

**Question for written answer E-001254/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Criminal complaint against President von der Leyen over controversial text messages exchanged with pharmaceutical company Pfizer

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is being sued in the Belgian courts over controversial private text messages exchanged with Albert Bourla, CEO of pharmaceutical giant Pfizer.

The President stands accused of having acted unilaterally, through private wheeling and dealing, without a mandate from the EU Member States.

The Commission – which has said that the messages were deleted because they were deemed to be of a ‘short-lived and ephemeral nature’ and devoid of ‘important information relating to policies, activities and decisions of the Commission’ – is clearly not being cooperative.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission explain the serious lack of transparency surrounding these private negotiations?
2. How will it respond to the criminal complaint filed in Belgium?

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