

Question for written answer E-004198/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Mary Khan (ESN)

Subject: Misuse of CERV funding to discredit political parties

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) is an EU funding instrument for the period 2021 to 2027. Officially, it aims to support the development of open, democratic, inclusive and societies based on the rule of law. To this end, around EUR 1.44 billion in EU funding is available for civil society organisations and selected public institutions¹.

In practice, however, the programme is increasingly being misused as a political tool to discredit unwanted opinions and opposition parties. For example, the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) received CERV funding and then published the study ‘Framing Hate: AfD migration messaging on social media in the 2025 German elections’ in 2025. In that document, Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party is presented unilaterally as a proponent of ‘hateful narratives’ that is generally associated with ‘xenophobic sentiment’. It thus seems that report has been published with political intentions under the guise of scientific analysis².

1. How does the Commission justify EU funding from the CERV programme being used for projects that actually target a democratically elected party? How is this compatible with the EU law principles of equal treatment, objectivity and political impartiality?
2. What specific steps will it take to ensure that CERV funding is not used, directly or indirectly, for party political interference or for the targeted discrediting of democratically legitimate parties in future?

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¹ <https://www.kontaktstelle-cerv.de/cerv-programm>

² <https://www.inach.net/inach-newest-report-framing-hate-afd-migration-messaging-on-social-media-in-the-2025-german-elections/>