

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001022/25
to the Commission
Stefano Cavedagna (ECR)
(10 March 2025)**

Subject: The Emilia Romagna Region's LGBTQ+ tourism initiative's potential violation of the principle of non-discrimination

Authorities in Emilia-Romagna recently announced the first-ever Italian regional initiative that will focus exclusively on LGBTQ+ tourism. The project will be run in conjunction with specialised operators and involve the adoption of protocols and certification schemes, as well as the organisation of training initiatives for tour operators.

The initiative's stated objective is to turn Emilia-Romagna into the destination of choice for LGBTQ+ tourists by providing tailored services for this demographic.

Given that publicly-funded initiatives that promote tourism should be predicated on equality and inclusion and should not give preferential treatment to tourists based on sexual orientation, and given also that Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union prohibits any form of discrimination, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Are public initiatives which exclusively target a tourist demographic on the basis of sexual orientation compatible with EU laws on non-discrimination and fair competition?
2. Could the Commission check whether any EU funds have been allocated to this project — which, despite claiming to be inclusive, risks excluding other tourist demographics — and, if this is indeed the case, how they have or will be used?

Submitted: 10.3.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(27 May 2025)**

The Commission would like to inform the Honourable Member that according to the Emilia Romagna managing authority, this regional initiative is not financed by the European Regional Development Fund nor by the Recovery and Resilience Facility but through regional resources.

According to its Article 51(1), the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ⁽¹⁾ is addressed to the Member States only when they are implementing EU law. In cases falling outside the scope of EU law, such as the present one, it is for Member States, including their judicial authorities, to ensure that fundamental rights are effectively respected and protected in accordance with their national legislation and international human rights obligations.

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