

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000635/25
to the Commission**

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(11 February 2025)

Subject: Impact of ongoing investigation into the work of Hungary's Integrity Authority

One of the 27 'super milestones' laid down in Hungary's Recovery and Resilience Plan in 2022 called for the establishment of an integrity authority. This measure is one of the corrective actions proposed by Hungary under the conditionality framework and is aimed at 'reinforcing prevention, detection and correction of illegalities and irregularities concerning the implementation of Union funds'. Hungary's Integrity Authority was set up at the end of 2022.

In January 2023, media reports revealed that searches were being carried out, focusing on the President of the Integrity Authority, Ferenc Pál Biró, who faces accusations of embezzlement and the abuse of power. While respecting the judicial process, I am concerned about the potential consequences of the ongoing investigation for the functioning of the Authority.

In this regard:

1. Is the Commission following the recent developments regarding the Integrity Authority in Hungary?
2. Can the Commission confirm whether, despite the ongoing investigations, the Integrity Authority is in a position to continue its activities effectively?
3. What measures are being considered by the Commission to ensure that this does not negatively affect the protection of the Union's budget in the event of an interruption of the Authority's work?

Submitted: 11.2.2025

Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(2 May 2025)

Hungary is subject to measures under the Conditionality Regulation⁽¹⁾, which were adopted by the Council in December 2022⁽²⁾, to protect the EU budget from breaches of the principles of the rule of law.

The setting up and effective functioning of an independent Integrity Authority (IA) is among the key remedial measures proposed by Hungary.

In its reassessment of 13 December 2023⁽³⁾, the Commission concluded that the IA regulatory framework still did not fulfil certain commitments under the remedial measure, and therefore could not yet be considered fully effective and adequate under the Conditionality Regulation. In the absence of a notification of further remedies, the Commission's assessment is unchanged.

The Commission is aware of the criminal investigation by the Hungarian prosecution service concerning the IA President. At this stage, the Commission is not aware of elements, other than those identified in its reassessment referred to above, that would show that the ongoing investigation prevents the IA from continuing its activities. The Commission is closely monitoring the situation.

The Commission monitors the situation in all Member States and stands ready to trigger the necessary procedure under the Conditionality Regulation, as well as any other instrument under EU law, when relevant conditions for this are met. The Commission will keep the Parliament duly informed.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R2092>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022D2506&qid=1741715083457>

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-12/C_2023_8999_1_EN_ACT.pdf