

Question for written answer E-001100/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Emil Radev (PPE)

Subject: Compliance of the Italian law on the ‘splitting’ of cash movements with EU legislation on cash controls

Under Regulation (EU) 2018/1672 on controls on cash entering or leaving the Union, persons carrying cash are obliged to declare cash movements of EUR 10 000 or more when crossing the EU’s external borders.

In Italy, national authority administrative practice and guidelines provide that when a total amount of EUR 10 000 or more is carried by two or more members of the same family, each carrying an amount below the threshold, this can be considered ‘smurfing’ and an infringement of the rules on cash declarations, on the basis of national case law, in respect of intra-Schengen cash movements.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider this national-law-based interpretation and application to be compatible with Regulation (EU) 2018/1672, particularly as regards the declaration threshold, the definition of the carrier and the fact that the amount is being carried across intra-Schengen borders?
2. To what extent can Member States adopt or implement national rules or practices that treat cash transfers by a family as a single operation when it comes to applying the declaration threshold within the EU?
3. Does the Commission not consider that national measures such as these are liable to disproportionately restrict the free movement of capital within the EU?

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