

**Priority question for written answer P-005760/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jeroen Lenaers (PPE)**

**Subject:** The Maltese Government's interference in the public inquiry into the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia

The Maltese Government has sent a letter to the board of the public inquiry into the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia urging it to round off its inquiry by December 2020. This goes against the terms of reference for the inquiry<sup>1</sup>, which state that: 'The Board of Inquiry shall endeavour to conclude its work within a time frame of nine months without prejudice to the proper fulfilment of these terms of reference.' I would like to draw particular attention to the last part of this provision beginning with the words 'without prejudice to'.

In line with the Commission's conclusion that 'deep corruption patterns have been unveiled and have raised a strong public demand for a significantly strengthened capacity to tackle corruption and wider rule of law reforms'<sup>2</sup>, I would like to voice my concern about the letter, as it interferes with the public inquiry.

1. Does the Commission share my concern about the letter, especially given that the inquiry is also investigating the Maltese Government itself?
2. Could the Commission confirm that it is up to the public inquiry board itself to decide when it considers its mandate to be fulfilled, in line with its terms of reference?

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<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/DOI/Press%20Releases/Documents/PR192460b%20%28Terms%20of%20Reference%29.pdf>, p. 2

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020SC0317&from=EN>, p. 1