

**Question for written answer E-004558/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Conflicts of interest

For matters relating to the coronavirus, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen consults Peter Piot, Director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who has been a Senior Fellow at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) since 2009. Over the last decade, the university has received EUR 185 million from the BMGF.

1. How does the Commission ensure that there are no conflicts of interest?
2. In the light of the above, what does the Commission make of the fact that Bill Gates, the founder of the BMGF, has made huge investments from his own fortune in Pfizer and BioNTech – two vaccine manufacturers with which the Commission has also concluded purchase contracts?
3. What measures is the Commission taking to ensure transparency with regard to any possible conflicts of interest between the individuals involved?