

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005080/25
to the Commission
Arash Saeidi (The Left)
(26 December 2025)**

Subject: Shortcomings in efforts to tackle fraud against the EU budget

The intensification of cross-border trade and finance within the European Union is being matched by an increase in complex, transnational fraud, particularly in the fields of taxation and customs, damaging the financial interests of the Union. In this regard, the European Chief Prosecutor recently drew attention to annual losses of around EUR 50 billion in tax and customs fraud perpetrated by criminal networks operating Europe-wide.

In this context, the European Court of Auditors' Special Report 26/2025 highlights persistent structural weaknesses in the EU's anti-fraud architecture, in particular the insufficient exchange of information between the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Public Prosecutor's Office. The report stressed that under the current architecture the existing resources do not serve to protect the EU budget with full efficiency in cases with a cross-border dimension.

In light of these circumstances, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it consider that the human and technical resources of OLAF and the European Public Prosecutor's Office need to be strengthened in order to enable faster detection and increased use of protective measures in cross-border cases?
2. How does it intend to improve the strategic management and monitoring of clawback operations order to ensure that the increase in criminal investigations with a cross-border dimension does indeed result in better protection of the EU budget?

Submitted: 26.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(26 March 2026)**

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) play a key role in protecting the EU's financial interests.

In 2025, the Commission launched an in-depth review of the EU's anti-fraud architecture (AFA) with the aim to strengthen and modernise the EU's anti-fraud framework and better protect the EU budget.

To tackle cross-border value added tax (VAT) fraud, the Commission adopted a proposal to amend Council Regulation (EU) No 904/2010 ⁽¹⁾ to enhance cooperation and exchange of information on VAT matters by granting EPPO and OLAF a direct communication with the Eurofisc network, the European network of national VAT antifraud officials.

With increased access to relevant VAT data, OLAF and EPPO will support Member States more effectively in ensuring faster recovery of evaded amounts.

In the context of EU administrative constraints, the Commission will explore whether administrative arrangements could be put in place to allow the pooling of expertise and building of joint capacities for modern anti-fraud investigations involving different anti-fraud actors. This reflection occurs within the EU AFA review.

Moreover, the Commission is currently conducting evaluations of the EPPO Regulation ⁽²⁾ and the OLAF Regulation ⁽³⁾. These evaluations will examine how the current framework can be improved.

Based on these, the forthcoming joint impact assessment will assess options for strengthening the protection of the EU's financial interests, including the recovery of EU funds lost due to fraud and other crimes affecting the EU budget.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EU) No 904/2010 of 7 October 2010 on administrative cooperation and combating fraud in the field of value added tax (recast), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2010/904/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO'), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32017R1939>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32013R0883>.