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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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As highlighted by the EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) presented by Europol¹, powerful criminal networks infiltrate EU economies and societies across borders, exploiting differences in national laws and procedures. To combat criminal infiltration, the Commission recognises the clear added value of the administrative approach, whereby local authorities use the administrative tools at their disposal to prevent and disrupt crime. In line with the ProtectEU Strategy², the Commission therefore continues to support the wider application of the administrative approach in the EU. As criminal networks operate across borders, EU responses must increasingly do so as well.

As part of the preparation of the new rules against organised crime announced by ProtectEU for 2026, the Commission will explore possibilities for measures to combat criminal infiltration, examining a variety of options. Already, recent EU legal instruments provide for penalties against legal persons, including criminal or non-criminal fines and other penalties or measures, such as the exclusion from entitlement to public benefits or aid, from access to public funding, and from tender procedures, grants, concessions and licences³.

In addition, the Commission supports the EU Network on the Administrative Approach to facilitate the exchange of best practices and promote the development of the administrative approach. In line with the Council Conclusions on the administrative approach to prevent and fight serious and organised crime⁴, Member States are encouraged to stimulate, support and facilitate, as far as possible, activities concerning cross-border multi-agency cooperation with administrative and law enforcement authorities.

¹ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/EU-SOCTA-2025.pdf>.

² COM/2025/148 final.

³ For example, cf. Article 7(2) of Directive 2024/1203/EU on the protection of the environment through criminal law, OJ L, 2024/1203, 30.4.2024, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1203/oj>.

⁴ <https://administrativeapproach.eu/sites/default/files/page/files/eu-jha-council-9-10-june-conclusions-administrative-approach-org-crime.pdf>.