

Huawei Bribery Scandal Uncovered in European Parliament



us.politsturm.com

Huawei Bribery Scandal Uncovered in European Parliament

2025-03-21

2 min read

The Belgian police uncovered a long-running corruption scheme, tracing illicit payments — disguised as “conference expenses” — within the European Parliament (EP) to the Chinese tech company Huawei.

Details. On 14 March, European law enforcement took several individuals for questioning. They are assumed to be entangled in bribery. This followed searches at 21 premises in Belgium and Portugal.

- ▶ Belgian media has reported that more than a dozen officials are under scrutiny, and Huawei's representatives in the EP are barred.
- ▶ The prosecutor's office stated: “The corruption is believed to have been carried out regularly and discreetly from 2021 to the present, under the guise of commercial lobbying. It took various forms, including payments for adopting political positions, excessive gifts, lavish hospitality, and frequent invitations to football matches.”
- ▶ Huawei has denied any wrongdoing and expressed a desire to understand the full extent of the allegations.

Context. In recent years, both China and the United States have sought to dominate the European telecom market. According to reports, several countries have already adopted Huawei technologies and forged close ties with the company, influencing their trade policies and public positions.

- ▶ In 2019, the US sanctions cut Huawei off from vital supply chains for technology and US-made components, weakening the company's position in the EU smartphone market.
- ▶ In 2020, U.S. national security adviser Robert O'Brien met with officials from France, Italy, Germany, and the U.K. to discuss how — and how quickly — to exclude Huawei from Europe's 5G networks. The U.S. made clear that Huawei had not been granted permission to the networks, safeguarding the need to protect American business interests in the European telecom market.
- ▶ Corruption isn't unusual in the European Parliament. In 2022, a major scandal involving Qatar exposed how governments use bribery to advance imperialist schemes. Belgian prosecutors investigated allegations that Qatar, much like Huawei, attempted to influence EU policies to serve its own interests.
- ▶ In 2023, Huawei and ZTE — another tech and telecoms company — opposed the EU's ban. While Sweden, Ireland, Spain, and Hungary resisted U.S. pressure, other states signalled their intention to adopt American-backed telecommunications infrastructure.

Important to know. The scandal is not an isolated incident but part of the ongoing struggle between U.S. and Chinese capital, both of which use corruption and influence to advance their imperialist interests in Europe.

- ▶ China's technological presence has grown due to its central role in global supply chains, often described as the “factory of the world.” This position is rooted in its economic model — offering low-cost labour to international monopolies from the U.S., U.K., Japan, and Germany by hosting large-scale production facilities.

► American and Chinese capitalists continue to expand their wealth through investments in telecommunications. Economically weaker states, unable to compete with these monopolies, have little influence over how the market is divided and consequently align themselves with these dominant powers in pursuit of their own profits.

Conclusion. The Huawei scandal shows that under capitalism, state institutions inevitably serve capitalist interests, not the people. As U.S. and Chinese capital battle for control of European markets, corruption, bribery, and lobbying are just a few of the many tools they use.

Original article