

**Question for written answer E-011708/2013  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Brice Hortefeux (PPE)**

Subject: Fight against organised crime - specific measures

In my written question E-011929/2011, I brought to the Commission's attention the sharp increase in the number of attacks on jewellers as a result of the massive increase in the price of gold, often carried out by cross-border criminal groups.

In its answer, the Commission indicated that an informal network of Member State practitioners had been set up and that it had offered financial aid to specific projects aimed at combating this type of crime.

For months we have seen a recrudescence of these kinds of extremely violent attacks in France, which exasperates citizens and members of the profession alike. These same cross-border criminal groups commit other types of crime (burglaries, metal theft on railway lines, etc.) which are equally unacceptable.

Can the Commission provide an inventory of the measures that have been taken since the end of 2011 to combat these groups?

Has the establishment of an informal network of practitioners supported by Europol produced satisfactory results?

Can the Commission state whether the financial aid for eligible projects has been allocated? If so, can it provide a list of these projects and inform us of the amounts allocated?

Can the Commission state whether draft legislation to strengthen Europol and the fight against cross-border crime is planned in the coming months?