

**Question for written answer E-003846/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Engin Eroglu (Renew)

Subject: Wirecard and auditing firms

The German DAX company Wirecard has been unable to present its 2019 financial year results even after three postponements. It has now been discovered that cash balances of EUR 1.9 billion entered on the balance sheet do not in fact exist. In the meantime, the company has filed for insolvency. This fraudulent activity has clearly been going on for years, despite the millions paid to those responsible for auditing Wirecard.

1. In the Commission's opinion, how can such fraudulent practices be prevented in future?
2. How can the auditors responsible, in this case Ernst and Young, be held accountable?
3. If they cannot in fact be held accountable, what is the point of statutory company audit?