

Question for written answer E-001399/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Jérôme Rivière (NI)

Subject: Commission cutting funding to Hungary

On Tuesday 5 April, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that the Commission would soon be triggering a powerful new mechanism to cut funding to Hungary for eroding the EU's rule-of-law standards.

Two days after Victor Orbán secured a new term as the country's prime minister, the Commission thus refused to accept his win by a clear majority and even claimed that the rule of law had been breached to justify its decision to cut funding to Hungary and withhold recovery funds.

Hungary is the first country to face proceedings under this new power, which gives the EU the authority to cut millions in payouts to countries that it considers have 'breached the rule of law'. This announcement demonstrates once again that any policy that goes against orders given by the Commission (whose members are not elected by citizens), even when democratically approved, will now be sanctioned.

Does the Commission intend to usurp the democratic decision-making power of the Hungarian people or will it respect their sovereign choice?