

**Priority question for written answer P-005385/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Christine Anderson (ID)**

**Subject:** Lengthy delays to the Commission's answers to written questions – Part 2

In my priority question for written answer<sup>1</sup>, which I only received a reply to after three months not within three weeks as required by the Rules of Procedure, I mentioned that many of my questions were answered late or, in the case of my oral questions<sup>23456</sup>, never at all. I regard that as a hindrance to my work in the European Parliament. My major interpellation<sup>7</sup> on this issue was only replied to after 14 months, not within the six-week limit<sup>8</sup>. During the debate, the Vice-President also acknowledged that the current procedure could be improved<sup>9</sup>.

The Commission informed me that it does not consider the timelines for the replies to written parliamentary questions to be legally binding on the Commission as they are unilaterally set by the European Parliament in its internal Rules of Procedure<sup>10</sup>.

The questions put by MEPs to the Commission are a tool of democratic scrutiny and as such are conducive to the 'open decision-making process' promoted by the Commission<sup>11</sup>.

What will the Commission do to resolve this situation both in terms of the lengthy delays to its answers and the need for their quality to be improved?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2021-001307\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2021-001307_EN.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000036\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000036_EN.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000047\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000047_EN.html)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000048\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000048_EN.html)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000056\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000056_EN.html)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000063\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/O-9-2020-000063_EN.html)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/G-9-2020-001002\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/G-9-2020-001002_EN.html)

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-9-2021-11-25-ITM-012\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-9-2021-11-25-ITM-012_EN.html)

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/inclusiveness\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/inclusiveness_en)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2021-001307-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2021-001307-ASW_EN.html)

<sup>11</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/inclusiveness\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/inclusiveness_en)