

**Question for written answer E-001007/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Mircea-Gheorghe Hava (PPE)

Subject: Making the ARACHNE risk scoring tool mandatory for the 2021-2027 programming period

Article 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union requires the Commission and the Member States to counter fraud and any illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the EU. Preventing and detecting fraud is therefore a general obligation for all Commission services in relation to their daily activities involving the use of resources. ARACHNE is an integrated IT tool for data mining and data enrichment developed by the Commission. Its objective is to support managing authorities in their administrative controls and management checks in the area of structural funds (e.g. the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund), such as checking for conflicts of interest.

1. Which Member States did not implement ARACHNE for the 2014-2020 programming period and what were their objective reasons for not using ARACHNE?
2. How does the Commission intend to continue using ARACHNE for the 2021-2027 programming period and what additional functions will be developed for the instrument?
3. Does it believe that ARACHNE should become a binding instrument for the Member States?