

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000330/25
to the Commission
Victor Negrescu (S&D)
(26 January 2025)**

Subject: European collaboration to protect cultural heritage — Commission measures to recover priceless Dacian artefacts following the heist at the Drents Museum

The heist at the Drents Museum in the Netherlands, during which valuable artefacts belonging to Romania's Dacian treasure were stolen, is an incident with a European dimension given the historical and cultural significance of the artefacts stolen and its cross-border nature.

The European Union must swiftly implement existing mechanisms in cases of cultural heritage incidents like this and take resolute action via the specific institutions that exist at European level.

Since protecting Europe's cultural heritage is not just a national matter but also a European responsibility:

1. What specific measures is the Commission considering to improve collaboration among the Member States, Europol and Eurojust over this heist in the Netherlands and to prevent such situations arising in future?
2. What measures will the Commission take in response to this incident to ensure effective implementation of the EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods, adopted in 2022, so as to prevent robberies such as these and to help swiftly recover the stolen artefacts?

Submitted: 26.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(2 April 2025)**

In line with the EU action plan against trafficking in cultural goods ⁽¹⁾ the Commissions supports Member States in tackling cultural goods theft.

1. The EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation ⁽²⁾ supports the setup of joint investigation teams for cross-border investigations into cultural goods trafficking. Romania and the Netherlands have set up a joint investigation team regarding the theft from the Drents Museum ⁽³⁾. The EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation ⁽⁴⁾ has a special point of contact for cultural goods trafficking. Under the EU-funded European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats ⁽⁵⁾, there are dedicated operational actions against cultural goods trafficking.
2. Beyond these operational actions, the Commission continues implementing the EU action plan. The EU is funding projects ⁽⁶⁾ that address the challenging issue of cultural goods trafficking. Measures include law enforcement capacity building, tools to detect trafficked items and monitor online marketplaces, protection of cultural heritage sites by drones or satellite imagery, supporting practitioners' networks and awareness raising.

The Commission has also launched a project with the International Council of Museums ⁽⁷⁾, including support to a selected number of museums.

The Commission furthermore is conducting a study on improving traceability of cultural goods in the EU, to provide recommendations to Member States on setting up stolen cultural goods databases.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52022DC0800>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/>

⁽³⁾ <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/romania-and-netherlands-set-joint-investigation-team-theft-precious-historic-art-dutch-museum>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

⁽⁵⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/law-enforcement-cooperation/empact-fighting-crime-together_en

⁽⁶⁾ For examples of projects see <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2cbbe3d2-a55c-11ef-85f0-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

⁽⁷⁾ <https://icom.museum/en/>