Priority question for written answer P-002413/2023 to the Commission

Rule 138

Martin Sonneborn (NI)

Subject: Documents relating to a meeting between former EU Commissioner Günther Oettinger

und former Wirecard Chief Financial Officer Burkhard Ley

On 16 March 2022, former member of the Bundestag Wirecard Committee of Inquiry Fabio De Masi submitted a request to the Commission to be given access to documents relating to a meeting between former EU Commissioner Günther Oettinger and former Wirecard Chief Financial Officer Burkhard Ley. The Commission refused access to document Ares(2015)436265 (Agenda: Wirecard Bank AG: Meeting with Günther Oettinger, EU Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society) on the ground that that would undermine protection of legal advice. An appeal against the decision was lodged and the document was requested via the European Ombudsman. The European Ombudsman directed the Commission to take a decision on the appeal by 20 July 2023, but that has not been done.

- 1. In view of the high level of public interest, will the Commission make the document available to Parliament and the European Ombudsman?
- 2. To whom does the alleged protection of internal legal advice extend, given that Wirecard AG is indeed insolvent, and which stakeholder (e.g. insolvency practitioner) has been consulted in this connection prior to providing a response to the freedom-of-information request?

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