

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001949/25
to the Commission
Christian Ehler (PPE)
(14 May 2025)**

Subject: Recital 72 of the Horizon Europe Regulation on academic freedom and its implementation with regard to Egypt

Recital 72 of the Horizon Europe Regulation states that, in order to guarantee scientific excellence, and in line with Article 13 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the programme should promote respect for academic freedom in all countries benefiting from its funds.

1. How is the Commission going to implement this recital with regard to Egypt?
2. How is the Commission going to ensure that researchers involved in EU projects can work on them freely?

Submitted: 14.5.2025

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

The Commission remains firmly committed to promoting and safeguarding academic freedom, in line with Article 13 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The protection of researchers, regardless of their country of origin, is integral to ensuring scientific excellence and maintaining trust in research. The association agreement with Egypt, expected to be signed later this year, is expected to include provisions protecting academic freedom.

The Commission and EU Member States reaffirmed their commitment to scientific freedom by signing the Bonn Declaration in 2020. Moreover, the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe ⁽¹⁾ explicitly included scientific freedom as one of its ten key values and principles.

The Rome Communiqué further strengthened commitments to academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and the protection of scholars at risk.

The Commission has already launched several initiatives, such as a toolkit to counter foreign interference in R&I ⁽²⁾. The European Research Area Policy Agenda (2022-2024) ⁽³⁾ contained an action aimed at protecting academic freedom. Initiatives such as EURAXESS Science4Refugees ⁽⁴⁾ and the SAFE Project ⁽⁵⁾ also play an important role in supporting scientists at risk.

In response to the European Parliament's resolution (2023/2184(INL)) of 17 January 2024 ⁽⁶⁾, the Commission is currently conducting a study to assess the state of scientific freedom and develop an appropriate legislative response.

The Commission will closely monitor the situation and engage in regular dialogue with Egyptian authorities. Through these actions, we want to ensure that researchers can conduct their work freely and without undue interference.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13701-2021-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3faf52e8-79a2-11ec-9136-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽³⁾ <https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/policy-agenda-2022-2024>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/frameworks/science4refugees>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://saferesearchers.eu/>.

⁽⁶⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2024-0022_EN.html.