

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000747/25
to the Commission
Julien Sanchez (PfE)
(19 February 2025)**

Subject: Is EU funding under the Recovery and Resilience Facility deliberately opaque?

The NextGenerationEU recovery plan was set up in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a budget of over EUR 800 billion. Its key instrument is the temporary Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), which has been allocated funding of EUR 723 billion: EUR 338 billion in grants and EUR 385 billion in loans ⁽¹⁾ (2022 prices). It is used to finance the Member States' reforms and investments.

The 2023 Annual Report on the protection of the European Union's financial interests refers to cases of suspected fraud and 13 audits. The European Public Prosecutor's Office reports 233 ongoing RRF investigations, with estimated damages of EUR 1.86 billion to date, involving criminal networks using shell companies, straw buyers and falsified documents.

1. Will the Commission publish detailed information on the fraud identified in the RRF? What obstacles does it face in this regard?
2. Could it demonstrate that it is not seeking to make the RRF less transparent by making it impossible for MEPs to monitor it, which many people believe to be the case?

Submitted: 19.2.2025

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(2 May 2025)**

The Commission, the European Court of Auditors, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) carry out controls, audits, and investigations according to their competences to ensure the protection of the EU budget.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) includes strict controls to prevent serious irregularities, including fraud. The first line of protection of the financial interests of the EU is the national control systems.

The Commission checks that Member States fulfil their obligations pursuant to the RRF Regulation ⁽¹⁾ and Financing Agreement. The Commission has the right to reduce proportionately the support under the RRF and recover any amount due to the Union budget, in cases of serious irregularities, including fraud, affecting the financial interests of the EU that have not been corrected by the Member State. Commission decisions on reduction of support or recoveries are published with explanation of the facts.

Since the start of the RRF, the Commission reported serious irregularities it became aware of to OLAF and, where applicable, the EPPO. By February 2025, 31 cases were reported to OLAF.

The Commission was notified by OLAF of 36 cases and by the EPPO of 55 cases. The EPPO informs the Commission of its investigations when the Commission is the reporting entity or to allow it to take appropriate precautionary measures.

The Commission provides Members of Parliament with updates on investigations and audits in its Annual Reports, including the report on the protection of the EU's financial interests ⁽²⁾.

When publishing information, the Commission balances the need for transparency with the obligation to protect personal data and the need to prevent interference with ongoing investigations.

¹ European Court of Auditors Special report 26/2023 on the Recovery and Resilience Facility's performance monitoring framework, p. 4.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17.

⁽²⁾ https://anti-fraud.ec.europa.eu/about-us/reports/annual-reports-protection-eus-financial-interests-pif-report_en