

EN
P-001600/2026
Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.6.2026)

The Commission is not aware of fraudulent systems put in place by law firms or consultants helping third-country nationals in lodging false asylum applications in Member States.

The Commission has zero tolerance for fraud. Member States are competent to supervise the implementation of the EU funds they manage. When the Commission becomes aware of suspected cases of fraud or any other illegal activity affecting the EU budget, it informs the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and, where applicable, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).

OLAF conducts administrative investigations into irregularities affecting the EU budget, whereas the EPPO investigates and prosecutes criminal offences involving EU funds. Where the Commission establishes that an economic operator has committed fraud involving EU funds, it may exclude that operator from further financing through the Early Detection and Exclusion System. The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) supports Member States, OLAF and the EPPO to protect the EU's financial interests.

Detection of organisations involved in fraudulent legal advice to asylum seekers is the competence of national authorities in accordance with national legislation and in respect of EU law. The Asylum Procedure Directive¹ gives national authorities tools against abusive claims by allowing, inter alia, accelerated procedures where applicants mislead authorities, e.g. by presenting false information. The Asylum Procedure Regulation² further harmonises grounds for accelerated processing where applicants intentionally mislead the authorities.

¹ Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast) OJ L 180, pp. 60–95.

² Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU; OJ L, 2024/1348, 22.5.2024.