

**Priority question for written answer P-005388/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Statements of Vice-President Vera Jourova about Hungary

In an interview given to *Der Spiegel* on 26 September 2020, Vice-President Vera Jourova stated that the Hungarian Prime Minister builds a 'sick democracy' and insulted Hungarian citizens by saying 'most of them are not in a position to form an independent opinion'.

By saying this, Vice-President Jourova offended a Member State and breached the Commission's principle of neutrality.

Article 2(5) of The Code of Conduct for Members of the European Commission states that 'Members [...] shall not act or express themselves, through whatever medium, in a manner which adversely affects the public perception of their independence, their integrity or the dignity of their office'.

Furthermore, the internal rules of the Commission specify that Commissioners' press statements should be checked with the relevant departments of the Commission, given that Commissioners represent the official view of the Commission.

1. Did the Commission approve Vice-President Jourova's statement, and can this be considered the Commission's official opinion?
2. When does the Commission President intend to remove Vera Jourova from her office and nominate a commissioner, who, in the spirit of the Treaties, behaves in a neutral, unbiased and constructive manner?