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P-002336/2022  
Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(3.8.2022)

The recent publications in the press and on social media, according to which key staff, recently recruited by the Slovak Paying Agency (APA) may have close links to persons and companies that are being investigated under the so-called Dobytkár case is closely followed up by the Commission in an ongoing accreditation enquiry.

As these allegations have links to the mentioned Dobytkár case, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) has been informed accordingly, as also EU funds might be involved.

A final assessment on APA’s implementation of the accreditation action plan and transformation plan and whether the Paying Agency complies with the accreditation criteria will be made by the Commission in the context of the ongoing accreditation enquiry.

The Commission is following closely the situation in Slovakia and will take all necessary measures to protect the EU budget.