

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001651/25
to the Commission
Georg Mayer (P/E)
(24 April 2025)**

Subject: Geographical proximity and institutional connections

1. How many civil society organisations in receipt of regular support (having received EU funding more than once in the past 10 years) have premises, offices or staff in the immediate vicinity (within 1 km/sharing the same postcode) of Commission bodies based in Brussels?
2. Do these organisations have known personal connections — e.g. former Commission employees or consultancy contracts — with the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies?
3. Are civil society organisations in the vicinity of the Commission (within 1 km/sharing the same postcode) invited to stakeholder consultations or discussions disproportionately often (more than three times per calendar year)?

Submitted: 24.4.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(10 September 2025)**

The Commission invites the Honourable Member to consult the Transparency Register ⁽¹⁾. On 01 September 2025, it identified 249 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), platforms, networks and assimilated which have their head office in Belgium and which declare to have received EU grants in the current and last financial year.

Registrants are required to ensure that the information provided upon registration is subsequently kept up to date, including the amount and source of any EU grants contributing to their operating costs.

Datasets of historical information since January 2015 can be consulted on the official portal for European data ⁽²⁾. Moreover, since 2008, the Financial Transparency System (FTS) ⁽³⁾ releases detailed information on recipients of funds financed from the budget implemented under direct management.

Former EU staff (officials, temporary or contract agents, accredited parliamentary assistants) have a right to work after the end of their service, including for civil society organisations, subject to the obligations and conditions set out in Article 16 of the EU Staff Regulations ⁽⁴⁾. The Commission does not have comprehensive information about the current employment of former EU staff.

The Commission does not have any preferential policy towards any civil society organisation. In line with the better regulation principles, stakeholder consultations are transparent, inclusive, and accessible, allowing all interested parties, regardless of their affiliation or physical location, to provide input. This ensures that diverse perspectives are considered in the EU policymaking process.

⁽¹⁾ https://transparency-register.europa.eu/index_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/transparency-register?locale=en>.

⁽³⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/index.html>; the annual publications are based on Article 38 of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509), and in accordance with the third paragraph of the article, information on recipients is not disclosed in specific cases outlined therein. The NGO classification used on the FTS is based on self-declarations by entities receiving funding from EU funds through grant agreements or contracts directly managed by the Commission.

⁽⁴⁾ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/1962/31\(1\)/2014-05-01/eng](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/1962/31(1)/2014-05-01/eng).