

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001476/25
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (Pfe)
(9 April 2025)**

Subject: Cash flows between the EU and WHO

The pandemic treaty and the international health regulations were recently discussed in the Committee on Public Health. Dr Hans Kluge, the WHO's regional director for Europe, took part, and the WHO director-general will soon attend a meeting of the committee. The work of the WHO is thus a matter for discussion at Parliament.

Eighty per cent of the WHO budget comes from private, earmarked contributions from, among others, the Gates Foundation, GAVI, the Wellcome Trust, the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, the Bloomberg Family Foundation and Bayer ⁽¹⁾. This private funding compromises the WHO's independence and influences its ability to deliver high-quality work. Critics have dismissed the WHO as a 'life-threatening cash machine' because it promises an outlandish return of USD 35 on every dollar invested by its donors ⁽²⁾. The WHO has thus become a pro-vaccination pressure group and is often seen as a playground for multi-billionaires and pharmaceutical companies.

1. How much money did Commission and its subordinate bodies receive from the WHO and its partners during the coronavirus pandemic that began in 2020?
2. How much money did the WHO and its partners receive from the Commission and its subordinate bodies during the pandemic?

Submitted: 9.4.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(22 September 2025)**

As indicated in the Commission's reply to the parliamentary Question E-000607/2025 ⁽¹⁾, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is a key partner for international health cooperation. The EU stands firmly behind the WHO and its vital work. The EU is a major donor and an informal observer within the WHO. The EU will continue advocating for a strong and resilient WHO, within the global multilateral system.

The Commission and EU bodies and agencies have not received any funding from the WHO or its partners since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020.

The Commission invites the Honourable Member to consult the Financial Transparency System ⁽²⁾ and its Annex I. The portal makes available to the public information on recipients of funds financed from the budget and implemented under direct management mode, as well as information on implementing partners which implement the budget under indirect management mode. In the area of health, examples of Commission funding instruments are EU4Health ⁽³⁾ covering 2021-2027 period, and the third Health Programme ⁽⁴⁾ covering 2014-2020.

¹ <https://open.who.int/2024-25/contributors/contributor>

² <https://tkp.at/2024/08/17/die-who-eine-lebensgefahrlche-gelddruckmaschine/>

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000607-ASW_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/index.html>. The annual publications are based on Article 38 of the Financial Regulation (OJ L 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, p. 1-239), and in accordance with the third paragraph of the article, information on recipients is not disclosed in specific cases outlined therein.

⁽³⁾ https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/eu4health_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/3hp>.