

**Question for written answer E-004181/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Michiel Hoogeveen (ECR)

Subject: Unwarranted withholding of documents relating to NextGenerationEU

In connection with the article 'Brussel hield onterecht documenten achter: felle kritiek van Europese Ombudsman' (Brussels unwarrantedly withheld documents: scathing criticism by the European Ombudsman) published on 'Follow the Money' on 1 December 2022.

1. On what basis does the Commission consider that disclosure of documents relating to discussions on the coronavirus recovery fund with the governments of Sweden and Denmark could undermine the 'financial, monetary or economic policy' of those two Scandinavian countries, especially as they themselves do not think so and are calling for full transparency?
2. Does the Commission's understanding of the 'financial, monetary or economic policy' of Sweden and Denmark have more of a bearing than the judgement of the two countries themselves?
3. On what basis does the Commission consider that disclosure would undermine the decision-making process? Indeed, the Ombudsman found that the Commission 'had not convincingly explained' why that would be the case. Why does the importance of disclosure not outweigh the concerns about the decision-making process?

Submitted: 29.12.2022