

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002916/24
to the Commission
Marieke Ehlers (P/E), Rachel Blom (P/E)
(12 December 2024)**

Subject: US Attorney General Pam Bondi's plans regarding student visas

In response to rampant anti-Semitism in the United States, particularly at universities, US Attorney General Pam Bondi is calling for the revocation of visas for students who express support for Hamas ⁽¹⁾.

According to recent research ⁽²⁾, anti-Semitism is also on the rise at European universities.

1. Does the Commission have mechanisms in place to verify whether non-EU students studying or conducting research at European educational and research institutions and receiving Erasmus+ or Erasmus Mundus grants are supporting Islamist organisations and terrorist movements?
2. What sanctions does the Commission foresee to address this?
3. Does the Commission undertake to immediately suspend the grants being paid to these students and to actively encourage the relevant authorities to revoke their student visas so that these individuals can be immediately sent back to their countries of origin?

Submitted: 12.12.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(7 March 2025)**

Entities implementing EU funds must comply with EU restrictive measures ⁽¹⁾. In June 2024, the European Council reiterated its strongest condemnation of the brutal terrorist attacks conducted by Hamas and other terrorist groups against Israel on 7 October 2023 ⁽²⁾. Hamas is listed on the EU terrorist list ⁽³⁾.

In January 2024, the EU established a framework for restrictive measures against those who support, facilitate or enable violent actions by Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad ⁽⁴⁾, and has since designated 12 individuals and three entities.

The latest recast ⁽⁵⁾ of the EU Financial Regulation approved in September 2024 includes a new exclusion ground under the early detection and exclusion system for entities, as well as individuals that engage in activities contrary to EU values where such misconduct has an impact on the entity's integrity that risks to negatively affect its performance of a legal commitment.

As regards student visas, Member States are responsible for the issuance of visas and residence permits for students from third countries, and for carrying out the necessary security checks on those arriving in the EU in accordance with Directive (EU) 2016/801 ⁽⁶⁾.

Article 7 of the directive determines that third-country nationals who are considered to pose a threat to public policy, public security or public health shall not be admitted. Posing a threat to public security is also listed in Article 21 as a ground for withdrawal or non-renewal of an authorisation of residence.

¹ <https://vinnews.com/2024/12/04/incoming-ag-pam-bondi-calls-for-revocation-of-visas-and-reinstatement-of-travel-ban-for-pro-hamas-students/>.

² <https://eujs.org/resources/antisemitism/report-rise-of-antisemitic-acts-and-incidents-in-universities-across-europe-since-7th-of-october-2023/>.

⁽¹⁾ Article 215, Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT:en:PDF>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/qa3lbg/euco-conclusions-27062024-en.pdf>

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02001E0931-20240221>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02024D0385-20240119>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj/eng>

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/801/oj/eng>