

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002957/26
to the Commission
Virginie Joron (PFE)
(15 July 2026)**

Subject: The Commission's failure to open an internal investigation after money laundering charges were brought against former Commissioner Didier Reynders

Didier Reynders, a former Belgian minister and the European Commissioner for Justice until 2024, stands accused of money laundering. The investigation focuses on 245 suspicious deposits of cash into his accounts, amounting to EUR 836 500, and 779 purchases of National Lottery tickets at a petrol station, totalling around EUR 202 491 (with individual bets sometimes reaching EUR 2 000 to EUR 3 000) ⁽¹⁾. Altogether, those figures amount to over EUR 1 million. Ironically, the Commissioner had been responsible for the new anti-money laundering legislation.

On 10 June 2026, the Commission confirmed that it had 'not conducted any internal investigations following the allegations' ⁽²⁾. On 5 February 2026, it stated that it had 'not been involved in any investigations' ⁽³⁾.

In view of the seriousness of the allegations:

1. Has it requested or received additional information from the Belgian judicial authorities about the origin of the money flows, the services provided and any people or entities potentially behind the money laundering?
2. Will the Commission's new anti-fraud architecture provide for systematic internal investigations when commissioners are involved in financial scandals?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

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

The Commission is not competent to carry out investigations on money-laundering suspicions, whomever may be the suspect of any such situation.

In addition, the Commission does not interfere in national investigations which might be carried out by the Belgian authorities, while it remains ready to cooperate with these authorities.

The Commission has not requested, nor received information from the Belgian authorities about the origin of the money flows, the services provided and any people or entities potentially behind the money laundering matter.

In accordance with the legislation in force ⁽¹⁾, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) conducts administrative investigations for the purpose of fighting fraud, corruption and any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the EU.

To that end, it investigates, among others, into serious matters relating to the discharge of obligations of members of institutions, including (former) Commissioners.

OLAF is competent to investigate conduct relating to the discharge of professional duties which may constitute a serious failure to comply with the obligations of Members, provided that the underlying allegations are linked to the obligations of the Members of the Commission enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Code of Conduct for Commissioners ⁽²⁾.

Misconduct which could constitute a criminal offence is investigated by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) or national prosecution services, depending on the specific characteristics of the offence and whether it affects the EU's financial interests.

Regulation 883/2013 concerning investigations conducted by OLAF and well as Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 on the EPPO ⁽³⁾ are currently under evaluation and might be subject to possible review.

¹ <https://www.lesoir.be/648915/article/2025-01-16/affaire-reynders-dans-la-station-service-mettait-directement-largent-au-coffre>;
<https://www.brusselstimes.com/2113777/ing-belgium-pays-e1-6-million-settlement-in-didier-reynders-money-laundering-case-tbth>;
<https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/l-ex-commissaire-europeen-didier-reynders-soupconne-dans-une-enquete-pour-blanchiment-20241203>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000455-ASW_EN.html.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-004435-ASW_EN.html.

⁽¹⁾ Article 1(4) of the regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office.

⁽²⁾ Commission Decision of 31 January 2018 on a Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018D0221\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018D0221(02)).

⁽³⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office.