

**Priority question for written answer P-002988/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Csaba Molnár (S&D)

Subject: Acquisition of Vodafone Magyarország Távközlési Zrt. by the Hungarian state

On 22 August, the Hungarian Minister for Economic Development announced that, together with the pro-government 4iG Nyrt., the state of Hungary would buy Vodafone Magyarország Zrt. by the end of December. The total purchase price to be paid will be HUF 452 billion, of which HUF 221 billion will be paid by the state.

The acquisition raises serious problems. Due to the rule-of-law issues of the Hungarian Government, Hungary still has not received the recovery funds and Hungarian public debt is continuously growing. In such a negative economic spiral, nothing justifies spending Hungarian taxpayers' money on buying a loss-making telecommunications company.

As it has happened on a number of occasions that companies purchased by the state receive significant state and EU grants following the acquisition, the suspicion is that this will not be any different now. It is also questionable whether the Hungarian state gave prohibited grants to 4iG to execute the transaction.

Since the Hungarian Competition Authority with competence in this issue has a president close to Fidesz, there is also a high risk of the Competition Authority being influenced.

1. According to the Commission, does the acquisition of Vodafone violate European Union competition law?
2. Does the Commission intend to review the case and the role of the Competition Authority in it?
3. What does the Commission intend to do to ensure that no prohibited State aid is granted and no EU funds are misused?