

**Question for written answer E-011000/2015  
to the Council**

Rule 130

**Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: European measures to tackle itinerant criminality

Shopkeepers in all EU Member States still encounter enormous problems with itinerant gangs of criminals. These gangs operate professionally. For example, they directly pass on information about more stringent surveillance in certain Member States, and respond by operating in Member States where surveillance is least effective at any given time. Particularly for that reason, European measures are needed to tackle the problem.

At the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 2 and 3 December 2010, it was decided to adopt a common European approach to these mobile gangs. To this end, a common definition of 'itinerant criminality' was drawn up, and it was decided to have a thorough analysis of the problem made both at Member State level and by Europol. A Council working party was set up to deal with the subject. In addition, Joint Investigation Teams were to be established, international cooperation under the criminal law was to be stepped up, and a strong administrative approach was to be adopted to tackle aiding and abetting of groups of offenders (for example providing them with accommodation and receiving stolen goods).

What progress has been made in realising these ambitions from 2010, what results have been achieved, and what are the follow-up actions planned by this Council working party? And exactly what role is Europol playing?

How are reports submitted to the European Parliament on the progress of measures to tackle itinerant criminality and the work of the Council and Europol in this field?