

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001689/26  
to the Council**

**Emil Radev (PPE), Andrey Kovatchev (PPE), Andrey Novakov (PPE), Axel Voss (PPE), Eva Maydell (PPE), François-Xavier Bellamy (PPE), Fredis Beleris (PPE), Ilia Lazarov (PPE), Jeroen Lenaers (PPE), Tomas Tobé (PPE), Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE), Adrián Vázquez Lázara (PPE), Marion Walsmann (PPE), Lukas Mandl (PPE)**  
(24 April 2026)

*Subject:* Concerns regarding the termination of the Bulgarian EPPO selection procedure

In 2025, a national selection procedure for the nomination of Bulgarian candidates for the position of European Prosecutor at the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) was duly completed by the former government through an open and transparent competition involving multiple candidates and evaluated by an independent panel composed of judges, prosecutors, an academic, and representatives of the Ministry of Justice. The procedure followed the same methodology as the 2020 selection procedure, which was considered to be compliant with EU standards.

The process has advanced to the EU level, with candidate interviews scheduled before the competent selection panel in April. However, the interim government, appointed in February 2026 and tasked with a limited mandate to organise elections, has decided to terminate the procedure without providing clear legal grounds for its decision.

In this context, the Council is asked:

1. How does it assess the compatibility of such actions with the principles of legal certainty and sincere cooperation, and the independence of the EPPO under Regulation (EU)2017/1939?
2. Could this create a precedent whereby political changes within a Member State undermine ongoing EU procedures?
3. Does the Council consider that the procedure should continue as planned, given that it is compliant with EU standards and has advanced to the EU level, and if so, what EU measures could ensure the continuity of the current procedure?

Submitted: 24.4.2026

**Reply**  
(27 July 2026)

As regards the first question, the selection procedure for the posts of European Prosecutors is governed by Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 (the 'EPPO Regulation'), which sets out the clear roles of Member States, the selection panel and the Council.

According to Article 16(1) of the EPPO Regulation, Member States are responsible for nominating three candidates, whose independence is beyond reasonable doubt, for the position of European Prosecutor.

As per the Treaties, Member States are required to act in line with the principle of sincere cooperation, including when submitting and withdrawing nominations.

According to Article 14(3), the selection panel is responsible for drawing up a shortlist of qualified candidates and for providing a reasoned opinion.

Finally, the Council's role is to select and appoint one of the candidates to be the European Prosecutor of the Member State in question. Under the EPPO Regulation, it is ultimately the role of the selection panel, with its operating rules (Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1696) ensuring the independence and impartiality necessary to carry out its work, to assess the nominations and their withdrawal.

As regards the second question, at this stage, the effects of this situation on future procedures cannot be assessed. The Council does not answer hypothetical questions.

Finally, as regards the last question, for the reasons described in the first reply, it is the responsibility of the selection panel to assess the steps to be taken in the selection procedure regarding the withdrawal of the nominations. Therefore, the Council has not discussed the issue raised by the Honourable Members.

---