

**Question for written answer E-001414/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jean-Paul Garraud (ID)

Subject: European Ombudsman criticises the Commission

On 15 April 2023, the European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, who is responsible for investigating cases of maladministration by the EU institutions, presented her annual report for 2022. The report focuses in particular on the way in which revolving door appointments are managed, relationships with lobbies and the monitoring of EU funds.

It turns out that the European Ombudsman opened 348 investigations last year, more than half of which concerned the Commission, which was the subject of 197 new investigations. One of the things that Emily O'Reilly has asked for is clarification regarding the relationship between the Commission and tobacco industry lobbyists. She found that only the directorate-general for health had published all the meetings that its staff had held with those lobbyists: the directorates-general for taxation, the internal market, trade, and climate action had not done so.

1. Why is the Commission not complying with the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which it signed in 2004 and which requires all interactions between public administrations and the tobacco industry to be transparent?
2. Why is the Commission unable to explain why these meetings were necessary, when this is also a requirement of the Framework Convention?

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