

**Question for written answer E-000944/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sabrina Pignedoli (NI)

Subject: Funding for the Silk Faw car plant in Gavassa (province of Reggio Emilia), Italy

The Silk Faw project in the province of Reggio Emilia, with a plant of 320 000 square metres intended to manufacture 100 supercars per year, raises concerns regarding both the environmental impact and the origin of the investments. Silk Faw Automotive Group, a Sino-US company run by Jonathan Krane, has promised to invest EUR 1 billion, but has so far received only EUR 4.5 million in European funds from the Emilia-Romagna region and EUR 4.5 million in discounts on construction charges by the municipality of Reggio Emilia. The transaction is financed through a company based in the Cayman islands, a tax haven, with EUR 15 million from Ideanomics, a US-based company, which is already the subject of independent investigations in the US to protect savers. The corporate objective of the undertaking is vague.

These operations put at risk the exclusivity of European engine know-how. Faw started a project (Byton) in Germany in 2016 with former executives BMW and Nissan, which failed in 2019 with 1500 redundancies.

1. Can the Commission verify whether the account opened by Silk Faw in Italy, with a payment of EUR 15 million, complies with the requirements of European anti-money laundering laws?
2. Can the Commission verify that Chinese funding for the Silk Faw plant complies with EU rules?