

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002496/24**  
**to the Commission**  
**Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR)**  
(12 November 2024)

*Subject:* EU abortion lobby

The Treaty on European Union provides that the EU will act only within the limits of the competences conferred upon it by the Member States in the Treaties. Competences not conferred upon the EU in the Treaties remain with the Member States. In the EU, abortion laws are a competence of the Member States. Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) also provides that healthcare is a competence of the Member States. The same applies to criminal law, with regard to Chapter 4 of the TFEU. Despite these principles, the EU supports and funds projects and organisations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU <sup>(1)</sup>.

1. Does the Commission support or fund projects, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, lobby organisations and/or research initiatives that promote the introduction of legal abortion in Member States, the introduction of more liberal abortion laws, or the removal of any type of (access) restrictions from abortion laws or policies in Member States?
2. Which organisations working on abortion or sexual and reproductive health and rights have received or are currently receiving EU funding, and what amount has been paid to them in the past five years?
3. What is the objective and desired outcome of this funding?

Submitted: 12.11.2024

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission**  
(24 March 2025)

1. The Commission is committed to improving the health of all European people. The Commission is not funding specific projects related to the introduction of legal abortion in Member States, nor projects aiming to introduce more liberal abortion legislation.
2. Two organisations receive funding from the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme in the form of operating grant, i.e. funding for their core support and everyday functioning (not for specific projects), namely the European Women's Lobby and the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network. In the last five years (2019-2023, the last closed year) they received in total EUR 6 945 159.
3. The objectives of operating grants provided to civil society organisations from the CERV programme in the field of EU values and gender equality are to support, advance and implement comprehensive policies to promote women's full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, equal pay between women and men, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming.

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<sup>1</sup> See the statement made by Elisa Ferreira during the plenary debate of 14 March 2024.