

Parliamentary questions

7 July 2016

E-005571-16

**Question for written answer**

to the Commission

Rule 130

Rebecca Harms (Verts/ALE) , Benedek Jávor (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Possible meeting of Commissioner Oettinger with Victor Orban regarding the Paks II Nuclear Power Plant

According to an article published on 21 June 2016 in the Hungarian online magazine 444.hu, Commissioner Oettinger met with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and German consultancy manager Klaus Mangold on his trip to Budapest, on 19 May 2016. During this meeting, the nuclear project Paks II was allegedly discussed.

Klaus Mangold currently leads a German consultancy firm, and used to be Chairman of the 'Eastern Committee of the German Economy'. He is an important mediator between German firms and the Russian political scene. According to the Hungarian newspaper Figyelő, Mangold had already been a mediator in the previous 2013 Paks case. It has been reported that Commissioner Oettinger arrived in Budapest on Mr Mangold's private plane.

This meeting took place only a few days before Hungarian Minister János Lázár, of the Prime Minister's office, came to Brussels to discuss the Paks II project.

We therefore ask the Commission the following:

1. By what means did Commissioner Oettinger travel to Budapest?
2. What information does it have about the content of this meeting?
3. Has it investigated the possible use of state subsidies for the Paks nuclear project (SA. 38454 (2015/C)(ex 2015/N)) and/or the infringement procedure in which the Commission objects that no public procurement preceded the Rosatom mandate discussed at this meeting?

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**Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission**

1. Due to the lack of commercial flights to arrive in time for the meeting with Prime Minister Orban, the Commissioner responsible for Digital Economy and Society joined Mr Mangold's private plane.
2. The Commission had been invited to a conference in Budapest about digitisation of industry and automated driving which was opened by Prime Minister Orban. Prime Minister Orban and the Commission met in order to prepare the conference and to discuss the setting up of national initiatives for the digitisation of industry (as outlined in the communication by the Commission of 19 April 2016(1)).
3. The Paks II nuclear project was not discussed.