

**Priority question for written answer P-002498/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Andrey Novakov (PPE)**

**Subject:** Dismissal of the executive director of Bulgaria's executive agency for the audit of EU funds due to an alleged EPPO investigation

For some time now, I have been following a matter of concern. I recently found out that Lyudmila Rangelova, the executive director of Bulgaria's executive agency for the audit of EU funds, has been dismissed.

I also found out that following changes to the agency's internal regulations that entered into force on 1 July 2022, the five-year mandate of the executive director has been abolished. This, in my view, represents a risk to the agency's independence and impartiality.

In a recent statement, the Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Asen Vasilev explained that the executive director was dismissed due to an ongoing investigation by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). He also added that the Commission was aware of Ms Rangelova's dismissal.

In the light of the above, I would like to know:

1. Is there an ongoing EPPO investigation linked to Bulgaria's executive agency for the audit of EU funds?
2. Is Ms Rangelova's dismissal linked to an ongoing EPPO investigation in any way?
3. Has the Commission or the EPPO been informed about her dismissal through official channels or otherwise?