

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004419/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(7 November 2025)**

Subject: Unified statistical recording of the origin of those arrested and convicted to strengthen crime prevention in the EU

The security of citizens is a fundamental obligation of each Member State and a prerequisite for social cohesion in the European Union. However, there is currently no uniform methodology in the Member States for collecting and publishing statistical data on the origin of perpetrators of crimes, despite the fact that such information is crucial for designing targeted prevention policies.

Only some countries, such as Germany, Austria, Sweden or the Netherlands, systematically publish data on those arrested or convicted by nationality or country of birth, while other countries consider it sensitive data and do not collect it. This disparity makes comparative analysis, the development of common European prevention strategies and cooperation between police authorities difficult.

In the United States, on the other hand, the publication of relevant data is a standard practice. In the United States, there has always been a reference to the origin of those arrested, regardless of whether they are American citizens.

1. Will the Commission propose a single European standard for the collection and analysis of crime statistics, including anonymous, aggregated data on the origin of perpetrators?
2. Will the Commission encourage Member States to adopt comparable standards for police statistics, in order to strengthen evidence-based prevention and effective policing at Union level?

Submitted: 7.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(5 January 2026)**

The Commission acknowledges the importance of reliable and comparable crime statistics for effective prevention policies and police cooperation across the EU. However, the Commission emphasises that the collection and publication of specific types of data remain within the competence of Member States, and any action in this area must respect the subsidiarity principle.

Regarding the nationality of those arrested and convicted, Eurostat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have been conducting a joint annual data collection ⁽¹⁾ on crime and criminal justice statistics since 2014, covering 38 jurisdictions for data from 2019 onwards. Where available, data are broken down by country of citizenship (foreigners or nationals).

However, at EU level, the statistics do not contain information on the origin of perpetrators of crimes. Notably, in accordance with Article 30 of the Europol Regulation ⁽²⁾, Europol may process personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin only when strictly necessary and proportionate for the purposes of research and innovation projects and operational purposes, within Europol's objectives, and only for preventing or combating crime that falls within Europol's objective. Consequently, Europol is not able to produce such information.

The Commission remains committed to supporting Member States in their efforts to enhance the intelligence picture on organised crime, in full compliance with EU data protection standards. As laid down in ProtectEU ⁽³⁾, the Commission will propose a renewed legal framework on organised crime in 2026 to strengthen the response.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/crim_sims.htm.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), OJ L 135 24.5.2016, p. 53.

⁽³⁾ COM/2025/148 final.