

**Question for written answer E-003097/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Susanna Ceccardi (ID)

Subject: MEPs on the Board of the European Endowment for Democracy: criteria for their appointment and remuneration

The decision to establish the European Endowment for Democracy, whose remit is to strengthen the EU's role in promoting rights in European countries that are not yet members of the EU, stems from the analysis of events in particular on the southern shore of the Mediterranean since 2011, the time of the so-called 'Arab Spring', but also from the relations that the EU has with some European countries whose record of protecting human rights is not a distinguished one.

This new fund is intended to serve as a tool to strengthen peaceful democratisation processes in neighbouring countries, in particular by supporting people who fight for the recognition of rights on a daily basis. Funding is provided for the work of journalists, NGOs, political movements and bloggers, including some who are in exile.

Apparently the organisation's board, based in Brussels, includes nine Members of the European Parliament.

– Can the Commission say how MEPs are chosen for this role and on what basis, in order to avoid conflicts of interest?

– What payment, if any, do they receive for performing the duties?