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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.9.2026)

Preventing and combating corruption remains a key political priority of the Commission. The entry into force of Directive (EU) 2026/1021¹ on combatting corruption in May 2026 marks a significant milestone in strengthening the EU's legal framework against corruption. The Directive notably harmonises the definition of corruption offences and criminal penalties across the EU and establishes minimum common standards for preventive measures, which are particularly relevant to the Honourable Member's question.

Member States have up to 24 months to transpose most of the provisions of the Directive into national law². As with all directives, the Commission will support Member States in the transposition and will closely monitor this process. The timely and correct transposition of the Directive into national law will be assessed after the transposition period has expired. The Commission will continue to monitor the anti-corruption framework of Member States, including Greece, in the context of its annual Rule of Law report³.

The EU Anti-Corruption Strategy, to be adopted in 2026, will build upon the Directive and support its effective implementation. The overall objective of the Strategy is to support a more comprehensive and coherent approach to preventing and combating corruption, while ensuring complementarity with relevant action at EU, national and international level. It will aim to strengthen trust in public institutions by promoting transparency, integrity and accountability, while safeguarding democracy, the rule of law and fair competition across the EU. In preparation of the Strategy, the Commission has conducted extensive consultations, including of the European Parliament.

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.

² Except for adopting and publishing a national strategy on preventing and combatting corruption as well as a risk assessment, for which Member States have 36 months.

³ 2026 Annual Rule of Law report - https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2026-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en.