

**Question for written answer E-015982/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Enhanced information exchange between Europol and Member States

Europol needs to play a leading role in optimising the exchange of police information between Member States. It appears, however, that the tools installed within it are not being used to their full potential.

As a result, in November 2015, the counter-terrorism services of only fourteen Member States were connected to the SIENA platform.

Similarly, as of 13 November, 1 595 foreign fighters had been identified as having joined the so-called 'Islamic State' group, thanks to information provided by only fourteen Member States and three third countries. Now, we know that this number is much higher, and it is reasonable to expect that every Member State should play its part.

Finally, as of the end of November, 2 081 foreign fighters had been logged in the 'Focal Point Travellers' database, with over 50 % coming from five Member States.

This state of affairs clearly shows the path that needs to be followed.

In this respect, the regulation relating to the strengthening of Europol, which will soon be adopted at a plenary meeting of the Parliament, will require Member States to pass on to Europol any information that it needs to carry out its missions, which include combating terrorism.

Given this context, what steps does the Commission intend to take in order to increase interactions between Member States and Europol's databases?