

**Priority question for written answer P-002647/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: European Ombudsman: von der Leyen not providing insight into Pfizer text messages is a 'wake-up call' and amounts to maladministration

On Tuesday 12 July 2022, the European Ombudsman closed its inquiry into the Commission's handling of the non-publication of Commission President von der Leyen's text messages to and from Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla. The Ombudsman concluded that this is a case of 'maladministration' and that the poor handling of this issue should be a 'wake-up call for all EU institutions'.

1. Does the Commission agree with the conclusions drawn by the Ombudsman? If not, why not? If so, what will the Commission do differently as a result of the Ombudsman's finding of maladministration?
2. Given the Ombudsman's conclusions, is the Commission now willing to answer the Ombudsman's questions as to whether the text messages exist? If they exist, is the Commission willing to publish them in line with standard transparency procedures? If not, why not?
3. The Commission's behaviour has created mistrust in society at large. 'Maladministration' is a very firm conclusion. Given that the Commission's behaviour is described in these terms, does it think its President is still fit for the office she holds?

Supporter¹

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Francesca Donato (NI)