

**Question for written answer E-001071/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's attendance of a closed-door German Government meeting on combustion-engine vehicles

The European Parliament recently voted in favour of banning sales of new combustion-engine vehicles from 2035. This purely ideological legislation, which will have a catastrophic impact on our economies and industry, has been blocked ever since. Certain Member States, specifically Germany, have effectively vetoed this flagship Commission proposal.

A German Government meeting was held behind closed doors on 5 and 6 March 2023 so the different parties of the ruling coalition could agree on a policy on this issue. One media outlet¹ claims Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was present at the meeting, even though her party – the CDU – is in the German opposition and is critical of the decision to ban combustion engines.

Her presence at a meeting about a Member State's internal policy raises the issue of a possible conflict of interests: as the current President of the European Commission, Ms von der Leyen is responsible for the matter, but was previously a minister in the German Government.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether its President attended the German Government's internal policy meeting?
2. Did Ms von der Leyen attend the meeting as Commission President or as a German political figure?
3. What did she talk about at the meeting?

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¹ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/conjoncture/en-allemande-les-allies-d-olaf-scholzse-dechirent-sur-la-voiture-electrique-20230306>.