

**Question for written answer E-000975/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The stance of the World Health Organization and its Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, during the COVID-19 crisis

There is some evidence that casts doubt on whether Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General¹ of the World Health Organization (WHO)², is free from conflicts of interest with regard to China. There is, first of all, the fact that the WHO has not named SARS-CoV-2 after the place in which it originated, Wuhan, but has resorted to a different naming convention, only to skip the letter Xi and arrive at Omicron, thereby sparing the Chinese ruler from embarrassment.

Another narrative the WHO has been actively seeking to control concerns the number of victims in China. Dr Tedros has designated 'exaggerations about the number of sick and dead' in China as fake news. Both these narratives conspicuously match the goals of the Chinese Government.

1. Given these circumstances, would the Commission agree that it cannot be excluded that Dr Tedros is performing his duties in a partisan way?
2. Is it aware of any incentives that might explain Dr Tedros's support for China's positions?
3. Does it believe that, if the WHO is not in fact a credible neutral player acting on behalf of all of its members, there is risk that the fight against COVID-19 will not be successful?

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Director-General_of_the_World_Health_Organization

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Health_Organization