

**Question for written answer E-002675/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: NGOs and lobbyists

The Commission will spend more than EUR 11 billion of taxpayers' money subsidising NGOs during this parliamentary term. The Commission clearly attaches great importance to these organisations, though in many cases it is unclear to whom they are truly accountable. NGOs implementing the Muslim Brotherhood's agenda can continue to enjoy the generosity with which the Commission distributes funds.

A number of NGOs are part of networks with headquarters abroad. In addition, some NGOs benefiting from Commission grants are also registered as lobbyists in the Transparency Register. This is extremely worrying: It is common knowledge that NGOs carry considerable weight in the decisions made by the Commission and other institutions but the Commission paying for it to be influenced using taxpayers' money is a matter of utmost concern. This is no less than an institutionalised conflict of interest.

1. What measures has the Commission taken during this parliamentary term to stop subsidies to NGOs that are at the same time listed on the lobby register?
2. What amounts has the Commission reclaimed this parliamentary term from NGOs that receive grants from the Commission while registered in the lobby register?
3. With what measures will the Commission reverse the shift of power from voters to NGOs without democratic legitimacy?

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