

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003169/25
to the Commission
Mariusz Kamiński (ECR)
(1 August 2025)**

Subject: Criticism of the Commission in relation to the weakening of independent anti-corruption institutions in the EU and candidate countries, and its silence on the planned dissolution of the CBA in Poland

In Article 4 of the proposal for a directive on combating corruption, the Commission clearly states that Member States must put or have in place bodies that are specialised in the prevention and repression of corruption. These bodies must be independent and have sufficient resources and the necessary powers for the exercise of their tasks ⁽¹⁾.

As the founder and first head of Poland's Central Anti-Corruption Bureau (CBA), I believe that these bodies are essential in combating corruption in the 21st century. Slovakia is a good example of this, as the dissolution of specialised anti-corruption institutions in the country has led to a surge in corruption ⁽²⁾. This decision was met with a firm response from Brussels ⁽³⁾.

In addition, having these types of bodies is one of the essential requirements for Ukraine in its path towards EU accession. The recent changes limiting the autonomy of Ukrainian anti-corruption institutions was therefore opposed, with good reason, by citizens, who took to the streets. On 22 July 2025, a Commission spokesperson reiterated the fact that strong, independent anti-corruption bodies are a key requirement for EU accession.

Meanwhile, the planned dissolution of the CBA proposed by Donald Tusk's government ⁽⁴⁾ has been met with tacit approval from the Commission.

1. Is the Commission upholding its principled stance on the need for Member States — and Ukraine in the context of its accession — to have specialised and independent anti-corruption bodies?
2. How does the Commission explain its silence on Tusk's plans to dissolve an anti-corruption institution that has many years of experience and proven success, given that, at the same time, the proposal for a directive requires that these bodies exist and defends their operation in Ukraine and Slovakia?

Submitted: 1.8.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(8 September 2025)**

Respect for the rule of law and the fight against corruption are clear Commission priorities, as recalled also in the 2024-2029 Political Guidelines ⁽¹⁾.

As stated in the 2025 Rule of Law Report ⁽²⁾, the Commission deems that fighting corruption effectively relies on a comprehensive approach combining preventive and repressive measures in a robust legal and institutional framework, with effective investigations and prosecutions.

In its annual Rule of Law Report, the Commission therefore examines developments in all Member States and the four enlargement countries, including on their anti-corruption frameworks and specialised anti-corruption bodies.

The Commission has regularly reported on Poland's Central Anti-Corruption Bureau, including on issues pertaining to its independence ⁽³⁾.

In its 2025 Rule of Law Report, the Commission reported on the proposed dissolution of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau and its replacement by a new office ⁽⁴⁾.

It also reported on Poland's efforts to strengthen the legislative framework against corruption. The Commission will continue to monitor and assess these institutional and legislative developments.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0234>

² <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/slovakia-suffers-historic-drop-in-corruption-ranking-amid-ficos-controversial-reforms/>

³ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/eu-mulls-freezing-slovakias-funds-for-rule-of-law-violations/> <https://www.ft.com/content/35d955a4-f8ff-4d8e-b041-fbfc12bafb8c>

⁴ <https://www.gov.pl/web/sluzby-specjalne/rada-ministrow-przyjela-ustawe-dot-likwidacji-cba>

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2025-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en.

⁽³⁾ See for instance 2023 Rule of Law Report, Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Poland, SWD(2023) 821, p. 17.

⁽⁴⁾ 2025 Rule of Law Report, Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Poland, SWD(2025) 921, p. 9-10.

Since 2024, the annual Rule of Law report includes country chapters on four enlargement countries (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) to support their reform efforts on democracy and the rule of law ahead of accession and to guarantee that high standards will continue afterwards. The Commission takes a similar approach to all enlargement countries, including Ukraine, in the context of the annual enlargement reports.

Whilst the Commission underlines the need for independent bodies specialised in the prevention and repression of corruption, the Commission recalls that the proposal for a directive on combatting corruption ⁽⁶⁾ does not prescribe the way in which Member States are to organise and set up such institutions.

The Commission is hopeful that the co-legislators will soon come to an ambitious agreement on the proposal, thereby strengthening the fight against corruption in all Member States.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0234>.