

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005066/25
to the Commission
Dan-Ştefan Motreanu (PPE)
(23 December 2025)**

Subject: Strengthening cross-border justice: making freezing and confiscation orders truly effective across the EU

Nearly five years after the 2020 regulation ⁽¹⁾ on the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders entered into force, Eurojust's first implementation report shows that progress remains uneven. While the regulation has improved cooperation, divergent national practices, differing interpretations of key legal concepts, and inconsistencies in documentation continue to limit its effectiveness. Incomplete or imprecise certificates often lead to delays or refusals in enforcement, allowing criminal assets to disappear before they can be seized. These shortcomings weaken public confidence in justice systems and deprive victims of fair and timely compensation.

For all EU Member States, an efficient and harmonised framework is essential to ensure that crime does not pay and that justice operates seamlessly across borders.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to strengthen the uniform application of this regulation, improve cooperation and information exchange between national authorities, and ensure that the freezing and confiscation of criminal assets in the EU are executed swiftly, predictably, and fairly?

Submitted: 23.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(26 February 2026)**

The Commission is currently finalising the report on the application of Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders ⁽¹⁾.

This report will provide an overview of the state of play of the application of the regulation since its entry into force and explore possible avenues for addressing key issues encountered so far.

One key initiative the Commission will be pursuing in this context is the publication of a handbook to provide guidance on the correct application of the regulation.

This handbook is also intended to aid practitioners in developing a holistic understanding of how the regulation interlinks with other relevant EU instruments and thereby facilitate the smooth functioning of the EU asset recovery system as a whole.

The Commission has furthermore indicated its intention to follow-up on a proposal presented by Belgium during the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 9 December 2025, for an initiative to strengthen the tools available for asset recovery at the post-conviction stage of criminal proceedings. This issue is currently under discussion by the relevant Commission services.

¹ OJ L 303, 28.11.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1805/oj>.
(¹) OJ L 303, 28.11.2018, pp. 1-38.