(English version)

Question for written answer E-000704/25
to the Commission
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(17 February 2025)

Subject: The final destination of EU development funds

In light of recent events in the United States of America, where the new administration, led by Donald Trump, began audits of several public entities, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), serious issues regarding the allocation of public funds have been exposed.

In this context, could the Commission clarify the destination and management of EU development funds allocated over the last 10 years. Specifically:

1. What projects were funded by the Commission from instruments managed by the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (formerly DG DEVCO, currently DG INTPA), as well as other responsible services? Please specify the recipients, geographic areas, and thematic areas covered, particularly in policies related to gender ideology (sexual rights that are not agreed upon by all Member States), 'woke' culture, support for NGOs that work with illegal immigration (mislabelled as humanitarian aid), the European Pact on Migration and Asylum and initiatives to combat online disinformation.

2. Which European media outlets and think tanks have been funded from official development assistance (ODA) funds, as well as through other European Union financing instruments?

Supporter ([1])

Submitted: 17.2.2025

Answer given by Mr Síkela on behalf of the European Commission
(18 June 2025)

EU funds allocated to development assistance are implemented in accordance with the principle of transparency enshrined in the Financial Regulation applicable to the EU Budget ([1]).

Detailed information on amounts funded are available in the Financial Annexes of the report on the Implementation of the EU's External Action Instruments that the Commission publishes on a yearly basis ([2]). These annexes provide a breakdown of the development assistance funding across multiple dimensions. In particular:

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1 [1]This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

([1]) Article 38 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj/eng.

([2]) For 2023's activity, the Financial Annexes can be found in Section 8 of the Commission Staff Working Document (SWD(2024) 267 final) accompanying the 2024 Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's External Action Instruments in 2023 (COM(2024) 548 final): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=SWD:2024:267:FIN; https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bfc002cc-bdca-11ef-91ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en#:~:text=This%20is%20the%20staff%20working%20document%20accompanying%20the,international%20partnerships%2C%20humanitarian%20aid%2C%20foreign%20policy%20and%20enlargement.

— Table 3B provides a breakdown of disbursements by Instrument and responsible Directorate-General (DG International Partnerships vs. other services).

— Table 5B provides a breakdown of disbursements made by thematic area/ sector being targeted (e.g. health, education, population policies, humanitarian aid) and the responsible Directorate-General.

— Table 6B provides a breakdown of disbursements made by country/region and the responsible Directorate-General.

— Table 8B provides a breakdown of disbursements made by country/region and thematic area/sector.

— Table 13B provides a breakdown of disbursements made by type of contribution (e.g. contribution to a project, contribution to an NGO, etc…).

Information on EU budget funding (with the exception of programmes under shared management ([3])) awarded to specific recipients, such as European media outlets and think tanks, is publicly available through the centralised Financial Transparency System (FTS) web page ([4]).

This tool provides information at individual project level (e.g. nature of the measure, committed amount, project start & end date, funding instrument, responsible Directorate-General) allowing to conduct searches across multiple dimension (e.g. name of the think tank, year of funding, beneficiary country).

([3]) Funding implemented through shared management represents less than 2% of the total volume of development aid, and mostly relates to interregional cooperation projects in EU border regions (e.g. transport, connectivity).

([4]) https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget_en.