

**Priority question for written answer P-001457/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Dirk Gotink (PPE)

Subject: Use of a non-EU listed contractor by the Commission in the evaluation of European public tenders

The Commission has engaged Stantec, a company listed on Canadian and US stock exchanges, as a contractor across multiple programme areas. This includes its use as an external contractor by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency in the evaluation by external experts of European public tender procedures. Public reporting and official statements have raised concerns regarding a Stantec-related joint venture and agreements associated with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)¹.

1. Did the Commission carry out any due diligence, ethics, compliance or reputational risk assessment in relation to Stantec prior to or during its engagement as a contractor, including in the light of public reporting and official statements concerning a Stantec-related joint venture and agreements associated with ICE?
2. Does the Commission consider it appropriate to use companies listed in non-EU countries, and specifically companies subject to non-EU jurisdiction and regulatory frameworks, as contractors in the evaluation of European public tender procedures, and what criteria does the Commission apply when selecting such contractors?
3. What measures does the Commission have in place to ensure the independence, impartiality and integrity of external contractors involved in European policy programmes?

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¹ <https://edmontonjournal.com/business/edmonton-based-stantec-cancels-ice-facility-contract-after-backlash>.