

**Question for written answer E-003383/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Siegbert Frank Droese (ESN)

Subject: EU funding opportunities for animal welfare projects in Serbia

The EU runs pre-accession and thematic funding programmes for Serbia. This gives rise to questions as to the transparency, allocation and accessibility of these funds for effective animal welfare projects.

1. What EU environmental and animal welfare funding instruments are currently available to Serbian applicants (e.g. under IPA III, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, or the related thematic programmes), and can non-governmental organisations (NGOs) apply directly?
2. How is the application process structured, and in particular, can Serbian NGOs or European NGOs working with Serbian organisations act as lead applicants and manage the project budget, or are the funds primarily allocated through Serbian government agencies?
3. What safeguards and monitoring mechanisms are in place to ensure that EU funds allocated to projects in Serbia are not misused or allocated inefficiently, and how does the Commission check their effective and transparent implementation?

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