

**Question for written answer E-005621/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Tamás Deutsch (PPE)

Subject: Vice-President Jourová's consultations with MEP Anna Donáth

In a recently published video MEP Anna Donáth acknowledged talking to Vice-President Jourová about the rule of law situation in Hungary 'every three days'. In a later social media post Ms Donáth admitted that it was Vice-President Jourová who had sought out her opinion on several occasions.

Ms Donáth's statements appear to prove the widespread assumption that EU officials and institutions are being misled by false and one-sided information from Momentum Mozgalom politicians and other Hungarian opposition representatives about the actual situation in Hungary. This case also raises questions about the Commission's methods of collecting information about current developments in the Member States.

With particular regard to the conflicting statements, I wish to ask the Commission:

1. Can the Commission confirm that the Vice-President has been in regular contact with Ms Donáth about the situation in Hungary?
2. Can the Commission confirm whether Vice-President Jourová herself initiated these regular discussions?
3. Bearing in mind that pro-government MEPs would also have been available for discussion if requested, does the Commission believe this unilateral consultation is in line with the requirements to which Vice-President Jourová is obliged to adhere in discharging her duties, namely those of neutrality, objectivity and accountability?