

**Question for written answer E-003651/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)

Subject: Concerns about academic freedom and use of Jean Monnet programme as political propaganda tool

The recent report *Professors of propaganda* by the think tank MCC Brussels¹ reveals that the Jean Monnet programme, part of Erasmus+, functions less as a means of enhancing academic excellence and more as a political tool for promoting pro-European ideas and narratives. It warns that the programme undermines the principle of autonomy and turns students into subjects to be made into ‘right-thinking’ citizens, effectively functioning as a tool for official propaganda.

Given that this programme has an annual budget of approximately EUR 25 million and directly affects over half a million students in more than 70 countries, serious questions arise as to the consequences for academic freedom and the independence of universities.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to support academic freedom, pluralism and the independence of universities?
2. What specific measures does the Commission intend to put in place to ensure that the Jean Monnet programme is not used to promote EU political preferences directly in a way that restricts free and critical academic debate, and that funding through this programme remains purely for education and research?

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¹ <https://brussels.mcc.hu/uploads/default/0001/02/20480c8777067660c2f21230e2b3081ec5f46f1e.pdf>