

**Question for written answer E-003601/2022/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Guido Reil (ID)**

Subject: Corruption in Bulgaria

EU accession has encouraged corruption in Bulgaria. According to the Bulgarian Center for the Study of Democracy, there is large-scale fraud involving EU funds. It is comparable in size to the markets for organised crime (people trafficking, drug trafficking and fuel trafficking). Between 5 and 15 % of EU funds received for various programmes are regularly misappropriated in Bulgaria. Accordingly, out of a total budget of EUR 11.7 billion in the 2014–2020 programming period, losses have amounted to between EUR 0.59 billion and EUR 1.78 billion. Most offences occur within agriculture and in connection with the construction of guest houses, which in reality are then used as private residences<sup>1</sup>.

In September 2021 the Commission admitted for the first time that it had not done enough to tackle top-level corruption<sup>2</sup>.

1. Does the Commission have precise data on the extent of corruption involving EU funds in Bulgaria?
2. What action has been taken by the Commission, and what has it achieved since Bulgaria's accession to the EU?

Submitted: 8.11.2022

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<sup>1</sup> 'EU funds fraud in Bulgaria committed on massive scale', novinite.com, 15 September 2021.

<sup>2</sup> 'Commission acknowledges its Bulgaria failures', Euractiv.com, 16 September 2021.