Question for written answer E-000283/2023 to the Commission

Rule 138

Robert Biedroń (S&D)

Subject: Suspected irregularities in the spending of EU funds from the Erasmus+ programme in

Poland

*Gazeta Wyborcza*¹ has reported worrying allegations of politicisation in the process of allocating Erasmus+ funding.

Particular concerns surround Dawid Solak, a Law and Justice (PiS) Councillor in Tarnów, who sits on the Board of the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE), a state-owned foundation acting as the National Agency for the Erasmus+ Programme. The FRSE has, over the years, awarded generous Erasmus+ grants to the Tarnów Project Association, of which Dawid Solak was a founder and chairman. The Association has received grants totalling PLN 2 800 000.

In addition, Solak's alma mater, the State University of Tarnów, began receiving record grants during his time at the FRSE, amounting to PLN 4 600 000 over a period of three years.

Gazeta Wyborcza also revealed that the FRSE has been politicised by PiS members. As an example of such behaviour, it points to Jacek Kurzępa, a PiS Member of Parliament and member of the Erasums+ Programme evaluation committee, who, in correspondence to the then Head of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, identified organisations that were hostile to the governing party in order to exclude them from funding².

In light of the above:

- 1. What procedures does the Commission plan to carry out to investigate possible irregularities in the allocation of Erasmus+ funding in Poland?
- 2. Is the Commission planning to take the necessary measures to address these concerns, and if so, when?

Submitted: 31.1.2023

² ibid.

https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,29371311,miliony-z-erasmusa-dla-instytucji-zwiazanych-z-wicedyrektorem.html