

Question for written answer E-001438/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Implementing the Anselmi Act in Europe: private associations and opaque relationships between ministers and private economic and financial stakeholders The 'Diplomatia' affair

In Italy, cases where high-ranking public officials and representatives of private economic and financial concerns are members of the same private associations can give rise to potential conflicts of interest and influence-peddling.

These associations are often characterised by a lack of transparency, with their budgets, statutes, internal rules and membership shrouded in secrecy.

One such case is the association 'Diplomatia', where top investment bankers such as Stefano Balsamo, founder of Diplomatia and managing director of JP Morgan in Italy, ministers (Daniele Franco at the Ministry of the Economy and Finance and Enrico Giovannini at the Ministry of Transport, for instance), rub shoulders in secrecy with the CEOs of private companies providing essential services (Fabio Cerchiai, CEO of Atlantia for example) ambassadors, senior officials at ministries and the Court of Auditors and executives from public companies (Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Fincantieri, Leonardo, etc.).

The Anselmi Act (Law 17/1982) prohibits associations concealing activities and members, which 'could hinder constitutional bodies and public authorities' of national interest in the exercise of their functions.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. whether it considers relationships within such associations could affect the overriding public interest or be in breach of EU directives?
2. whether it intends to strengthen and update the provisions of the Anselmi Act at EU level?
3. how it intends to guarantee transparency and rule out undue influence and the risk of revealing secrets and acts of state.