

Question for written answer E-001060/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: The question concerns the EC's neutrality in elections, given past cases of perceived interference in the EU, amid Commissioner Virkkunen's recent statement.

Given Commissioner H. Virkkunen's previous political support for Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, as evidenced by her tweets supporting Mr Trzaskowski in his campaign to be elected as Warsaw Mayor in 2020, questions arise concerning the Commissioner's neutrality in the round table talks for Poland ahead of the 2025 Polish Presidential election to discuss media freedom. The level of previous political partisanship and the Commissioner's support for Mr Trzaskowski that the meeting may be understood to be the EC's political interference in the upcoming election, favouring the Warsaw Mayor's political party's candidate.

Statements and actions by European Commission members have previously been seen as attempts to influence elections in EU states, such as comments before elections in Italy or post-election pressure on Romania regarding judicial matters. These precedents raise concerns that the Commission's involvement in Poland's pre-election talks could be viewed as political interference rather than a neutral effort to uphold democratic standards.

Therefore, I request the European Commission to respond to the following questions.

- 1 Does the EC have specific guidelines as regards avoiding conflict of interest and neutrality in the work of Commissioners?
- 2 Will the EC commit to full transparency by publishing transcripts of the meetings between the Commissioner and Warsaw Mayor Trzaskowski to refute any possible claims of interfering in the presidential election?

Submitted: 12.3.2025