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## **MEPS VOTE TO PROBE TOP EU JOB CHOICE**

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EuroNews (1 March 2018)

Appointment of German Martin Selmayr as EU Commission Secretary-General is raising questions about transparency.

MEPs have voted to probe the controversial appointment of German Martin Selmayr - a right hand man of President Jean Claude Juncker - as the EU Commission's new Secretary-General.

With his selection coming as such a shock to some, questions are being raised about transparency.

"It's not normal for commissioners who are deciding about such a position to not know before the session that this point was on the agenda," said Sven Giegold, a German MEP.

"The appointment of a new secretary general was not there. It meant the commissioners couldn't discuss beforehand, in an informal way, who would be the best candidate."

Former head of Cabinet, Selmayr is a man nicknamed "the monster." He's said to have his enemies, and to be unpopular among Commission officials.

### **The French 'are furious'**

One journalist told Euronews that the French aren't happy that a German has landed the top civil servant job.

"This post was destined for the French. And in Paris, I don't hide it, they are furious about has happened, and at Berlin too, because the Chancellor had made a commitment to Emmanuel Macron for this to be a French-filled post," said Jean Quatremer.

"So, don't look for a state behind this choice, it is a personal ambition to its maximum."

It's not known when the probe will start, but it will no doubt be closely watched.