

**Question for written answer E-000835/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Corruption and mismanagement of EU funds in the Member States

According to the latest Transparency International report ¹, efforts to tackle corruption in the seven strongest world economies (G7) are stalling, while two-thirds of the 180 countries examined by the 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index score below 50% in this respect. These include five European countries (Hungary, Poland, Romania, Croatia and Greece ²), where many cases of fraud involving European funding have been detected, according to Michiel van Hulten, Director of Transparency International ³. Significantly, France and the United Kingdom are among the four countries that were down three points in one year.

As of 2020, the wrongful acquisition and use of EU funding will be a matter for the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) ⁴. In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what immediate measures it intends to take through the newly created EPPO to address this problem in the Member States?
2. What stage has been reached by EPPO cooperation with the national authorities, especially those Member States where the problem is most acute?
3. What are the most recent estimates regarding the amount of European funding lost to corruption and financial fraud?

¹ https://www.transparency.org/news/pressrelease/2019_CPI_efforts_stagnate_in_G7

² Greece, by contrast, was up three points in 2019.

³ <https://www.euronews.com/2020/01/27/the-brief-corruption-still-a-major-issue-in-european-union>

⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eppo/>