Question for written answer E-005161/2020/rev.1 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Ending conflicts of interest in invitations to tender

In its reply of 7 August 2020 concerning the contract won by BlackRock to draw up a report on sustainable banking rules, the Commission highlighted the selection criteria used.

We believe those criteria should be supplemented to avoid any future conflict of interest. We suggest adding the following practices and criteria:

- publishing the names of all the candidates in the tender procedure;
- giving reasons for the award of points for each criterion;
- excluding any actor whose clients are involved in projects which clash with the interests of the invitation to tender (e.g. fossil fuel clients for environment-related tenders);
- excluding offers where the price differs radically from those of competitors.

1. Will the Commission agree to take these criteria into account in future invitations to tender? If not, can it explain why?

2. Could the Commission send us the names of the competitors who were blacked out in its answer?

3. BlackRock submitted an offer which was half the price of those of its competitors. According to a note from the Commission dated 11 September 2020, BlackRock was asked to provide clarifications on the details of its offer. What clarifications have been provided by BlackRock and are they publicly available?