

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000654/25
to the Commission**

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(12 February 2025)

Subject: Making the EU's development aid contingent on the repatriation of immigrants

Finland recently suspended development cooperation with Somalia on account of its refusal to accept the repatriation of immigrants. This indicates that it is possible to put pressure on developing countries to take back their citizens if financial aid from the EU is halted.

In the light of this, we ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Does the Commission send financial development aid to Somalia directly or through development projects?
2. Is the Commission willing to make the distribution of financial aid to developing countries contingent on the repatriation of immigrants to their country of origin?

Submitted: 12.2.2025

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

The EU's development cooperation is framed mainly within the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) ⁽¹⁾.

In Somalia, the EU, together with EU Member States, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development — in the framework of Team Europe Initiatives — supports the country's state building efforts, sustainable migration management, economic and private sector development, as well as the increased resilience of most vulnerable populations while reducing the effects of the climate crisis ⁽²⁾.

Most of the funding for 2021-2027 is managed by international organisations, international non-governmental organisations and local civil society organisations.

The choice is based on the partners' specialisation in activities relevant for achieving EU's objectives in Somalia, their presence on the ground, their absorption capacity, and — most importantly — on their capacity to reach most vulnerable populations.

Other resources will be allocated directly to the Somali treasury, upon successful completion of agreed economic and sectoral indicators, under the budget support contract 'State and Resilience Building Contract — Phase II'.

The NDICI — Global Europe Regulation provides the means for a 'flexible incitative approach', under which possible allocation of additional funding related to migration could be adopted as a leverage, in accordance with the programming principles of the instrument, and taking into account effective cooperation and implementation of EU agreements and dialogues on migration, including returns.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe.

⁽²⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/44bcd681-0141-4b0a-b63c-1e5b4674f805_en?filename=mip-2021-c2021-9070-somalia-annex_en.pdf