

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002746/26
to the Commission
Mariusz Kamiński (ECR)
(2 July 2026)**

Subject: EU anti-corruption strategy and the fight against corruption in EU institutions

While the anti-corruption directive provides a definition of a ‘Union official’, in practice, it does not address the problem of corruption within the EU institutions themselves, as if this problem did not exist. The reality is quite the reverse: European public opinion is constantly being shaken by successive corruption scandals involving leading EU politicians and officials. The Qatargate scandal remains unresolved, with further details still emerging. In recent days, the media have reported that Belgian investigators intend to request the arrest of former Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos. There is also the case of former Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders, accused of money laundering during his time at the Commission. This is compounded by allegations against former High Representative Federica Mogherini and investigations related to the Huawei scandal.

EU citizens have had enough of this farce and are expecting strong anti-corruption measures.

Regular surveys on the perception of corruption in the EU institutions, which need new, viable and effective anti-corruption mechanisms, should return. The strategy should include an obligation to submit, under penalty of criminal liability, public and verifiable asset declarations. Senior officials and commissioners should disclose their assets and the sources of these. The current discretionary declarations of conflicts of interest are clearly insufficient. Illegal lobbying should also be drastically reduced and revolving doors, which undermine citizens’ trust in the European institutions, should be effectively eliminated.

Will the Commission’s anti-corruption strategy include specific actions on corruption in the EU institutions, including measures to address the problems I have identified here?

Submitted: 2.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(3 September 2026)**

Preventing and combating corruption remains a key political priority of the Commission. The entry into force of Directive (EU) 2026/1021⁽¹⁾ marks a significant milestone in strengthening the EU’s legal framework against corruption. National criminal law also applies to EU staff and members of EU institutions.

The Staff Regulations and its implementing rules contain the obligations incumbent on EU officials, including regarding situations of conflict of interest and the engagement in another occupation during and after leaving the service. With respect to lobbying, the Commission applies strict transparency rules.

As regards Commissioners, the EU Treaties state that they must refrain from any action incompatible with their duties. They are subject to strict rules governing conflicts of interest and must declare any interests or assets which might create a conflict of interest in the performance of their duties.

The EU Anti-Corruption Strategy, to be adopted by the end of 2026, will build upon the directive (EU) 2026/1021 and support its effective implementation. It will aim to further strengthen integrity, transparency and accountability at EU and national level.

The overall objective of the strategy will be to foster a culture of integrity, raise public awareness while strengthening the role of civil society. The Commission has consulted key stakeholders, including the European Parliament, in the preparation of the strategy.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2026/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2026 on combatting corruption, replacing Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA and the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union and amending Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council.