

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002779/24
to the Commission
Auke Zijlstra (Pfe), Marieke Ehlers (Pfe)
(5 December 2024)**

Subject: Conspicuous activity at the FRA Agency

In the 2023 Discharge of the EU Agencies report ⁽¹⁾, in which written questions are submitted to agencies, information on page 174, concerning the FRA Agency, caught my attention. The report states that, in June 2023, a meeting was held at FRA's premises in Vienna with, among others, three fundamental rights officers. Moreover, in response to a request from Frontex, FRA conducted specific training on how to communicate on migration from a fundamental rights-based perspective for its Media Unit. The training course focused on 'migration narratives, framing and communication strategies to avoid disinformation and polarisation'. In view of the above:

1. What were the specific costs of this specific training course and with which budget line were they covered?
2. Can the Commission indicate whether it has specific and demonstrable evidence of 'disinformation and polarisation' in the field of migration? If so, what evidence?
3. What specific migration narratives were provided during this specific training course and what was the concrete content of these presentations?

Submitted: 5.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(28 April 2025)**

In accordance with Article 16(1) of its Founding Regulation ⁽¹⁾, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) shall fulfil its tasks in complete independence.

The implementation of the Agency's budget falls under the responsibility of its Director, in line with Articles 15(4)(e) and 21 of its Founding Regulation. The Commission is not aware of the specific costs of the training the Honourable Members refer to.

In 2022, the Commission published a Eurobarometer survey, which showed that, on average across the EU, 68% of respondents tended to overestimate the real share of immigrants in the population ⁽²⁾.

The Commission is committed to improving people's understanding of migration and integration based on facts and data. The current EU Action plan on integration and inclusion ⁽³⁾ aims, among other things, at helping more Europeans to be well informed on integration and migration.

It also underlines that working with media representatives, education institutions as well as civil society organisations is key to better inform Europeans about the realities of migration and integration.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2024_2029/plmrep/COMMITTEES/CONT/DV/2024/12-04/2023discharge_QuestionstoAgencies_EN.pdf
⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 of 15 February 2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, OJ L 53, 22.2.2007, p. 1.
⁽²⁾ https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/library-document/special-eurobarometer-integration-immigrants-european-union_en
⁽³⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-resettlement-and-integration/integration/action-plan-integration-and-inclusion_en