

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002281/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Arkadiusz Mularczyk (ECR)
(5 June 2025)

Subject: Commission's policy towards cartels designated as Foreign Terrorist Organisations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists by the United States

Considering the recent US executive order designating certain cartels and other organisations as Foreign Terrorist Organisations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists, what concrete legislative measures has the Commission already put in place, or what specific proposals are currently being developed, to address and mitigate the potential impact of these designated groups' activities within the European Union, particularly concerning their financial networks, logistical support, and any direct or indirect operational presence in Europe?

Submitted: 5.6.2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(4 August 2025)

The EU has adopted several legislative measures that address the threat from criminal organisations, including the ones involved in drug trafficking that are targeted by the executive order referenced by the Honourable Member.

These measures include the directive criminalising money laundering ⁽¹⁾, the directive on asset recovery and confiscation ⁽²⁾ and a package of new anti-money-laundering rules ⁽³⁾.

Half of the EU's most dangerous criminal networks are involved in drug trafficking. Although the EU has recently increased its preparedness in relation to drug-related threats ⁽⁴⁾, notably by expanding the mandate of the EU Drugs Agency, further actions are necessary, as the threat of organised crime continues to grow, fuelled by geopolitical tension and technological advancements ⁽⁵⁾.

The Commission will work in close cooperation with the Member States to propose a new EU drugs strategy and will present an EU action plan against drug trafficking.

Moreover, the EU's new Internal Security Strategy ⁽⁶⁾ — ProtectEU — announces a wide range of actions, including a legislative proposal for modernised rules on organised crime in 2026 and work to explore the feasibility of a new EU-wide system to track organised crime profits and terrorist financing.

Moreover, ProtectEU includes the option of exploring additional restrictive measures targeting criminal networks, in line with Common Foreign Security Policy objectives, and enhanced partnerships with key regions, such as Latin America where several of the designated cartels and organisations are based.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2018/1673.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1260.

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1640, Regulation (EU) 2024/1624, Regulation (EU) 2023/1113 and Regulation (EU) 2024/1620.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2023) 641 final.

⁽⁵⁾ Annual report by the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) — the EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (2025), <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-events/main-reports/socra-report>.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2025) 148 final.