

**Priority question for written answer P-005352/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Virginie Joron (ID)**

**Subject:** French Presidency of the Council of the EU and the need for 'democratic neutrality' during the French presidential election

Unless the President dies or resigns, the French presidential election will take place from 10 to 24 April 2022.

Meanwhile, France is due to hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU for six months beginning 1 January 2022. Furthermore, the budget set for this year is EUR 102 million, compared to the EUR 14 million France spent in 1995<sup>1</sup>.

Despite there being a clear risk of conflict of interest democratically speaking, Emmanuel Macron has not sought to postpone the presidency until after the elections. It is therefore up to the Commission to ensure that France holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU does not affect the French election<sup>2</sup>.

Under Article 52-8 of the French Electoral Code<sup>3</sup>, candidates may not, directly or indirectly, receive donations, goods or services from any legal person governed by foreign law.

During Macron's presidential campaign,

1. Will the Commission guarantee 'democratic neutrality' by inviting other candidates to its meetings with him?
2. What procedure will it adopt to ensure that the French Electoral Code is not violated and that the obligations are met: assessment of contributions in kind that could make the candidate appear favoured, not including photos of or messages from the presidential candidate in its communications, presentation of Eurostat surveys, etc.?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.capital.fr/economie-politique/la-jolie-facture-de-la-presidence-francaise-de-lue-en-2022-1415219>

<sup>2</sup> Article 2, 4(2), 17 and 21(2) of the Treaty on European Union, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012M/TXT&from=FR>

<sup>3</sup> No donation, good or service in any form shall be permitted.  
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