(English version)

Question for written answer E-001471/26
to the Commission
Sandro Gozi (Renew)
(10 April 2026)

Subject: Question regarding the progress of the OPEKEPE investigation

According to Greek press reports, it appears that the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) has faced obstacles in its efforts to investigate the OPEKEPE case, including 'deliberate delays' related to procedural issues in the handling of investigations by the competent Greek authorities.

Specifically, the following has been reported about the European prosecutors.

— More than 10 requests have been sent to obtain the necessary information regarding those involved in the OPEKEPE case. It is alleged that, in certain cases, incorrect data has been deliberately provided (for example regarding tax identification numbers), which has significantly delayed the progress of the investigation.

— At least three requests have been sent to the Internal Affairs Division to obtain the full content of intercepted communications. It was found that the initial material was incomplete and that communications involving political figures, namely members of parliament and ministers, had not been forwarded.

Noting the competences of the EPPO, I would like to have more information on the following point:

Does the Commission have any information on obstacles the EPPO may have encountered from the relevant Greek authorities when trying to investigate the OPEKEPE case?

Submitted: 10.4.2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(1 July 2026)

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) is the independent Public Prosecutor's Office of the EU and, in the performance of its duties under the EPPO Regulation ([1]), neither seeks nor takes instructions from any person external to the EPPO, from any Member State, or from any institution, body, office or agency of the EU.

Accordingly, the EPPO does not consult the Commission on any aspect relating to its investigations, nor does the Commission have access to operational details relating thereto.

Moreover, the Commission cannot comment on ongoing criminal investigations.

The Commission fully supports the EPPO in its mission to protect the EU's financial interests and recalls that Member States are under a duty of sincere cooperation with the EPPO, in accordance with the EPPO Regulation and the Treaty ([2]).

Furthermore, pursuant to Article 5(6) of the EPPO Regulation ([3]), the competent national authorities are required to actively assist and support the EPPO's investigations and prosecutions.

([1]) Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO'), OJ L 283, 31.10.2017, p. 1.

([2]) 'Pursuant to the principle of sincere cooperation, the Union and the Member States shall, in full mutual respect, assist each other in carrying out tasks which flow from the Treaties', Article 4(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), consolidated version, OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 13.

([3]) Article 5 (6) of the EPPO Regulation: 'The competent national authorities shall actively assist and support the investigations and prosecutions of the EPPO. Any action, policy or procedure under this regulation shall be guided by the principle of sincere cooperation'.