

**Question for written answer E-003436/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Contracts with the 'big four' consultancy firms

The Commission is increasingly turning to professional service providers, in particular the world's four largest consultancy firms. Between 2016 and 2019, PWC, EY, KPMG and Deloitte were awarded contracts worth more than EUR 462 million. In 2020 alone, these contracts amounted to more than EUR 156 million (equating to more than EUR 700 000 per working day!). It is an open secret that the Commission President is apparently especially keen to work with these four external consultancy firms. The German Bundestag even investigated the large amounts spent on those firms by the ministry she was in charge of at the time.

1. Opting for the 'big four' is remarkable, given that they are mostly known for helping to facilitate large-scale tax evasion/avoidance. How has the Commission morally justified awarding contracts to these consultancy firms?
2. These consultancy firms are closely involved with the Technical Support Instrument, which offers Member States technical assistance with designing structural reforms via, inter alia, international organisations and NGOs. Which organisations and NGOs are involved?
3. Does the Commission require these organisations and NGOs to be fully transparent with regard to all their internal financial flows?