

EN

E-000972/2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.5.2025)

The Commission is fully committed to ensure the respect in all Member States of the fundamental rights and EU values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union¹.

In the EU, the public incitement to violence or hatred against a group or a member of such group by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin is a criminal offence under the Council Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia². This includes the penalisation of the condoning, denial or gross trivialisation of the Holocaust and international crimes. Member States are competent to investigate and prosecute such crimes, as well as any crime committed with a racist or xenophobic motivation happening within their jurisdictions.

As elaborated in the Commission's replies to questions E-006476/2020³ and E-001741/2021⁴, the Commission implements the mechanisms provided in the Financial Regulation⁵ for the award of funds. It carries out rigorous selection processes, including different checks on grant beneficiaries based on objective criteria such as the exclusion criteria⁶ or the EU restrictive measures⁷.

The EU-Ukraine Association Agreement⁸ is based on the respect for democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms. This means also that Ukraine has committed to promote, enforce and ensure respect for these principles. The EU follows closely the developments in Ukraine, including the legislative steps that may impact on democracy, human rights and the rule of law and is consistently encouraging Ukraine, as well as all its partners, to continue efforts to fight any incidents of violent extremism.

¹ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391–407.

² Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55–58.

³ Parliamentary question - E-006476/2020(ASW) - Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the European Commission, 10.3.2021: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-006476-ASW_EN.html.

⁴ Parliamentary question - E-001741/2021(ASW) - Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the European Commission, 8.7.2021: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-001741-ASW_EN.html.

⁵ 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 (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.

⁶ Art. 138 on exclusion criteria and decisions on exclusions of the Financial Regulation.

⁷ Article 215 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁸ Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, OJ L 161 29.5.2014, p. 3:
http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2014/295/2023-12-01.