

**Question for written answer E-000726/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
David McAllister (PPE)**

Subject: Implementation of Directive (EU) 2016/1919

Directive (EU) 2016/1919 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings lays down binding minimum standards which are intended to guarantee that throughout the EU suspects, accused persons and requested persons have a right of access to a lawyer. This directive has to be transposed into national law by 25 May 2019.

According to draft legislation prepared by the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV), Germany has decided to retain the system of mandatory defence enshrined in German law and not to introduce a separate legal aid system.

1. What view does the Commission take of Germany's intention to retain the system of mandatory defence?
2. According to the impact assessment on Directive (EU) 2016/1919, adopting a directive would force Member States to overhaul their respective national legal aid systems. What are the other likely implications for police work, in particular in the form of delays to investigations?