

Question for written answer E-003339/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: European Court of Auditors special report 11/2025 on Transparency of EU funding granted to NGOs

According to the European Court of Auditors special report 11/2025, serious concerns persist over the transparency, traceability and oversight of EU funding granted to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Between 2021 and 2023, the Commission allocated EUR 7.4 billion to NGOs under various internal policies, yet major weaknesses remain unaddressed.

Key concerns include:

- no reliable, central overview of NGO spending across programmes and funding modes;
- inconsistent NGO classification, with 8 out of 30 audited entities wrongly listed as NGOs based largely on self-declaration;
- over 40 % of direct EU funding went to just 30 NGOs, raising concerns about concentration and access inequality;
- compliance with EU values is not proactively verified, despite this being a contractual obligation for recipients.

In the light of the above:

1. What concrete steps will the Commission take by the end of 2025 to establish a clear, operational definition of ‘NGO’, including objective criteria for independence from public authorities?
2. When will a unified real-time transparency portal be launched to track EU funds granted to NGOs, as recommended by the European Court of Auditors?
3. Given that most audited NGOs rely heavily on public funding, how will the Commission verify their compliance with EU values and prevent the misuse of funds by

politically active or controversial entities?

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