

Basic information	
<p>2023/0135(COD)</p> <p>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive</p>	<p>Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal</p>
<p>Combating corruption</p> <p>Repealing JHA act 2003/568 2002/0817(CNS) Amending Directive 2017/1371 2012/0193(COD)</p> <p>Subject</p> <p>7.30.30 Action to combat crime 7.30.30.06 Action to combat economic fraud and corruption 7.40.04 Judicial cooperation in criminal matters 8.40.09 European officials, EU servants, staff regulations</p> <p>Legislative priorities</p> <p>Joint Declaration 2023-24</p>	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel (Renew)	30/09/2024
	Former committee responsible		Former rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		STRUGARIU Ramona (Renew)	06/07/2023
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control (Associated committee)		CHINNICI Caterina (EPP)	24/07/2024
	Former committee for opinion		Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control (Associated committee)		CHINNICI Caterina (EPP)	18/07/2023
	JURI Legal Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the				

European Union		
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Migration and Home Affairs	JOHANSSON Ylva

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/05/2023	Legislative proposal published	COM(2023)0234 	Summary
01/06/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
14/09/2023	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
31/01/2024	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
31/01/2024	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
21/02/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0048/2024	Summary
26/02/2024	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
27/02/2024	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
13/11/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
27/01/2026	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE782.345 GEDA/A/(2026)000215	
25/03/2026	Debate in Parliament		
26/03/2026	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0094/2026	Summary
26/03/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/04/2026	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
29/04/2026	Final act signed		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/0135(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Amendments and repeals	Repealing JHA act 2003/568 2002/0817(CNS) Amending Directive 2017/1371 2012/0193(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57_o Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 083-p2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 283-p2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 083-p1-a1 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 082-p1

	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 83-p1-a3
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	LIBE/10/00214

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0048/2024	21/02/2024	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE782.345	09/01/2026	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0094/2026	26/03/2026	Summary
Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2026)000215	09/01/2026		
Draft final act	00001/2026/LEX	24/04/2026		
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	COM(2023)0234 	03/05/2023	Summary	
National parliaments				
Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	CZ_SENATE	COM(2023)0234	17/07/2023	
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2023)0234	20/07/2023	
Reasoned opinion	SE_PARLIAMENT	PE751.765	20/07/2023	
Contribution	CZ_CHAMBER	COM(2023)0234	06/09/2023	
Contribution	AT_BUNDES RAT	COM(2023)0234	16/10/2023	
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2023)0234	04/12/2023	
Contribution	AT_BUNDES RAT	COM(2023)0234	18/12/2023	
Contribution	FR_SENATE	COM(2023)0234	19/02/2024	
Other institutions and bodies				

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES2769/2023	25/10/2023	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR3805/2023	29/11/2023	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
EP Research Service	Briefing	23/09/2024
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	09/04/2026	Transparency International Nederland
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	18/11/2025	Transparency International Liaison Office to the European Union
RIDEL Chloé	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	11/06/2025	Agence Française Anticorruption
ANTOCI Giuseppe	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	11/06/2025	Transparency International Italia
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	03/06/2025	Transparency International Liaison Office to the European Union
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	22/04/2025	Ministerie Justitie & Veiligheid Openbaar Ministerie Ministerie Binnenlandse Zaken Rijksrecherche Fiscale inlichtingen- en opsporingsdienst
FREUND Daniel	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	01/04/2025	Transparency International Liaison Office to the European Union
RIDEL Chloé	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	26/03/2025	Transparency International Liaison Office to the European Union
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	14/03/2025	Transparency International Liaison Office to the European Union
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	06/03/2025	Minister of Justice, Finland
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	22/01/2025	Ambassador Poland
RIDEL Chloé	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	16/01/2025	Association de lutte contre la corruption et pour l'éthique en politique
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	13/01/2025	Autorità nazionale anticorruzione

KAMIŃSKI Mariusz	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	23/12/2024	eksperci Fundacji Instytut Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	13/12/2024	LobbyControl
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	26/11/2024	Nederlandse Permanente Vertegenwoordiging (J&V)
RIDEL Chloé	Shadow rapporteur	LIBE	19/11/2024	Transparency International Liaison Office to the European Union
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	07/11/2024	EPPO
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	06/11/2024	Europol
GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE Raquel	Rapporteur	LIBE	15/10/2024	Transparency International Liaison Office to the European Union

Combating corruption

2023/0135(COD) - 21/02/2024 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted the report by Ramona STRUGARIU (Renew, RO) on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating corruption, replacing Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA and the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union and amending Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The proposed Directive establishes minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in the area of corruption, as well as measures to prevent and fight corruption at the national and Union level.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the proposal as follows:

Prevention of corruption

Member States should take measures to ensure that key preventive tools are in place, such as:

- an anticorruption strategy and action plan drafted with the participation of competent authorities;
- an open access to information of public interest;
- effective rules: (i) for the periodic and risk-based disclosure and verification of assets and interests of public officials and establishing sanctions for failure to report substantial assets or interests; (ii) on the interaction between the private and the public sector, including regulation of interest representation and revolving doors situations;
- effective measures to ban citizenship by investment and residency by investment schemes.

