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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is aware of the infiltration into the legal economy by organised crime, as highlighted in Europol's¹ 2025 Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment² and 2026 report Decoding the EU's Most Threatening Criminal Networks³. These indicate that 85% of these networks exploit legal businesses, including in transport, import and export.

Under cohesion policy and the common agricultural policy, Member States must apply exclusion criteria, controls and effective penalties, while the Commission supervises and audits national control systems and can support risk detection through tools such as Arachne. The Commission also operates the Early Detection and Exclusion System, which allows persons and entities involved in serious misconduct, including organised crime, to be temporarily excluded from EU funding procedures without a final conviction. Crimes affecting the financial interests of the EU are investigated and prosecuted by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). Moreover, the EU's anti-fraud architecture to strengthen protection against evolving threats, including transnational organised crime, will be reviewed, with a Communication envisaged for December 2026.

The Commission will present, in early 2027, a proposal on organised crime (including an Impact Assessment examining, inter alia, effects of organised crime on the Internal Market) to strengthen the response to criminal networks and their infiltration of the legal economy, also through modernised participation offenses and stronger cross-border cooperation. In 2026, the Commission also adopted two proposals revising the Europol and Eurojust⁴ Regulations⁵ aimed at strengthening cross-border investigations and cooperation with the EPPO.

¹ European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation.

² Europol (2025), European Union Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment – The changing DNA of serious and organised crime, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, p. 27.

³ Europol (2026), Decoding the EU's most threatening criminal networks - Issue 2: The blueprint of criminal opportunism, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, p. 42.

⁴ European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.

⁵ COM(2026) 580 final, COM(2026) 570 final.