

**Question for written answer E-001355/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Enhanced collaboration in the fight against espionage and intelligence

The arrest in April 2024 of two people suspected of spying for China in Germany comes in the wake of other examples, involving Russia in particular, and highlights the threats from foreign intelligence services to our democracies, our economic interests and even the freedom of those who live in the European Union.

Collaboration among counter-espionage services and intelligence agencies is essential in tackling foreign interference. Within the EU, this collaboration involves the European Union Intelligence and Situation Centre (INTCEN), Europol and even the Intelligence Directorate of the European Military Staff (EUMS-INT). The way in which their work and competences are shared out is somewhat confusing for the general public

Moreover, some argue that this collaboration is at times hampered by a lack of trust between certain national intelligence services and agencies.

Does the Commission intend to propose measures to improve this trust and enhance cooperation in the fight against espionage and intelligence?

1. In particular, will it strengthen Europol's counter-espionage role?
2. Will it establish a genuine European intelligence agency to complement a reinforced Europol?

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