

**Question for written answer E-004123/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jean-Paul Garraud (ID)

Subject: Links between the Commission and Qatar

Margaritis Schinas, the Commissioner for Promoting our European Way of Life, recently praised Qatar for its 'considerable and tangible progress on labour reforms' and in November 2022 he tweeted: 'Qatar, the first Arab and the smallest country ever to host the Cup, delivered reforms & merits a global success'.

On Tuesday, 13 December 2022, in the wake of the corruption revelations about Qatar allegedly bribing MEPs and EU officials, Mr Schinas defended himself, saying that he had simply been stating the Commission's position on the matter.

In April 2022, Commissioner Ylva Johansson proposed that Qatari nationals should be exempted from the requirement to obtain a visa for short stays in the European Union. That file has now been suspended. On 13 December 2022, Ms Johansson said that the Commission's assessment of Qatar was 'balanced and comprehensive'.

1. Does the Commission still consider its assessment of Qatar to be 'balanced'?
2. Can it confirm that Mr Schinas and Ms Johansson have not been approached by Qatar or any other countries seeking to promote their interests with a view to committing illegal acts?
3. Can it explain why, at the press conference on 12 December 2022, Ms von der Leyen refused to answer questions on Mr Schinas' links with Qatar?

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