

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001574/26
to the Commission
Mariusz Kamiński (ECR)
(16 April 2026)**

Subject: The need to reinstate the section on corruption in EU institutions in the Eurobarometer

For decades, the Commission has been analysing corruption through its Eurobarometer surveys. For years, it researched the views of EU citizens on corruption at national, local and European level. For example, according to a 2006 survey, the highest proportion of Europeans (78%) believed that corruption was present in state institutions, whilst the lowest proportion (71%) believed it was present in EU institutions ⁽¹⁾. It was similar in 2012 (73%) ⁽²⁾.

However, in later editions of the corruption surveys, although they have continued to broaden in scope we find no data on the perception of corruption in the EU institutions. The latest Eurobarometer from 2024 also analyses the perception of corruption in public institutions, but only at national, regional and local level ⁽³⁾.

This is happening at a time when the EU is telling us it is taking numerous steps and dedicating significant resources to bringing its institutions closer to citizens. Importantly, there have been a number of scandals in Brussels in recent years, with serious allegations of corruption involving top officials in Parliament, the Commission and the EEAS. Even the former Commissioner for Justice has been charged with money laundering while in office.

1. What was the reason for deciding no longer to publish research on perceptions of corruption in the European institutions?
2. Is the Commission carrying out such research and, if so, what are the results?
3. Given that the definition of a public official as set out in the Anti-Corruption Directive includes EU officials, does the Commission plan to reintroduce a section on corruption in the EU institutions in the Eurobarometer?

Submitted: 16.4.2026

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(13 August 2026)**

The Special Eurobarometer surveys, referred to by the Honorable Member, are designed to explore the level of corruption perceived and experienced by EU citizens. From 2005 to 2022, they were carried out on a biennial basis, and then annually since 2022.

Data from the surveys support policy making in the area of anti-corruption, feeding notably into the European Semester cycle and annual Rule of Law Report. Accordingly, the Special Eurobarometer surveys currently mainly focus on the national level. The survey also underpinned the development of the EU Directive on combating corruption ⁽¹⁾.

Currently, the Commission does not envisage to change the scope of these Special Eurobarometer surveys. However, it reserves the right to add any relevant questions to future surveys, to respond to changing circumstances or priorities.

The Commission is fully committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and sound financial management of EU funding.

¹ Special Eurobarometer 245, Opinions on organised, cross-border crime and corruption <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/1490>.

² Special Eurobarometer 245374, Corruption <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/1010>.

³ Special Eurobarometer 548, Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2024 <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3217>.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2026/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating corruption, available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202601021.