

**Priority question for written answer P-003991/2020/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Martin Sonneborn (NI)**

Subject: Illegal campaign support by the Commission President

On 3 July 2020, the HDZ, the ruling party in Croatia with a tendency to corruption and illiberality, published a video for the parliamentary elections (brought forward owing to short-term advances in the polls) in which EPP politicians try to recite the HDZ slogan 'Sigurna Hrvatska'. One of them is Ms von der Leyen who has become known in Germany primarily through the 'consultants affair' and who is currently your president.

The Commission's Code of Conduct states: 'Members shall abstain from making public statements or interventions on behalf of any political party [...].' (Not to mention Article 17(3) TEU!)

Commission spokesperson Mamer said on Twitter that it was 'a contribution in her personal capacity' by von der Leyen.

The contribution is indistinguishable from the Commission President's official video messages: the same angle, the same Commission building, the same EU flag, the same caption ('President of the European Commission'), the same charming top, the same classic facial cosmetics, the same immaculate hairstyle.

1. Who recorded the video and who approved and paid for the shooting?
2. In the event that the video was created by EU officials for personal purposes, does the Commission intend to investigate whether there has been a criminal misappropriation of EU budget funds for the benefit of individuals?
3. If the video was created in her official role as President, what measures will be taken to sanction violations of the Code of Conduct?