

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003234/26
to the Commission
Davor Ivo Stier (PPE), Karlo Ressler (PPE)
(8 August 2026)**

Subject: Preventing the abuse of INTERPOL channels for transnational financial repression under the EU-INTERPOL agreement

The Commission is negotiating an EU-INTERPOL cooperation agreement. Parliament's 5 July 2022 recommendation requested purpose limitation, transfer limits, independent oversight and judicial redress. Parliament's resolution of 16 June 2026 ⁽¹⁾ and the 8 July 2026 Hague resolution of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly ⁽²⁾ warn that sanctioned states weaponise INTERPOL notices, together with asset freezes, against those states' critics in exile.

Comprehensive sanctions do not prevent a state from accessing INTERPOL and other inter-state channels. The Assembly identified a Russian method to extract funding abroad for its war economy: structures acting for the state, reportedly including Alfa-Bank, combined INTERPOL notices and civil claims with asset freezes in order to bring about the takeover of Baltic Bank and the detention of Andrei Isaev in France in 2020 on an INTERPOL request, whose claims European courts executed even after Alfa-Bank was sanctioned in 2022.

1. How will the Commission give binding effect to the 5 July 2022 safeguards, and will it require an additional review of requests from sanctioned states such as Russia, or their proxies?
2. Will it apply the source-based approach under Regulation (EU) 2024/3192 ⁽³⁾ to refuse, by default, cooperation on the basis of requests from states systematically engaged in transnational repression?
3. Will it create an EU-level appeal mechanism against abusive notices, publish notice statistics by issuing state, and guarantee redress, including banking access?

Submitted: 8.8.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(5 October 2026)**

To protect EU citizens and fight transnational organised crime and terrorism effectively, international cooperation is key and should take place in full respect of fundamental rights.

The Commission firmly condemns any political interference in the conduct of law enforcement and any misuse of the International Criminal Police Organisation's (INTERPOL) police cooperation instruments for political purposes.

Political interferences inflict harm on political opponents and hinder the trust and the good conduct of law enforcement cooperation between countries across the world.

The Commission is not a member of INTERPOL. It cannot intervene in the decision of INTERPOL to publish a notice on an individual.

Nevertheless, the Commission is discussing the issue of the misuse of INTERPOL's information systems for political purposes, notably in the context of the biannual EU-INTERPOL Senior Officials Meeting.

The Commission has been negotiating, on behalf of the EU, a cooperation agreement between the EU and INTERPOL, based on the negotiating mandate received from the Council in July 2021 ⁽⁴⁾ while taking into account the opinion of the European Data Protection Supervisor of May 2021 ⁽⁵⁾ and the European Parliament's recommendation of July 2022 ⁽⁶⁾.

¹ Parliament resolution of 16 June 2026 on countering transnational repression — towards an EU strategy to protect Europe's sovereignty and democratic values, texts adopted, P10_TA(2026)0203.

² Hague resolution of 8 July 2026 on countering transnational financial repression and the weaponization of INTERPOL executive management, anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, and cybersecurity.

³ Council Regulation (EU) 2024/3192 of 16 December 2024 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, OJ L, 2024/3192, 16.12.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3192/oj>.

⁽⁴⁾ Council Decisions (EU) 2021/1312 and (EU) 2021/1313 of 19 July 2021 authorising the opening of negotiations for a cooperation agreement between the European Union and the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO-INTERPOL).

⁽⁵⁾ Opinion 8/2021 of 25 May 2021 on the recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations for a cooperation agreement between the EU and INTERPOL.

⁽⁶⁾ European Parliament recommendation of 5 July 2022 to the Council and the Commission on the negotiations for a cooperation agreement between the European Union and the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO-INTERPOL) (2022/2025(INI)).