

**Question for written answer E-000663/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Tilly Metz (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Free Qatar Airways flights for DG MOVE Director-General during negotiations on air transport agreement with Qatar

According to a recent investigative report¹, the Director-General of the Commission's department for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) Henrik Hololei accepted multiple, free Qatar Airways flights, paid for by the Government of Qatar, while negotiations on an air transport agreement with Qatar were ongoing. This raises serious questions about Qatar's influence on DG MOVE's position during the negotiations, especially since Mr Hololei repeatedly and publicly promoted collaboration with Qatar. Although Mr Hololei was allegedly not directly involved in the negotiations, as Director-General of DG MOVE, the department which worked on the negotiations is under his direct responsibility.

1. Is the Commission conducting an investigation into the possible undue influence of Qatar on Commission officials during the aviation deal negotiations?
2. Does it continue to deny that the flights gifted to Director-General Hololei by the Qatari Government constitute a possible conflict of interest?
3. What rules does the Commission, and in particular DG MOVE, have in place to avoid any conflict of interest during such sensitive negotiations?

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¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-transport-chief-henrik-hololei-flew-free-qatar-airways-negotiate-aviation-deal-doha-qatargate-corruption/>.