

**Question for written answer E-005377/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Disclosure of information concerning the award of a bid on environmental sustainability guideline (ESG) factors to BlackRock

In the Commission's answer to P-002369/2020 on the award to BlackRock of a contract to define ESG factors, it provided assurances that BlackRock Investment Management was not in a situation of conflicting professional interests.

BlackRock pledged it would commit to 'physical segregation' to prevent information from the study flowing to other parts of BlackRock's business.

1. As the Commission's contract is based on the successful tenderer's bid, can the Commission disclose BlackRock's above-mentioned commitment that it would aim to ensure 'physical segregation' and 'financial segregation' between BlackRock Inc and BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited?
2. The Commission did not provide any justification for the risk of jeopardising the EU's sovereignty by giving an American company significant scope to influence EU laws through this contract. Is the Commission aware of that risk?
3. BlackRock's offer is 30 % cheaper than the second cheapest tenderer's bid. Will the Commission share the information that led it to conclude BlackRock's bid was not abnormally low?