

**Question for written answer E-003749/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: COVID-19: does the position of Ursula von der Leyen's husband create a conflict of interest with some of the Commission's activities?

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen indicated in her declaration of interest¹ that her husband runs an American laboratory, Orgenesis, in Germany² and that he is a member of an association for musically gifted children and a non-profit association.

However, in view of the commitments to purchase COVID-19 vaccines worth EUR 71 billion, there are a number of crucial omissions in her declaration:

- Orgenesis states that it has been active in the area of COVID-19 vaccines since 19 May 2020³.
- Orgenesis reported a turnover of only USD 13 million and losses of USD 9 million in the first six months of 2022⁴. An Orgenesis joint venture is said to have obtained around EUR 32 million from the European Union through the Greek Recovery Plan at the end of 2021⁵. It is reported that on 30 September 2022 Heiko von der Leyen was appointed to the Supervisory Board of an Italian research entity said to have received EUR 320 million from the European Union under the Italian Recovery Plan⁶⁷. Orgenesis is managing a EUR 4 million grant obtained from the Commission on 3 May 2022⁸⁹. In the past, this company has received public funds from Belgium¹⁰.

How much EU funding was paid or committed to Orgenesis in 2020, 2021 and 2022?

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¹

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/sites/default/files/commissioner_declarations/declaration_of_interests_2.pdf

² In 2019, Orgenesis is said to have declared a rent for its US head office in Goldenrod Lane, Germantown, of USD 200 per month (p. 41). This laboratory had never generated income through the sale of therapeutic products (p. 33). <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1460602/000106299320001299/form10k.htm>

³ <https://tinyurl.com/yc26fh9y>, <https://orgenesi.com/pipeline>

⁴ <https://tinyurl.com/7c74dfdm>, <https://tinyurl.com/53e4e8je>

⁵ <https://tinyurl.com/mskpnu43>, <https://tinyurl.com/bdhmbnvs>

⁶ <https://tinyurl.com/2p8yn65k>

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/IP_22_5663

⁸ <https://tinyurl.com/bdxk2myw>

⁹ Orgenesis is not mentioned in the EU Financial Transparency Register:
<https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/searchControllerPager.do?declaration=orgenesi&search=search>

¹⁰ <https://tinyurl.com/3mnarsnt>