

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000964/25
to the Commission**

Anna Maria Cisint (Pfe), Susanna Ceccardi (Pfe), Silvia Sardone (Pfe), Raffaele Stancanelli (Pfe), Roberto Vannacci (Pfe)

(6 March 2025)

Subject: Request for clarification regarding language guidelines

On 14 February 2025, the Commission published an update to its English Style Guide ⁽¹⁾. Given the major global challenges that the EU is facing, and as the question of how much attention should be given to activities of that kind is debatable, it is appropriate for us to seek clarification on this matter. In the light of those factors, the Commission should consider withdrawing the text, so that it can remove the most controversial parts, which could be seen as attempts to manipulate language.

In view of the above:

1. How much did it cost in total — in economic terms and in terms of time spent by staff — to write the text, including any resources allocated to external parties that the Commission was asked to identify specifically, where involved?
2. With reference to Chapter 15, ‘Inclusive language’ (part I, pages 68 to 71), what criteria were followed for its drafting, and can the Commission provide specific references to any scientific or other documents used as a basis and give a detailed explanation of the content of each entry in the chapter?
3. Why were the guidelines published?

Submitted: 6.3.2025

Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission

(19 May 2025)

The English Style Guide (ESG) is a Commission internal handbook first published in 1982 which is revised and updated continuously. It is prepared by a small number of Commission staff as part of their regular tasks. No additional costs or external parties are involved.

Chapter 15 of the ESG on ‘Inclusive language’, reflects existing English conventions and usage in English-speaking countries (for example the United Kingdom and Ireland) and has remained stable and unchanged since 2022. Its recommendations are based on the English section of the Interinstitutional Style Guide ⁽²⁾ — to which the European Parliament has also adhered.

The ESG refers to the English language only. It offers recommendations and does not ban the use of any words or phrases. It is intended primarily for the use of Commission’s in-house translators and freelance contractors to ensure consistent communication for drafting in English. It is also publicly available for anyone who might find it useful, similarly to other English-language drafting guidelines.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/styleguide_english_dgt_en.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://style-guide.europa.eu/en/home>.