

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3233/09
by Geoffrey Van Orden (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Control of EU funding procedures in Bulgaria

The Bulgarian newspaper *Standart* revealed on 15 April¹ that two Bulgarian officials, Andrey Lavlov, former head of the Programme Coordination Department with the European Funds for Competitiveness Directorate, and Ivayla Ilieva, secretary of the said Directorate, were found to have submitted a tender for the very EU funding programme they had helped to develop. They had resigned from the Directorate and started work for 'BusinessDotComm' before the bids were due to be submitted, and won the tender. The panel responsible for awarding the public procurement tender to its former colleagues has denied there was a conflict of interest.

As this is not the first allegation of corruption in funding procedures, what steps is the Commission taking to ensure that its funding programmes in Bulgaria are rigorously controlled and not abused?

Notwithstanding the normal delegation of responsibility to national authorities, is consideration being given to my proposal that an independent oversight board be constituted to ensure that EU funds are:
a. well targeted and b. not siphoned off for improper purposes and that there is proper evaluation of the effectiveness of fund use?

¹ <http://paper.standartnews.com/en/article.php?d=2009-04-15&article=27241>,
<http://paper.standartnews.com/en/article.php?d=2009-04-17&article=27268>