

**Question for written answer E-006671/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Harald Vilimsky (ID)

Subject: BlackRock deal

The European Ombudsman has recently delivered a sharp rebuke to the Commission for failing to examine in greater detail possible conflicts of interest in awarding a consultancy contract to BlackRock.

1. What precautions will the Commission now take to ensure that there is no recurrence of any such questionable award procedures in future?
2. Given the urgent need to overhaul and improve the relevant internal guidelines, can the Commission say whether any specific plans have been made to do so and, if that is the case, what these plans are?
3. In view of the strong objections voiced by the European Ombudsman, does the Commission now intend to withdraw the contract awarded to BlackRock? In its reply to question P-002480/2020, the Commission indicated that it was able to terminate the contract early at almost any time. If it in fact chooses to do so, will BlackRock be required to make reimbursement?