

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000456/26
to the Commission
Mathilde Androuët (Pfe)
(4 February 2026)**

Subject: Regulatory interference and technocratic recentralisation

The Committee on Legal Affairs workshop on 15 July 2025 ⁽¹⁾ painted a picture of technocratic centralisation of scrutiny over the application of EU law. The Commission favours a top-down approach, ignoring the reality on the ground and the administrative capacities of Member States. The announced introduction of artificial intelligence tools to detect ‘breaches’ at national level exacerbates this misstep by establishing a system of automated surveillance with no democratic mandate. ⁽²⁾

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that this gross over-regulation and widespread digital surveillance is institutionalising mistrust of Member States?
2. On what democratic and legal basis can it justify the use of AI to monitor or punish Member States?
3. Lastly, is it not high time that the principles of legal sovereignty and subsidiarity were reaffirmed to prevent a Brussels-based bureaucracy with no direct legitimacy from replacing the political responsibility of European nations with its technocratic oversight?

Submitted: 4.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(8 April 2026)**

1. The Commission works hand in hand with the Member States, based on the principles of subsidiarity and the conferral of competences. The Commission as guardian of the Treaties must monitor the compliance with EU law, including notably to ensure the integrity of the Single Market to the benefit of European citizens and companies across all Member States. At the same time, the Commission is pursuing an ambitious regulatory simplification agenda.
2. The use of digital tools, including artificial intelligence, could support this mission by enhancing the efficiency and objectivity of compliance monitoring. The use of such tools will assist, not replace the substantial assessment of each individual case to be performed by the Commission services under the authority of the College of Commissioners.
3. Under Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union, the EU operates within the limits of competences conferred upon it, while other competences remain with Member States, thus they retain full responsibility for the implementation of EU law. The Commission’s role is to support Member States in fulfilling their obligations and, where necessary, to initiate enforcement action to address non-compliance. The Commission is committed to upholding the subsidiarity principle when proposing draft laws to the co-legislators; a thorough subsidiarity assessment is part of its Better Regulation agenda.

¹ Committee on Legal Affairs workshop of 17 July 2025 entitled: ‘Monitoring the application of European Union law’, European Parliament.

² Presentation by Prof. Giovanni Sartor: ‘AI and monitoring the application of EU law’ European University Institute, 2025: <https://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/75000>.