renew)

Subject: Sponsorship of EU Council Presidency functions

For more than 10 years now, the Member State that holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union has been able to use private sponsorship to meet some of the costs associated with the role. The recent Romanian Presidency was sponsored by Coca-Cola, and the current Finnish Presidency is being sponsored by BMW.

At best, this practice is at odds with the European Code of Good Administrative Behaviour. At worst, it violates the basic standard of political ethics to which the EU institutions should adhere, it undermines EU independence and it calls into question the impartiality of the institution which, jointly with Parliament, legislates for the Union.

It is inexplicable and unacceptable that the practice should be allowed to continue, given that it tarnishes the image of the Member State holding the presidency, harms the system of fair competition that ought to exist in the private sector and further erodes what trust European citizens still have in our institutions.

Will the Commission assess the actual and potential impact of this type of sponsorship on the independence and impartiality of our institutions?

Are there plans to introduce rules on such practices, which harm the Union’s independence, with the aim of prohibiting them?