

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002120/24
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe)
(16 October 2024)**

Subject: Recovery of funds granted to the association Yavuz Sultan Selim

On 24 November 2023, Commissioner Iliana Ivanova replied to a written question I tabled about a Turkish Islamist association, Yavuz Sultan Selim, which had received EU funding ⁽¹⁾.

In the light of our revelations, the Commission said that it had asked the association to terminate the agreement with it and to pay back the funds that had already been disbursed. The Commission also informed the beneficiary of its intention to have it placed under an early detection procedure, a rapid exclusion system intended to sanction EU grant beneficiaries that pose a risk to the EU's financial interests.

1. Has the Commission recovered the funds paid to the association?
2. Has the Commission placed the association under an early detection procedure?
3. Does the Commission recognise the role we have played in detecting this association?

Submitted: 16.10.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(8 January 2025)**

Following allegations of breaches to EU values related to the mentioned project, the Commission assessed the beneficiary's compliance against its obligations under the grant agreement signed with the Erasmus+ national agency in Türkiye.

It concluded that the beneficiary had committed grave professional misconduct and requested the Turkish national agency to terminate the grant agreement and proceed with the recovery of the funds.

The Commission confirms these have been returned by the national agency in October 2023. The Commission had also registered the beneficiary with an early detection information in the early detection and exclusion system database in accordance with the provisions of Article 144 of the Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission acknowledges and appreciates the value of information provided by EU institutions, including the European Parliament, in the context of taking measures against unreliable entities.

While such contributions are crucial, the Commission is committed to ensuring that all relevant factors, including legal and procedural safeguards, are taken into account when determining appropriate actions.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that persons and entities considered unreliable because of involvement in criminal, unethical practices, or activities incompatible with EU values do not receive EU financial support.

Beneficiaries of Erasmus+ must uphold legal provisions protecting EU values. Mechanisms framed by the Financial Regulation and relevant agreements concluded with recipients of EU funds have been put in place to safeguard and monitor the proper use of these funds.

Moreover, in line with the rules for indirect management and the Erasmus+ Regulation ⁽²⁾, the Commission deploys a set of monitoring and supervision activities to ensure efficient and effective programme implementation.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2023-002384-ASW_EN.html

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, OJ L 189, 28/05/2021, p. 1-33.