

**Question for written answer E-004096/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Foreign interference by Gulf states in the European decision-making process

The corruption scandal concerning the interference of Gulf states in EU democratic processes has revealed the vulnerability of the EU institutions' ethics framework in the face of aggressive, illicit lobbying strategies by countries outside the EU. Nevertheless, reports by various non-governmental organisations such as Corporate Europe Observatory¹, Droit au Droit² or OrientXXI³ have repeatedly warned about the growing influence of certain Gulf states over EU and Member State lawmakers, as well as about the associated risks of corruption.

In this light:

1. What has the Commission done so far in order to prevent such illicit influence over EU commissioners, members of cabinets and other high-ranking EU officials and policymakers?
2. Is it currently analysing the possible illicit influence of any representatives of non-EU countries over Commission officials?
3. Following the declarations of Commission President von der Leyen concerning the need for a new ethics body for the EU institutions, could the Commission give more details about the envisaged time frame for this proposal?

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¹ <https://corporateeurope.org/en/2020/12/united-arab-emirates-growing-legion-lobbyists-support-its-soft-superpower-ambitions>.

² <http://www.dadinternational.org/news/77-dad-releases-extensive-new-report-on-scale-of-uae-lobbying-influence-network-in-eu>.

³ <https://orientxxi.info/magazine/digging-into-the-emirates-lobbying-strategies-in-france,5915#nb1>.