

EN
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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.5.2025)

The EU priorities against crime for the next European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) cycle 2026-2029 will be identified on the basis of the findings set out in the 2025 EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment report issued by Europol¹. According to this report, environmental crime, including waste and pollution crimes, are a threat to the natural environment and the economy as well as to the health and safety of EU citizens.

Europol supports and strengthens the actions by the competent authorities of Member States in relation to environmental crime. Environmental crime is a priority in the current EMPACT cycle. Europol set up the Analysis Project (AP) EnviCrime in 2017, which currently consists of 5 staff members and 2 short-term Seconded National Experts.

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) plays an active role in the fight against environmental fraud and works closely with customs authorities to support cross-border investigations. The Waste Shipment Regulation² has further broadened the scope for the Commission's and OLAF's involvement in the fight against environmental crime.

As announced in the Communication 'The road to the next multiannual financial framework'³, the Commission intends to present its proposals for the next multiannual financial framework in July 2025. At this point, the Commission cannot prejudge the content, scope or timing of future legislative proposals.

As per Commissioner McGrath's mission letter, the Commission will launch reflections on areas where the EPPO requires more powers to look at cross-border serious crime. This will be done notably under the High-Level Forum on the Future of EU Criminal Justice where also representatives of the European Parliament participate.

¹ EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2025 (EU-SOCTA), 18 March 2025, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publication-events/main-reports/changing-dna-of-serious-and-organised-crime>

² Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on shipments of waste, amending Regulations (EU) No 1257/2013 and (EU) 2020/1056 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006, OJ L, 30.4.2024.

³ Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, The road to the next multiannual financial framework, COM/2025/46 final.