

**Question for written answer E-005287/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Sophia in 't Veld (Renew)

Subject: Appointment of the European Prosecutors of the European Public Prosecutor's Office
(EPPO)

Council implementing decision 14830/19 of 22 July 2020 on appointing the European Prosecutors of the EPPO states that for 'candidates nominated by Belgium, Bulgaria and Portugal, Council did not follow the non-binding order of preference of the selection panel, on the basis of a different assessment of the merits of those candidates which was carried out in the relevant preparatory bodies of the Council'.

On 27 July 2020, Austria, Estonia, Luxembourg and the Netherlands published a statement that 'competition between rankings of national selection panels and the ranking of the European selection panel must be avoided, at the risk of eroding the European component of the appointment procedure'.

1. Does the Commission consider it a cause for concern that the Council did not follow the recommendations and rankings of the European selection panel regarding candidates nominated by Belgium, Bulgaria and Portugal?
2. Does the Commission consider it a cause for concern that the EPPO's independence and capacity to work might be limited if national interests prevail in the selection of European prosecutors?
3. Could the Commission provide details of how it is involved in the selection process, and indicate whether it has been informed why the Council has decided not to follow the recommendations and rankings of the European selection panel regarding the candidates nominated by Belgium, Bulgaria and Portugal?