

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001848/25
to the Commission
Petr Bystron (ESN)
(7 May 2025)**

Subject: Transparency of EU funding granted to non-governmental organisations

The Treaty on European Union highlights the importance of open and transparent funding of civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). For these organisations to fulfil transparency requirements, it is not only necessary to know to whom, why, and for what purpose EU funds have been granted, but also how they have been used. To improve the transparency of NGO funding, the Court of Auditors' Special Report 11/2025 on the transparency of EU funding granted to NGOs examined 90 specifically selected NGOs that have received EU funding.

Given the foregoing, we would like to ask:

1. What is the exact amount of funding allocated and transferred to the 90 NGOs that were specifically examined, and what is the opinion of the Commission on that funding?
2. What information does the Commission have on the criteria being used to define an NGO for the purposes of this report, and were any organisations excluded based on their legal status or political activity?
3. Is the Commission aware of these 90 NGOs having any links to political parties, lobbying groups or foreign governments?

Submitted: 7.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(12 August 2025)**

For the exact amount of funding allocated to the 90 sampled non-governmental organisations (NGOs) referred to in the European Court of Auditors (ECA)'s special report, the Commission refers to 'Annex III — Basic Information on Entities' of the ECA's special report ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission recalls that, when it comes to receiving EU funding, NGOs, like any other type of applicant, must meet the necessary eligibility requirements. NGO status does not entail any preferential treatment, nor is it an eligibility criterion, except in a few very specific cases.

The Commission is not in a position to comment on information or criteria used by the ECA to select the sampled NGOs examined in its special report.

The Commission is not aware of these 90 NGOs having any links to political parties, lobbying groups or foreign governments.

The Commission observes full impartiality, as it does not require beneficiaries to undertake advocacy activities for specific political and policy purposes.

Moreover, the guidance ⁽²⁾ issued by the Commission's central services prescribes that advocacy activities for specific political and policy purposes should not be mandated as a requirement or condition for EU financing.

Beneficiaries decide on their work programme in full independence. To ensure that a wide range of opinions is supported through operating grants, the selection and award of such grants is based on open calls for proposals publicly available on the Funding and Tenders portal ⁽³⁾. Funding is awarded through a transparent and competitive process.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2025-11/SR-2025-11_EN.pdf.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/guidance-funding-dev-impl-monit-enforce-of-eu-law_en.pdf.

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