

**Question for written answer E-004048/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Eva Kaili (S&D)

Subject: The impact of the Wirecard scandal on major banks, investors, auditors and supervisors in the EU

Wirecard AG has numerous subsidiaries, including the BaFin-licensed Wirecard Bank and Wirecard Card Solutions Ltd, which is licensed by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

In September 2018, Wirecard replaced Commerzbank in the DAX 30 index, making it an automatic investment for pension funds around the world. The Financial Times has on numerous occasions publicly accused Wirecard of accounting manipulation. In spite of a higher awareness of the risk of deliberate deception, auditors and national supervisors failed to prevent the Wirecard scandal.

Moreover, Wirecard was able to place a EUR 500 million bond on the Euro MTF, the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, and received funding from a consortium of banks, supervised by the European Central Bank and, hence, exposed to the consequences of the insolvency proceedings.

BaFin claims that it was only responsible for regulating Wirecard Bank. The FCA only claims responsibility for regulating Wirecard Card Solutions.

Significant concerns have been raised about the fact that Wirecard was integral to many startups and has cooperated with major banks to integrate Alipay.

1. Which regulator is responsible for the activities of Wirecard?
2. Does the Commission agree that it would be more appropriate for a single financial markets supervisor to regulate a company in situations like this?
3. What specific audit standards and procedures should be introduced for complex group structures with regulated and unregulated entities, within and/or outside the EU, offering digitalised financial services?