

**Question for written answer E-003142/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The Kremlin's investments in EU political parties

A recently published US State Department intelligence report reveals that since 2014 the Kremlin has invested massive resources (USD 300 million) in financing political parties and politicians in more than 20 countries worldwide.

The report further illustrates that Moscow has increasingly invested resources in undermining European democratic systems and influencing national politics. The destabilisation strategy pursued by the Kremlin is even more alarming considering the forthcoming Italian national elections on 25 September 2022.

Many European political parties are suspected to have received Russian funds. The links between certain European political parties and the Kremlin are worrying. The report highlights that the Kremlin is spreading political interference and influence to weaken democratic resilience in Europe. Russia has strived to boost favoured candidates during national election campaigns and to gain influence inside political parties.

1. Is the Commission aware of these facts?
2. Does it intend to launch further initiatives to shed light on Russian interference in European democratic systems and elections?
3. What action can the Commission take to prevent similar interference from occurring in the future?