

**Priority question for written answer P-001822/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Credibility of the EU institutions in the light of the leaked statements in Bulgaria

A recording from an internal discussion between members of one of Bulgaria's leading political forces has been leaked, bringing to light a number of questionable statements made by former Prime Minister of Bulgaria Kiril Petkov.

According to the recording, in a private conversation, the President of the Commission suggested that Bulgaria's potential new government would have to figure out how to get around the rules in order to meet the criteria for joining the euro area, and that she would provide support to that end.

It is further suggested that an immunities committee could be created, drawing on Parliament's model, in order to drag out a lengthy procedure.

Other disturbing statements include the suggestion that the heads of all Bulgaria's security services would be replaced, and that the new heads had been cleared with an embassy.

- 1) With a view to preventing the erosion of the EU institutions' credibility, how does the Commission plan to respond to the alleged provision of advice on bypassing the established regulatory framework?
- 2) Given the concerns about foreign interference, how does the Commission view the consultation of any non-EU embassies about a change of leadership in all of a Member State's security structures?

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