

**Question for written answer E-003316/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Deals involving EU funds in negotiations for Sánchez's investiture

In the context of Mr Sánchez's investiture as prime minister, the caretaker Spanish Government is in talks with Junts to retroactively allocate 19 % of Spain's NextGenerationEU funds to Catalonia. Granting EU funds in return for votes is a blatant violation of Article 22, inter alia, of the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation because the regulation ties the disbursement of funds to objective milestones rather than political criteria.

An agreement has also been reached to write off EUR 15 billion of Catalonia's debt in exchange for political support. The write-off will mean somehow closing the funding gap and we are concerned that recovery funds are being considered for this purpose, in a blatant breach of the regulation. There would be an increased risk that the funds would be used for regular national expenditure, which goes against the provisions of the regulation's Article 5.

1. How will the Commission prevent the EU's financial interests from being harmed by the investiture agreements?
2. How will the Commission make sure that the funds are used in line with Spain's recovery plan and the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation?

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