

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002006/25
to the Commission
Auke Zijlstra (PfE), Ton Diepeveen (PfE)
(20 May 2025)**

Subject: Court of Auditors' reports and number of fraud cases

On 6 May 2025, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) published Review 02/2025 entitled 'Performance-orientation, accountability and transparency — lessons to be learned from the weaknesses of the RRF' ⁽¹⁾. In it, the ECA makes a rather scathing assessment of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and states that much is going wrong. The following is stated in the review: 'By the end of 2023, the member states had not reported a single case of suspected fraud in their management declarations. However, the 2023 annual report of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, indicated 206 active investigations related to RRF funds [...]' (p. 33). On 14 May 2025, in addition, ECA Special Report 09/2025 ⁽²⁾ was presented to Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control. The ECA reported that the Commission had not conducted a detailed assessment and wanted to provide assurance for 2022 without carrying out audit work itself. According to the Director-General of Commission DG ECFIN, 64 ongoing cases had been reported by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).

1. Does the Commission know the correct number of ongoing cases at the EPPO?
2. In the Commission's view, how is it possible that the figures vary to such an extent and that some Member States evidently do not report fraud?
3. In view of the above, does the Commission agree that the RRF and the way it is being handled are a disaster?

Submitted: 20.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(18 August 2025)**

Since the start of the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) ⁽¹⁾ and up to 27 May 2025, the Commission received in total 75 notifications from the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), with 64 active cases in court proceedings or ongoing investigations.

80% of these notified ongoing cases by the EPPO to the Commission relate to one measure in a single Member State. The discrepancy with EPPO's 2023 Annual Report is due to the fact that the EPPO only notifies the Commission in specific circumstances such as where it has enough evidence to pursue judicial proceedings at the national level.

Member States are required to report suspected fraud cases under the RRF not only through the management declarations accompanying payment requests submitted to the Commission, but also via other channels such as the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) or the EPPO ⁽²⁾ and keep records for five years ⁽³⁾.

The EPPO report confirms that Member States take their own obligations very seriously: 90% of newly opened EPPO investigations have in fact been launched upon notification by the national authorities.

As of 27 May 2025, 34 cases of potential irregularities linked to the RRF were reported by the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs to OLAF.

These cases were identified during audit work, reported by Member States in the management declarations or by open sources. In turn, OLAF informed the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs of 40 other cases, bringing the total number of potential irregularities to 74.

These statistics demonstrate the robustness of both national and EU-level control systems in detecting and addressing conflicts of interest, fraud or corruption. The cooperation between institutions and Member States ensures a coordinated approach to protecting the financial interests of the EU.

¹ https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/RV-2025-02/RV-2025-02_EN.pdf.

² https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2025-09/SR-2025-09_EN.pdf.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.

⁽²⁾ Under Article 24(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 — Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO'), OJ L 283, 31.10.2017, p. 1-71.

⁽³⁾ Article 11.1(d) of the Financing Agreement.