

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000345/25
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (P/E)
(27 January 2025)**

Subject: EU contributions to various foundations

Germany funded Gates Foundation projects to the tune of EUR 600 million in taxpayers' money in 2023 — an example of public-private partnerships supporting the Western elites. Cooperation between politicians and US foundations, such as the Gates or Rockefeller Foundations, raises questions about sovereignty and transparency. The EU plays a key role in promoting such projects through partnerships like the one between the World Economic Forum and the United Nations. This raises the question of how the EU ensures these funds safeguard European interests and are not undermined by the influence of private actors like Gates.

1. How does the Commission protect its policies from the external influence of private US foundations and how is transparency in their funding by EU Member States ensured?
2. What criteria and standards are applied in the selection of cooperation projects with private foundations and organisations or programmes involving private foundations?
3. Which of the cooperation projects between the EU and foundations and NGOs have been evaluated so far and what has been the outcome of these evaluations in terms of their impact and the achievement of the agreed objectives?

Submitted: 27.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(29 April 2025)**

The Commission does not finance private foundations of the United States, including the Bill Gates Foundation. The Commission contributes (as many EU Member States and other major donors) to independent multi-partner global funds and initiatives of which the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation is also often a major investor.

In respect of the EU's Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾, EU development funding implemented by foundations or other civil society organisations (CSOs) is awarded through competitive calls for proposals. Recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals can be justified only in exceptional cases.

All development projects funded by the EU and implemented by CSOs are subject to strict and rigorous monitoring and reporting procedures on an annual basis.

The EU projects, implemented by foundations or CSOs, are subject to audits and/or a specific result-oriented monitoring to ensure the attainment of agreed results. The reporting from all projects at corporate level allows for assessment of their impact through analysis of results and indicators.

⁽¹⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/990fe2a6-8f52-11ef-a130-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>