Member States should, *inter alia*:

- take measures to ensure transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public officials and political parties, through annual reporting mechanisms;
- adopt comprehensive and periodically reviewed measures targeting common high-risk areas and include actions to identify and fight against organised crime or other serious crime;
- take steps to create a strong public service culture, based on integrity, transparency and accountability;
- carry out an annual assessment to identify the sectors most at risk from corruption;
- develop anti-corruption plans with implementation and monitoring mechanisms to address the main risks in sectors most exposed to the risk of corruption;
- set up appropriate public procurement systems based on transparency, competition and objective criteria for decision-making;
- actively and regularly mobilise and consult civil society, non-governmental organisations, local associations and academia in the development, monitoring and analysis of anti-corruption laws and policies;
- take measures to prevent corruption involving the private sector through the development of codes of conduct.

Specialised bodies for the prevention of corruption

These bodies should be independent of government and able to take autonomous decisions on individual cases, carry out their functions without undue interference and deal with complaints about breaches of the rules on the prevention of corruption.

Criminal offences

Members believe that the following behaviours, when committed intentionally, should be punishable as criminal offences: (i) **illicit political financing**; (ii) **concealment of corruptly acquired assets**; and (iii) **misconduct in public office**.

Sanctions

The proposal introduces new rules on penalties and procedural safeguards to eliminate any possibility of avoiding prosecution for corruption. The report increases some of the minimum prison sentences to bring them into line with the seriousness of the behaviour in question. Penalties could be up to 7 years' imprisonment.

Penalties for natural persons could include dismissal, suspension and reassignment of a public office, disqualification from holding a public office or performing a public service function and exclusion from access to public funding.

Sanctions applicable to legal persons should include (i) criminal or non-criminal fines, proportionate and appropriate to the gravity of the offence. The maximum amount of such fines should not be less than 10% of the total worldwide turnover of the legal person; (ii) publication, at national or Union level, of all or part of the judicial decision relating to the criminal offence committed and of the sanctions or measures imposed.

Aggravating circumstances would include the fact that the offender (i) took advantage of the vulnerable situation of a person involved in the commission of the offence; (ii) resorted to ingenious deception or the instrumentalisation of public officials in order to commit the offence.

Rights for the public concerned to participate in proceedings

Member States should protect and enable victims to have their views and concerns presented and considered at appropriate stages during criminal proceedings against offenders, in a manner that is not prejudicial to the rights of the defence. Moreover, they should take such measures as necessary to ensure that entities or persons who have suffered damage as a result of an act of corruption have the right to **initiate legal proceedings** against those responsible for that damage in order to obtain proportionate and adequate compensation.

In addition, necessary measures should be taken to ensure that the **public concerned** has appropriate rights to participate in the proceedings covered by this Directive, for instance as a civil party, where as a result of a corruption offence such public has a sufficient interest, and is entitled to maintain the impairment of a right, in accordance with national law.

Combating corruption

2023/0135(COD) - 03/05/2023 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to update and strengthen the EU's rules on combating corruption.

PROPOSED ACT: Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: corruption remains a significant problem at the Union level, threatening the stability and security of societies, including by enabling organised and other serious crime. In order to effectively prevent and combat corruption, a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach is required. The purpose of this Directive is to tackle corruption by means of criminal law, allowing for better cross-border cooperation between competent authorities.

[Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA](#) lays down requirements on the criminalisation of corruption concerning the private sector. The Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3(2)(c) of the Treaty on European Union on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union addresses certain acts of corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of the Member States in general. These instruments are, however, not sufficiently comprehensive, and the current criminalisation of corruption varies across Member States hampering a coherent and effective response across the Union. Enforcement gaps and obstacles in cooperation between the competent authorities of different Member States have also emerged.

This proposed Directive aims to amend and expand the provisions of those instruments. Since the amendments to be made are of substantial number and nature, both instruments should, in the interests of clarity, be replaced in their entirety in relation to the Member States bound by this Directive. Moreover, it is necessary to strengthen the legal framework to combat bribery and to provide law enforcement and prosecution with the necessary tools.

