

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001431/26
to the Commission
Alexander Jungbluth (ESN)
(8 April 2026)**

Subject: European Public Prosecutor's Office 2025 annual report

The 2025 annual report by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) indicates a significant amount of alleged fraud against the EU budget, particularly in connection with the recovery instrument NextGenerationEU. By the end of 2025, the EPPO was handling 518 active cases in connection with NextGenerationEU, with the estimated damages totalling around EUR 5.07 billion. In particular, the investigations concern procurement fraud, the provision of false or misleading information to obtain funding, corruption and misappropriation.

1. What specific structural vulnerabilities has the Commission identified in the oversight, allocation and audit mechanisms in connection with NextGenerationEU, particularly in areas that are allocated a great deal of resources such as the green and digital transformation, and what measures will be taken in the future, compared with measures taken until now, to specifically address these vulnerabilities?
2. How is the Commission ensuring that programmes and projects carried out in the context of the so-called green transformation — such as those relating to renewables, energy efficiency and sustainable infrastructure — are not more vulnerable to fraud, market distortion or the inefficient use of funds owing to their political prioritisation?
3. To what extent does the Commission see the fraud cases described in the EPPO report as an indication that the current design of NextGenerationEU and comparable instruments is perversely incentivising the misappropriation or misuse of funds, and what conclusions does it draw from this for the future direction of the EU budget?

Submitted: 8.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(19 June 2026)**

Under Article 22 of the Recovery and Resilience facility (RRF) Regulation ⁽¹⁾, Member States bear primary responsibility for safeguarding the EU's financial interests and ensuring compliance with EU/national law.

The Commission put in place a robust control framework by assessing national internal control systems during the evaluation of initial and revised national Recovery and Resilience Plans and carrying out system audits in each Member State to verify that they fulfil their obligations in this area.

The Commission is also acting on serious irregularities (fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest and double funding, that have not been corrected by the Member State) identified through its audits or via other sources, including the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) investigations.

Upon detection, the Commission notifies the Member State concerned, which must correct the issues and recover any misused funds. If the issues have not been corrected by the Member States, the Commission may also recover those funds or reduce them if they have not yet been paid to the Member State in question. In addition, the Commission may also reduce or recover funds from a Member State in cases of serious breach of an obligation under the Financing/Loan Agreements².

The rise in EPPO's 2025 reported cases reflects more advanced RRF implementation and heightened Member State vigilance, with 86% of new EPPO investigations triggered by national notifications, which is evidence of strengthened controls. The Commission remains confident in the effectiveness of RRF's audit and control frameworks across all policy areas and investment sizes.

The Commission has adopted its proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) in July and September 2025 ⁽²⁾. The Commission remains committed to fighting against fraud under the next MFF.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/241/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.