

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001565/26
to the Commission
Fabio De Masi (NI)
(16 April 2026)**

Subject: Interference in European elections by foreign intelligence agencies

Recent press reporting revealed extensive intelligence and interference activities by the Israeli espionage firm Black Cube, with the goal of influencing the outcome of the Slovenian national parliamentary elections ⁽¹⁾.

1. What information is available to the Commission regarding the scope of Black Cube's interference activities in Slovenia and other EU countries?
2. Is the Commission aware of other agencies operating to influence elections in the EU?
3. Which kind of instruments from the European Democracy Shield toolkit does the Commission plan to employ to address foreign interferences of the kind identified in the Slovenian case?

Submitted: 16.4.2026

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

The Commission is aware of the matter described in the Honourable Member's questions based on press reporting and as it was also brought to the attention of the President of the Commission by the Slovenian Prime Minister in a letter sent on 18 March 2026 ⁽¹⁾. The Commission does not have any additional information.

The Commission is aware of possible operations by foreign private actors aiming at influencing elections in the EU, such as the Doppelganger campaign carried out by Russian companies notably in the context of the 2024 elections to the European Parliament.

The integrity of elections is essential for democracies.

The conduct and organisation of elections are the responsibility of the Member States, in accordance with their constitution and national laws, in line with EU law and their international obligations.

Building on existing legislative and policy frameworks, with the European Democracy Shield ⁽²⁾ the EU has reinforced its capacity to support Member States to protect their electoral processes, notably by setting up a new European Centre for Democratic Resilience ⁽³⁾.

The Centre operates as a hub for cooperation with Member States and relevant EU institutions and bodies to support capacity-building, including for election preparedness, building on existing structures and networks, including the Rapid Alert System, the European cooperation network on elections ⁽⁴⁾, the European Board for Digital Services and the European Digital Media Observatory ⁽⁵⁾.

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/robert-golob-slovenia-eu-probe-israeli-black-cube-election-campaign/>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2026-03-19-prime-minister-robert-golob-informs-the-president-of-the-european-commission-of-foreign-interference-in-slovenias-elections-in-a-letter/>

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/2539eb53-9485-4199-bfdc-97166893ff45_en.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/european-centre-democratic-resilience_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/democracy-eu-citizenship-anti-corruption/democracy-and-electoral-rights/european-cooperation-network-elections_en.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/european-digital-media-observatory>.