

Question for written answer E-003558/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: EU wide-administrative action against organised crime

Organised crime groups have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to infiltrate the legal economy¹. In order to prevent public administrations from inadvertently facilitating criminal networks, several Member States apply integrity screenings². If, as a result of the screening, the authorities conclude that such companies are linked to criminal groups or activities, they will be excluded from public funding, licences and permits.

However, municipalities and other administrative bodies are often unable to access equivalent integrity-related information from neighbouring Member States. This creates serious vulnerabilities, as criminal actors can simply relocate their activities to other Member States, sometimes just across the border. Regional cooperation, such as the Euregional Information and Expertise Centre between the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, and the Benelux Police Treaty, demonstrate that cross-border cooperation on administrative action against organised crime is possible and successful. However, these efforts remain fragmented, limited to specific regions or sectors, and do not provide consistent access to information across the entire EU.

1. Is the Commission aware of the risks created by the lack of cross-border access to integrity-related information for local and regional authorities?
2. Does the Commission intend to develop a harmonised EU-level legal framework that facilitates cross-border cooperation on administrative action against organised crime? If so, what is the timeline for such a framework?

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¹ According to Europol, 86 % of the EU's most threatening criminal networks make use of legal business structures for their operations, by participating in public procurement, subsidies and permits: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publication-events/main-reports/decoding-eus-most-threatening-criminal-networks>.

² Netherlands: BIBOB Act; Belgium: DIOB Act; Italy: Anti-Mafia Code.