

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003659/25
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(22 September 2025)**

Subject: ESG and ARGOS surveillance groups

The European Surveillance Group (ESG) — known as the Cross-Border Surveillance Working Group (CSW) until 2017 — and Europol Network Assembly of Regional Groups On Surveillance (ARGOS) also have informal police groupings at EU level. They are specialised in technical observation and surveillance, such as the use of GPS trackers, covert cameras or mobile units for cross-border tracking. To be able to carry out such operations, provisions for transferring sovereign surveillance rights to other countries are required. The legal framework for these mobile covert measures also falls under the remit of the networks. ESG mainly brings together western and northern European police units, while ARGOS focuses on eastern European countries.

1. How is the Commission, through its agencies, involved in the ESG and ARGOS networks and what are its responsibilities in this context?

2. What is the purpose of the grouping/network and how is it implemented?

3. What ESG and ARGOS meetings have taken place in 2025, and where are these meetings held?

Submitted: 22.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(8 December 2025)**

In May 2024, the Commission created a Law Enforcement Networks Working Group (LENWG) to bolster the preparedness of law enforcement networks, including the European Surveillance Group (ESG), to combat evolving threats.

The Commission has also provided financial support ⁽¹⁾ to the ESG, under the Internal Security Fund, through funding to Member States in implementing the Council Recommendation (EU) 2022/915 on operational law enforcement cooperation adopted on 9 June 2022 ⁽²⁾.

Upon invitation, the Commission participates in meetings, but the Commission is not involved in the operational activities of the ESG and the ARGOS (Assembly of Regional Groups on Surveillance), as these are an informal network and an informal initiative primarily managed by Member States' law enforcement authorities.

Europol, the EU Agency for law enforcement cooperation, supports, as member of the ESG, Member States participating in the ESG by providing a secure platform for information exchange, technical expertise, and administrative support, in line with its mandate.

The ESG network and the ARGOS initiative aim to facilitate cross-border operational police cooperation by promoting the exchange of expertise and best practices in police surveillance operations, thereby supporting Member States in effectively addressing cross-border criminal activities.

2025 ESG and ARGOS meetings are arranged and hosted by the participating Member States of these networks. In 2025, the Commission, upon invitation, participated in the steering committee of the ESG held in Lisbon on 1-2 April 2025.

1 Launch of the call for expression of interest for the 'Specific Action Council Recommendation on operational law enforcement cooperation — Turning recommendations into joint actions (ROLEC)' under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) — Reference ISF/2023/SA/2.1.1.

2 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2022/915/oj/eng>.