

**Question for written answer Z-000042/2019
to the European Central Bank
Rule 140
Sven Giegold (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: ECB compliance with EU rules on whistleblower protection

Since 1 January 2014, EU institutions have been obliged by Article 22(c) of the Staff Regulations¹ to introduce internal rules on: the protection of whistleblowers, the provision of information to them on the issues they reported, and the procedure for handling any complaints they make about their treatment as a result of reporting serious irregularities. On 16 April 2019, Parliament voted in favour of a new directive on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law, which provides safe channels for reporting and protects reporting persons from retaliation.

The Dieselgate, Panama Papers and Cambridge Analytica revelations have proven that whistleblowers help expose unlawful activities that undermine the public interest. Murders of journalists in Malta and Slovakia and court trials in Luxembourg have highlighted the urgent need to protect courageous people who bring illegal activities to light.

Given all this, can the ECB outline whether, in both its monetary policy and its banking supervision function, protections for ECB whistleblowers are in place, and whether internal and external whistleblowing channels have been established? If not, when will it move to ensure effective whistleblower protection?

¹ Regulation No 31 (EEC), 11 (EAEC).