

**Question for written answer E-005080/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Arash Saeidi (The Left)

Subject: Shortcomings in efforts to tackle fraud against the EU budget

The intensification of cross-border trade and finance within the European Union is being matched by an increase in complex, transnational fraud, particularly in the fields of taxation and customs, damaging the financial interests of the Union. In this regard, the European Chief Prosecutor recently drew attention to annual losses of around EUR 50 billion in tax and customs fraud perpetrated by criminal networks operating Europe-wide.

In this context, the European Court of Auditors' Special Report 26/2025 highlights persistent structural weaknesses in the EU's anti-fraud architecture, in particular the insufficient exchange of information between the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Public Prosecutor's Office. The report stressed that under the current architecture the existing resources do not serve to protect the EU budget with full efficiency in cases with a cross-border dimension.

In light of these circumstances, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it consider that the human and technical resources of OLAF and the European Public Prosecutor's Office need to be strengthened in order to enable faster detection and increased use of protective measures in cross-border cases?
2. How does it intend to improve the strategic management and monitoring of clawback operations order to ensure that the increase in criminal investigations with a cross-border dimension does indeed result in better protection of the EU budget?

Submitted: 26.12.2025