



The real purpose of the criminal law protection of the financial interests of the EU

What really the “financial interests of the EU” are?

There are two different approaches.

Dr. Barna MISKOLCZI PHD

*prosecutor, Head of Department for International and European Affairs
Office of the Prosecutor General of Hungary*

"'Corruption risk, risk of corruption? Distinguishing criteria between petty and high-ranking corruption' (101014783 — CRITCOR) project was funded by the European Union's HERCULE III programme."

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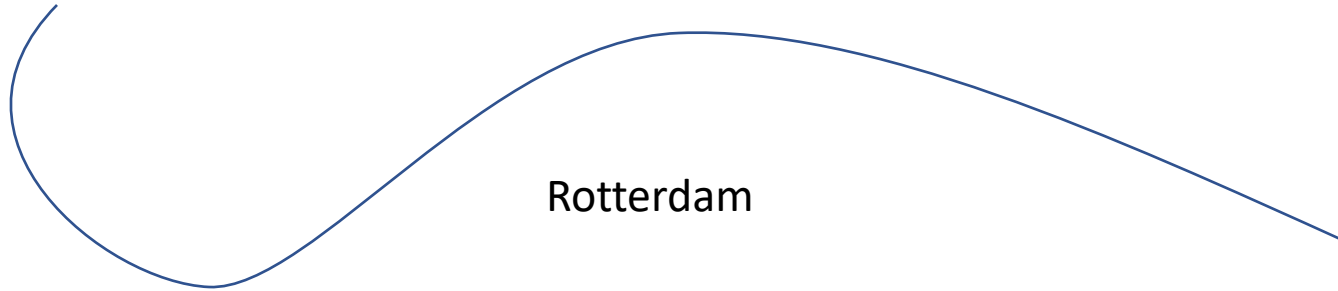
The financial interests of the EU, according to the “mainstream interpretation”

- Keyword: financial loss
- Direct financial interests of the EU budget
- EU budget: income/expenditure side

The financial interests of the EU, according to the “alternative interpretation”

- Keyword: integration in danger
- Danger is present, if the criminal act in question can have a negative impact on the *integration of the EU*
- How can the integration of the EU be disrupted?
- By creating or maintaining different approaches in the Member States
 - companies and enterprises tend to move to the MS-s where the approach (eg. legal approach, including criminal law approach) is more lenient

Hamburg



Rotterdam



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The “integration test”

- Question of the test: does the criminal act affect the *integration* of the EU *such an extent* that *community protection* is really needed?
 - Euro counterfeiting: nay
 - Money laundering: nay
 - Corruption: probable, but nay
 - Fraud: aye!

CORINTH



Thank you!



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