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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Ports Alliance¹ is a key element in the Commission's policy to tackle organised crime and drugs trafficking, implementing the whole-of-society, multi-stakeholder approach of ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy². The results achieved so far are promising, with record seizures of cocaine in EU ports reported and numerous actions already put in place under the Alliance's three pillars since the Alliance's launch.

The Commission set up a public-private partnership to support actors in the maritime logistics chain. Best practices were shared in workshops on four priorities (operational cooperation, prevent infiltration, implement security standards, innovation).

The Commission funded customs equipment and created the dedicated EU Customs Alliance for Borders Expert Team.

The EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) supported law enforcement operations against drug trafficking in the maritime logistics chain³.

Multiple tools are needed to address the threat from drugs imported via ports, including controls. Increasing port security measures has been a topic discussed in the European Ports Alliance and will also be addressed in the EU Ports Strategy.

The World Shipping Council as well as the European Community Shipowners' Association, together with other representatives of the maritime logistics chain, are members of the European Ports Alliance public-private partnership, contributing to improved security of relevant supply chains and EU ports.

¹ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/european-ports-alliance-fight-drug-trafficking-and-organised-crime-2024-01-24_en.

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy, COM(2025) 148 final.

³ See for example the operation published by Europol on 14 March 2025, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/large-cocaine-bust-in-ecuador-36-arrested-after-73-tonnes-of-drugs-seized>.