

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004921/25
to the Commission
Claudiu-Richard Târziu (ECR)
(11 December 2025)

Subject: Transparency and accountability in the management of Danube Delta ITI funding: clarification needed from the Commission

The Danube Delta is of strategic importance for the Union, supporting biodiversity protection, adaptation to climate change, food security and secure trade routes, including for the transit of grain from Ukraine. However, the Danube Delta ITI mechanism, financed tune the tune of around EUR 1 billion, is faced with a blockage in funding due to the governance and management deficiencies detected in the 2021-2024 checks.

The Commission announced in 2023 that the final audit report was to be published, but it is not available. In parallel, OLAF and the EPPO have investigated over 30 projects, including a case of fraud involving forged documents, which resulted in the misappropriation of EUR 593 000, and for which EPPO brought the persons involved to trial. The absence of any consolidated public information is creating uncertainty for communities dependent on EU investment in the Danube Delta, which is a key region.

1. When will the Commission clarify what needs to be remedied in order to ensure the responsible resumption of funding for the Danube Delta ITI?
2. Will the Commission publish, in a summary and open-access format, the conclusions of the final audit announced in 2023 and the related time line?
3. How will the Commission request, facilitate or encourage OLAF and the EPPO to share their non-confidential conclusions on the Danube Delta ITI projects with Parliament, so that the EU institutions have a complete overview of how the funding has been used?

Submitted: 11.12.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(6 February 2026)

1. Where audits identify deficiencies, funding can be resumed only after appropriate corrective measures are implemented. All the corrective measures requested have been duly communicated to the authorities in charge in Romania. The implementation of these measures has not been yet completed. It is to be clarified that the investigations and audit concern a minor part of the projects implemented under the Integrated Territorial Instrument Danube Delta, while the rest of the projects were continued, implemented, and reimbursed.
2. Commission's audit reports are not published and are intended for administrative follow-up by the concerned administrations. Disclosure of ongoing audit information could undermine ongoing corrective processes or interfere with due process and the rights of the parties concerned. For these reasons, the Commission does not make public its audit reports until corrective measures are assessed as being fully implemented and the audit process is closed (which is currently not the case).
3. The European Anti-Fraud Office's (OLAF) conducts its investigative work in full independence, in accordance with Article 17(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013⁽¹⁾. The European Public Prosecutor's Office's (EPPO) is fully independent from the Commission and all other EU institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies, in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1939⁽²⁾. The Commission would therefore encourage the Honourable Member to address his request for access to information directly to OLAF and EPPO, under applicable procedures by these independent bodies.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/883/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1939/oj/eng>.