

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001307/26
to the Commission
Ton Diepeveen (PvE)
(30 March 2026)**

Subject: Money laundering risks associated with the rapid creation of companies under the 28th regime

With EU Inc. the European Commission seeks to boost the competitiveness of our European innovative companies. The focus is on easing and speeding up the procedures for setting up businesses.

However, by limiting the time taken to set up a company across the EU to 48 hours, without a minimum capital requirement and without the need for a bank account at the time of incorporation, the risks of money laundering are increased. Moreover, there is a risk of bulk incorporation, whereby companies are set up 'in bulk' and used as intermediary companies in complex money-laundering schemes.

In addition, the fact that a company can be incorporated without a minimum capital requirement also opens the door to abuse. Thus, a company can be set up quickly without any assets, accumulate new debts or take on existing debts from other companies, and then quickly go bankrupt again. This is a classic pattern employed to facilitate, for example, VAT fraud, fraudulent bankruptcies, and social dumping schemes.

What specifically is the Commission doing to make such abuse impossible?

Submitted: 30.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(12 June 2026)**

The EU Inc. proposal ⁽¹⁾ is aimed at enhancing EU competitiveness by simplifying the regulatory framework and reducing fragmentation. It aims to make it easier to set up, scale up and attract investment into EU Inc. companies, while providing necessary safeguards.

Any formation of an EU Inc. is subject to judicial, administrative or notarial control, which helps prevent abusive or fraudulent letter-box companies.

A director disqualified in any Member State cannot be appointed as an EU Inc. director. Identity checks must be carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 ⁽²⁾.

The 48 hours deadline for EU Inc. registration does not apply to the verification of the beneficial ownership (BO) information or to the issuance of the tax and the value added tax identification number.

The once-only principle ensures that business registers transmit to tax and social security authorities and BO registers the EU Inc. company information, including any updates.

This ensures that authorities share the same information, which helps tackle abuse and fraud, thereby enhancing compliance. BO registers will verify the BO information in accordance with Directive (EU) 2024/1640 ⁽³⁾.

Filings throughout the lifecycle of an EU Inc. are subject to preventive control and business registers must check the status of an EU Inc. where doubts exist (such as non-filing of accounting documents) and as a last resort strike off the company from the register.

The proposal is coherent with and complements existing rules related to tax avoidance or evasion and the prevention of money laundering, which include cross-checking information with other registers.

The forthcoming interconnection between the business registers and BO registers interconnection systems will facilitate this ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=comnat%3ACOM_2026_0321_FIN.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/910/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1640/oj>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2025/25/oj/fra>.