

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001775/25
to the Commission
Karin Karlsbro (Renew)
(2 May 2025)**

Subject: A common European strategy to attract American researchers, scientists and academics

Following the inauguration of the 47th President of the United States in January 2025, the new administration has swiftly introduced substantial budget reductions to key scientific institutions, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. These measures risk severely undermining progress in global scientific research. Concurrently, the administration has reversed existing diversity, equity and inclusion programmes and suspended federal funding to educational institutions that have declined to comply with its directives.

A recent Nature survey indicates that approximately three quarters of researchers are now contemplating leaving the United States due to these concerning developments. In response, several European countries have begun actively seeking to attract American researchers, scientists and academics to their institutions.

1. In the light of this situation, what steps has the Commission taken to formulate a common European approach to attract highly qualified and talented American researchers, scientists and academics to the European Union?
2. What concrete financial measures, such as the establishment of a dedicated fund, is the Commission taking to enable the relocation of entire research teams to Europe, thereby strengthening the EU's scientific capacity and innovation potential?

Submitted: 2.5.2025

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(21 August 2025)**

The Commission aims to make the EU the most attractive and secure place for both EU and non-EU scientific talent, especially amid today's uncertainties. Europe is already a safe haven for scientists, and this role must be protected by enshrining the freedom of scientific research in EU law.

The Commission has put forward a EUR 500 million package for 2025-2027 to make Europe a magnet for researchers. This includes the Marie Skłodowska-Curie 'Choose Europe' pilot,⁽¹⁾ which supports early-career researchers with attractive allowances and longer employment prospects, as well as measures under the European Research Council, in particular doubling the amount offered to researchers who relocate to Europe from abroad, already available in 2025, as well as a seven-year 'super grant', which will come into effect from 2026.

In addition, the Commission has brought together over 70 national and regional initiatives to attract foreign researchers, which can be accessed through a one-stop-shop in EURAXESS⁽²⁾.

The EU is also making it easier for researchers to relocate and integrate. The 'Students and Researchers' Directive⁽³⁾ provides a framework⁽⁴⁾ for researchers to enter and reside in the EU, and the upcoming visa strategy aims to build on this by further easing such relocation procedures.

EURAXESS⁽⁵⁾ offers information and personalised assistance, helping researchers connect with institutions and regional innovation ecosystems.

The European Research Area Act, that the Commission will propose in 2026, will aim to introduce measures strengthening the freedom of scientific research, research careers, mobility and coordination across Member States.

⁽¹⁾ In addition to the 'Choose Europe' pilot, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) provide a wide range of training, mobility and career development opportunities that are open to researchers of all nationalities, including United States researchers, for them to successfully relocate to Europe.

⁽²⁾ Jobs and opportunities | EURAXESS: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs#choose-europe-for-science-new>.

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (recast).

⁽⁴⁾ This framework includes, amongst others, equal treatment rights with EU citizens in many areas, possibility to bring their families to the EU, intra-EU mobility rights, right to stay for up to 9 months after the end of the research to look for a job, possibility to teach while conducting research, etc.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>.