

**Question for written answer E-004519/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Eleftherios Synadinos (NI)

Subject: Mafia activities in Member States

Since the 1980s, Ndrangheta has been regularly using the Netherlands, particularly Rotterdam, as a base and gateway for drugs owing to the large ports and the tax system. Indicatively, it has employed the flower auction of Aalsmer to conceal cocaine trade and laundering of unlawful activities.¹

At the same time, it seems that it participates significantly in the economies of Italy, Germany and other European countries, where the group is engaged in money laundering.²

Moreover, as a result of the crisis, members of various circuits of the Italian mafia are migrating north in search of new business opportunities in the black economy. In Germany, they have been engaged in money laundering through slot machines which shop owners were forced to install, while the notorious Cosa Nostra has been expanded in the German construction sector, where profit margins are wider than the traditional profitable sale of protection.³

Is coordinated assistance provided to the respective national authorities;
What data are available regarding the Mafia infiltration in the legal/formal economy of Member States?
What relevant safeguards are in place or may be directly proposed by the Commission or indirectly through the institutional mandate of Europol, without making suggestions concerning the sovereign rights of Member States, to overcome the Mafia activities?

¹ <https://euobserver.com/investigations/137328>

² <http://www.kathimerini.gr/903136/article/epikairothta/kosmos/h-ollandia-vash-epixeirhsewn-ths-italikhs-mafias>

³ <http://www.documentonews.gr/article/h-krish-xytyphse-kai-thn-italikh-mafia-anazhtoy-n-eykairies-sth-germania>