

**Question for written answer E-000727/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Eva Kaili (NI)

Subject: Belgium not a safe place for democracy

According to the information contained in the case file of the investigation dubbed by the press as Qatargate, the secret services of several European countries conducted espionage activities with intrusive monitoring of the political activities of several MEPs.

In the conclusive report of the Belgian secret services, VSSE, several MEPs that were considered as main suspects were not persecuted or interrogated. According to the 2014 DG IPOL study entitled 'The immunity of members of European Parliament', 'the failure to prosecute other participants in the alleged offence, so that the MEP alone has been criminally charged for a fact involving a plurality of suspects, has also been treated as fumus persecutionis'.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware that such violations are happening in a country hosting EU institutions?
2. How can the absolute immunity and independence of MEPs be guaranteed in a country like Belgium where secret services are acting outside EU law?
3. How can an MEP be protected from fumus persecutionis?

Submitted: 7.3.2024