

**Question for written answer E-004756/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU funds and corruption in Bulgaria

In the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, Bulgaria is ranked 69th out of 179 countries, sharing the lowest rank among EU Member States with Romania and Hungary. Furthermore, on 2 June 2021, the US Treasury Department imposed sanctions against three Bulgarian citizens and 64 affiliated companies under the Magnitsky Act¹².

Given this highly problematic background and Bulgaria's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) allocation of EUR 10.7 billion in grants and loans, which is equivalent to 17 % of Bulgaria's GDP, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. According to the Commission, countries must set up 'adequate control systems against double funding, conflict of interest, corruption and fraud, before the first payment can be made'. However, there is no doubt that the unprecedented size of the RRF payments will automatically reduce the Commission's level of control. How much control over EU funding does the Commission have compared to Member States and why?
2. What effect does the Commission think that RRF payments will have on the increasing levels of corruption in Bulgaria? What does that mean for future payments?
3. Has the Commission analysed its role in the past in relation to substantial transfers of EU funds and their contribution to corruption in the country? What lessons have been learned?

¹ <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020/table/bgr>

² <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0208>