

**Question for written answer E-003251/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Anna Fotyga (ECR)

Subject: Commission President interfering in the constitutional process of forming a government in a Member State

Last week, Donald Tusk, the leader of the opposition party which, as part of a coalition, came second in the recent parliamentary elections in Poland and who holds no official position in the country, visited Brussels. According to a press statement, the main purpose of the visit was to unblock Poland's RRP. As well as the EPP meeting, the Commission President decided to hold an ostentatious meeting in a format reserved for heads of government and a press conference normally held to convey joint communications by the Commission and the Heads of Government of the Member States. The message of this meeting was clear: the Commission is signalling its expectation that Tusk will become Prime Minister, thereby interfering in the ongoing constitutional process of forming a new government. Furthermore, this only confirms the political motivation for blocking the RRP. The Commission President's conduct caused outrage not only in Poland. It was seen in Western media as premature, a violation of democratic norms and an interference in the national politics of Member States by a German Commission President with a clear preference for a pro-German politician who has not yet been entrusted with the task of forming a government.

1. How does the Commission justify its President's meeting with Donald Tusk on 25 October 2023?
2. Why is the President of the Commission, who should in theory be an apolitical official, getting involved in the internal politics of a Member State during a sensitive period of government formation in accordance with procedures strictly laid down in the Constitution?
3. Does the Commission confirm Donald Tusk's assertion that a condition for disbursing funds under the RRP is that politicians from his political camp take over the leadership of the government in Poland?

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