

**Question for written answer E-002645/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Pina Picierno (S&D), Raphaël Glucksmann (S&D)

Subject: The alleged risk of foreign interference in the Italian Senate – the case of Irina Osipova

Irina Osipova, a Russian-Italian citizen, will be taken on as a ‘parliamentary assistant’ in the Senate of the Italian Republic after passing a public competition in 2019 for a post for which no security clearance is required. She will therefore have access to the Senate databases and classify and manage the Senate’s correspondence.

Numerous investigations and reports¹ reveal that the Russian Federation has recently been stepping up activities such as espionage and interference in Italy. Osipova openly supports Putin, whom she has described as ‘a leader who has no equal in the world’² and ‘a model for Italy to defend national interests’³. She also campaigns against the EU sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation through her ‘Rim – Young Italian-Russians’ organisation.

1. Is the Commission aware of this case?
2. In the Commission’s view and in light of recommendations of the report of Parliament’s Special Committee on foreign interference in all democratic processes in the European Union, including disinformation, and the strengthening of integrity, transparency and accountability in the European Parliament (ING2), the European Council conclusions of May 2022, December 2021, October 2021 and June 2019, and the Council conclusions of June 2022 and July 2022, what could be the related risks of this hiring case?
3. What actions could the Commission take?

Submitted: 13.9.2023

¹ e.g. Tallia, ‘The Spy Season. Investigation into Russian Agents in Italy’, *La Repubblica*, 28 August 2023.

² *La Repubblica*, 8 September 2023.

³ *Open*, 8 September 2023.