

**Question for written answer E-003607/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Follow-up questions on the matter of the Vredestein company

On 13 April, we received an email from the cabinet of Executive Vice-President Vestager informing us that the Hungarian State aid accorded in 2020 to the Apollo Tyres company was to be considered in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The email in question was sent in addition to an earlier answer to our written questions of 17 December 2020¹.

However, the conclusion apparently drawn by Commissioner Vestager, seemingly based on replies received from the Hungarian authorities, does not correspond to previous information received from the latter. For example, the Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade defined this subsidy as an example of Hungary's 'Eastern opening' policy². He also spoke about modernising production lines and expanding the range of products. On the other hand, he made no mention of compensation for losses, which is mentioned in the above email as a justification for part of the State aid. This raises the following questions:

1. What has the Commission done to obtain information regarding Hungarian State aid to Apollo Tyres?
2. How does it reconcile the answer it received from the Hungarian authorities with the communication from the Hungarian Government at the time the subsidy was granted?
3. Is it willing to carry out a comprehensive investigation into this State aid?

¹ E-006949/2020

² <https://www.napi.hu/magyar-vallalatok/beruhazas-apollo-tyres-fejleszt-gumiabroncs.719571.html>