Question for written answer E-003241/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Raquel García Hermida-Van Der Walle (Renew)

Subject: National law hindering the tasks of the European Public Prosecutor's Office

During an investigation conducted by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) into an alleged organised fraud scheme involving EU agricultural funds and corruption by public officials in Greece, information has emerged concerning the possible involvement of two former ministers in aiding and instigating the misappropriation of such funds while in office. According to Greek law, only the national parliament can authorise the investigation and prosecution of (former) ministers, which makes it impossible for the EPPO to fully carry out its tasks[1]. Up until now, the Greek Parliament has not authorised the investigation and prosecution of these former ministers, leading to possible impunity, with the statute of limitations for one minister's alleged criminal conduct expiring in October[2].

1. When does the Commission aim to publish its evaluation of the EPPO Regulation[3]? During his confirmation hearing, Commissioner Michael McGrath committed to 'accelerate the ongoing evaluation', instead of publishing it only by 1 June 2026[4].

2. Does the Commission agree that national law should not result in the absence of any meaningful investigation into the possible criminal liability of (former) ministers, and that the EPPO should be fully able to carry out its tasks?

3. If so, will the Commission address this matter in its future proposal for a renewed EPPO Regulation, in the sense that national parliaments can no longer block any meaningful criminal investigation into the possible criminal liability of (former) ministers?

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[1] https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/media/news/alleged-misuse-eu-agricultural-funds-eppo-submits-information-to-hellenic-parliament.
[2] https://www.politico.eu/article/greece-mitsotakis-farm-funds-fraud-eppo-opekepe-agriculture-farmer-pasture/.
[3] Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO').
[4] https://hearings.elections.europa.eu/documents/mcgrath/mcgrath_writtenquestionsandanswers_en.pdf.