

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002627/24
to the Commission
Tomasz Froelich (ESN)
(21 November 2024)**

Subject: UN's CERD acting beyond its remit on school curricula

The UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) published a report in 2023 on the implementation of and compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Germany. In the report, the CERD recommends that Germany's school curricula include human rights education programmes to teach, among other things, anti-racism, diversity and equal treatment. German colonialism and slavery and their lasting consequences should also be added to history curricula ⁽¹⁾.

The European Union as an organisation pays around EUR 3 billion into the United Nations system every year. Together, the Member States already contribute more than EUR 14 billion, including EUR 6.8 billion from Germany, the world's second-largest contributor ⁽²⁾.

1. In the Commission's view, is the CERD — by setting out instructions and requirements for education, which should actually be a matter for sovereign nation states — acting beyond its remit?
2. Does the Commission consider it advisable to continue financing an organisation that increasingly acts beyond its remit, at the expense of EU Member States?
3. Does the Commission intend to put pressure on the United Nations and reject the CERD report? If so, how?

Submitted: 21.11.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(6 February 2025)**

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ⁽¹⁾ (ICERD) by its state parties.

The Committee issued on 21 December 2023 its concluding observations ⁽²⁾ on the combined 23rd to 26th reports of Germany, as state party to the ICERD.

The Committee subsequently published on 11 December 2024 the information received from Germany ⁽³⁾ on follow-up to CERD concluding observations.

This process is in line with the reporting obligations of state parties; states that have ratified the ICERD are required to submit regular reports to the Committee, detailing the progress in upholding the rights described in the Convention and measures taken to implement it.

CERD examines these reports and issues recommendations on the implementation of the ICERD in that state — including in the area of education as per Article 7 of the ICERD: 'States Parties undertake to adopt immediate and effective measures, particularly in the fields of teaching, education, culture and information, with a view to combating prejudices which lead to racial discrimination'.

The EU remains a staunch supporter of the United Nations (UN) human rights system, including the independence of the treaty bodies responsible for monitoring the implementation of human rights treaties, as well as their independent mandate.

Council Conclusions on EU Priorities in UN Human Rights Fora in 2024 ⁽⁴⁾ reaffirmed that the EU 'will continue calling on all states to fully engage with the UN human rights system, including the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, such as the Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review, UN-mandated investigative bodies and the Treaty Bodies'.

¹ CERD, paragraph 50.

² European External Action Service, 'EU funding to the UN system', 15 September 2023

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial>

⁽²⁾ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4033353?v=pdf>

⁽³⁾ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/226/22/pdf/g2422622.pdf>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5311-2024-INIT/en/pdf>