

**Question for written answer E-004378/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Anna Maria Cisint (PfE)

Subject: Combating organised crime groups specialising in pickpocketing

Recent police investigations have discovered that a number of criminal organisations specialising in pickpocketing are active in Italy's largest cities. They target tourists and travellers and are also accused of money-laundering.

In Venice – a city very much predicated on tourism – there are gangs of women hailing from EU states (particularly Romania) and third countries (like Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) who specialise in stealing wallets and bag-snatching and who habitually commit other, similar crimes.

These groups are accused of using stealth and misdirection to steal valuables (*furto con destrezza*), as well as money-laundering, dealing in stolen goods and working with other organised crime outfits. The proceeds are then used by fully fledged organised crime groups to buy drugs and weapons, fuelling the growth of a dangerous criminal market.

Given the transnational nature of some of these offences and the risk that they might spread to other Member States, could the Commission answer the following question:

How could Europol help the Italian authorities combat and prosecute the criminal outfits mentioned above?

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