CONTENT: the proposed Directive seeks to establish minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in the area of corruption, as well as measures to better prevent and fight corruption. It modernises the existing EU anti-corruption legal framework by:

- harmonising **definitions** of criminal offences prosecuted as corruption to cover not only bribery but also misappropriation, trading in influence, abuse of functions, as well as obstruction of justice and illicit enrichment related to corruption offences. The proposal makes all offences under the United Nations Convention against Corruption mandatory under EU law and brings together public and private sector corruption;

- underlining the need to address the fight against corruption from a **preventive perspective**. It aims to explore activities to raise awareness on the fight against corruption, through education and research programmes, involving civil society and non-governmental organisations;
- requiring Member States to put or have in place bodies in their national legal orders that are specialised in the prevention and repression of corruption. Such bodies need to be independent, have sufficient human, financial, technical and technological resources and have the necessary powers for the exercise of their tasks;
- setting the minimum maximum penalty between **four and six years**, depending on the seriousness of the offence, which is an increase in comparison to the existing penalties at EU level for bribery (one to three years for bribery in the private sector);
- establishing a list of sanctions and measures, which are not necessarily of a criminal nature, such as the temporary or permanent exclusion from public procurement;
- ensuring that **privileges or immunities** from investigation and prosecution granted to national officials for the offences referred to in this Directive can be lifted through an effective and transparent process pre-established by law, and in a timely manner;
- laying down provisions on limitation periods to allow the competent authorities to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate the criminal offences covered by this proposal, as well as the execution of relevant sanctions, for a sufficient time period. This proposal sets the minimum length of the limitation periods between **eight to fifteen years**, depending on the seriousness of the offence;
- establishing rules and procedures to protect individuals who report information they acquired in a work-related context on breaches of EU law in key policy areas;
- ensuring **investigative tools** which are provided for in national law for organised crime or other serious crime cases can also be used in cases of money laundering;
- envisioning **enhanced cooperation** between Member States' authorities, the Commission, Europol, Eurojust, the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

Combating corruption

2023/0135(COD) - 26/03/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 581 votes to 21, with 42 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating corruption, replacing Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA and the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union and amending Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading by amending the proposal as follows:

Corruption offences

Member States should take the necessary measures to ensure that the following behaviours, **when intentional**, constitute criminal offences: (i) corruption in the public and private sectors; (ii) misappropriation by a public official of property directly or indirectly entrusted to his management; (iii) bribery; (iv) unlawful exercise of public functions; (v) obstruction of justice; (vi) concealment of the true nature or origin of property with knowledge that such property is derived from the commission of an offence.

Penalties

Member States should take the necessary measures to ensure that the criminal offences referred to in the directive are punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal sanctions consisting of **maximum prison sentences of at least three to five years for natural persons**.

Legal entities held responsible will be subject to sanctions or measures, criminal or non-criminal, proportionate to the seriousness of the conduct, such as (i) exclusion from access to public funding, including tendering procedures, subsidies, concessions and licenses, (ii) temporary or permanent ban from carrying out commercial activities or (iii) where it is in the public interest, publication of all or part of the court decision relating to the criminal offence committed and the sanctions or measures imposed.

Depending on the type of infringement, the **maximum amount of fines** may not be less than (i) 5% of the total worldwide turnover achieved of the legal person or an amount corresponding to EUR 40 million; (ii) 3% of the total worldwide turnover of the legal person or an amount corresponding to EUR 24 million.

The fact that the offence was committed within the framework of a criminal organisation will be considered an aggravating circumstance. This will also be the case when the perpetrator took advantage of the vulnerable situation of a person involved in the commission of the offence.

Limitation periods

Member States may provide for a limitation period of (i) at least **eight years** from the commission of a criminal offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of at least four years; (ii) at least **five years** from the commission of a criminal offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of at least three years. Member States may also provide for a limitation period allowing for the enforcement of sanctions imposed following a final conviction for a sufficiently long period (at least five or ten years) after that conviction. They may also provide for a shorter limitation period.

Prevention of corruption

Member States should ensure **a high level of integrity, transparency and accountability** in public administration and decision-making, by promoting a culture of public service and strengthening the capacity of officials to prevent conflicts of interest and corruption.

They should put in place **prevention tools** including: (i) measures to ensure transparency in the financing of candidacies for elected public office and political parties; (ii) rules for asset declarations and verification of these declarations; (iii) interest declarations by national officials and the regulation of revolving door situations involving these officials; (iv) rules regarding failure to report substantial assets or interests.

National strategies

Each Member State should adopt and publish a national strategy on preventing and combatting corruption, establishing objectives, priorities and corresponding measures and the means to meet those objectives. This strategy should strive to ensure that such national strategy is developed in consultation with **civil society**, anti-corruption bodies or organisational units, independent experts, researchers, and other stakeholders, and shall take into account the specific circumstances of each Member State.

Member States will also need to take the necessary measures:

- to provide up-to-date **training** for its national agents, so that they are able to identify the different forms of corruption and risks of corruption that may arise in the performance of their duties;
- so that the instruments and products of the criminal offences referred to in the directive can be **detected, identified, frozen and confiscated**;
- to ensure that Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) is used for the **exchange of information** between competent law enforcement authorities;
- to apply the relevant rights under applicable law to the **victims** of offences under this Directive, including legal persons.

The amended text also contains a provision relating to the **rights of the public concerned** to participate in the proceedings.

Cooperation

Where the criminal offences referred to in this Directive are suspected to be of a cross-border nature, the competent authorities of the Member States concerned should consider referring the information related to those offences to appropriate competent Union institutions, bodies, offices or agencies.