

**Question for written answer E-000797/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Markus Buchheit (ID)**

Subject: Development assistance for Ethiopia

In December 2019, in Addis Ababa, during her first overseas visit after taking office, the President of the Commission Ms von der Leyen honoured President Abiy Ahmed with gifts in the form of assistance amounting to at least EUR 150 million. After instigating three civil wars, the cost of which (including what has been destroyed) runs to EUR 48 billion, he is now intending to build the planet's biggest palace complex across 500 ha, in his capital city, at a cost of EUR 10-15 billion. For the period 2021/2027, the Commission earmarked EUR 1 billion in development assistance for Ethiopia, confirming that with a EUR 650 million tranche in October 2020.

Could the Commission explain to what extent the next civil war or the President's megalomania will be financed by this money – European taxpayers' money – either directly or by replacing and redeploying funds within the Ethiopian Government budget?

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