

**Question for written answer E-002919/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Marine Le Pen (ENF)

Subject: Commission interference in the electoral process in France

The President of the Commission has personally interfered in the French presidential election campaign by congratulating one of the two candidates who have won through to the second round, and making it known to the press.

The EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has described that candidate, on Twitter, as 'the hope and the future of our generation'.

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, who has visited France six times over the past six months, has called for voters to choose the candidate in question, otherwise, according to him, farmers risk losing income (AFP, 24 April).

The Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, speaking to French journalists, also clearly called for people to vote for this candidate¹. He attacked the other candidate in a quite defamatory fashion ('a vision which is inward-looking, violent and riddled with xenophobia').

Such interference by the Commission in a Member State's electoral process is unprecedented.

The Commission has an obligation to be circumspect in such circumstances? Why is it not acting accordingly?

Is this a new approach which will also be adopted when it comes to elections in other Member States?

¹ <http://www.euractiv.fr/section/elections/news/moscovici-french-election-run-off-a-referendum-on-europe/>