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Answer given by Mr Micallef  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(29.7.2025)

The Commission is monitoring the situation described by the Honourable Member. While the Commission is not aware of official reports of such interventions in European higher education institutions, several university sources from the EU have indicated they have received related information requests.

Academic freedom is enshrined in the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights. The EU and its Member States committed to upholding academic freedom and freedom of scientific research in the 2020 European Higher Education Area Rome Ministerial Communiqué<sup>1</sup>, 2020 Bonn Declaration<sup>2</sup> and the 2021 Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe<sup>3</sup>. The European Strategy for Universities, the Erasmus+ programme and the ERA Policy Agenda also highlight the EU's strong commitment to fundamental values.

The European Strategy for Universities foresees the Commission to propose guiding principles to protect fundamental academic values, based on the 2024 European Higher Education Area Tirana Ministerial Communiqué<sup>4</sup>. The Commission also works on creating new opportunities to foster academic debates and to exchange best practices on values and democracy as part of the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Higher Education activities, including in third countries. The EU will continue to strengthen universities in Europe by pooling resources and establishing robust networks for European cooperation, through initiatives such as the European Universities Alliances and the joint European Degree label. In addition, in response to the European Parliament's resolution of January 2024 on the promotion and protection of freedom of scientific research, the Commission is currently conducting a study to assess the state of this freedom and develop an appropriate legislative response.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ehea.info/Upload/Rome\\_Ministerial\\_Communique.pdf](https://ehea.info/Upload/Rome_Ministerial_Communique.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.bmbf.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/b/bonn\\_declaration\\_en.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile&v=5](https://www.bmbf.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/b/bonn_declaration_en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=5).

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2021/2122/oj/eng>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://ehea.info/Download/Tirana-Coammunique.pdf>.