

**Question for written answer E-004698/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Milan Zver (PPE)

Subject: Exclusion of Hungarian universities from Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe

In December 2022, the Council endorsed the Commission's proposal to ban new legal commitments with Hungarian public interest trusts under Act IX of 2021 on public interest asset management foundations performing public duty¹. As a result, 21 universities, with over 204 000 students and 20 000 staff, were excluded from Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe. This restricts academic mobility and access to EU research and education programmes, limiting opportunities for students and damaging the EU's credibility.

1. On what basis did the Commission determine that the presence of politicians on boards of trustees constitutes a rule-of-law breach that affects or seriously risks the sound financial management of the EU budget?
2. Did the Commission identify any specific instances of mismanagement linked to these governance structures?
3. How does the Commission justify applying such restrictive measures within the EU while simultaneously expanding Erasmus+ to non-EU countries with weaker rule-of-law records?

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¹ <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/en/2021-9-00-00>.