

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002323/25
to the Commission
Jorge Martín Frías (Pfe)
(10 June 2025)**

Subject: EU funding for digitalisation in Mexico and risks to freedom of expression

The European Union has funded several projects in Mexico focusing on digitalisation, the development of digital infrastructure, sustainability and connecting public stakeholders.

The political and legal context in which the support is being given is of increasing concern. In recent months, a diplomatic dispute with the current US Government has led Claudia Sheinbaum's government to push for significant reforms in telecommunications law.

These reforms seek to restrict the circulation of international content and increase the government's capacity to intervene in the national media system, which has raised doubts over respect for democratic principles and the rule of law.

In this context, legitimate concerns arise as to whether EU funds for digitalisation may be strengthening state structures that limit fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and access to information.

In view of this:

1. Is financing state digitalisation processes in third countries that are adopting measures that counteract basic principles such as freedom of information acceptable according to the Commission?
2. Does the Commission intend to continue funding these kinds of projects in third countries that do not have sufficient guarantees to prevent funds from being used for censorship or information control?

Submitted: 10.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(4 August 2025)**

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the EU engages in digital cooperation through the EU-LAC Digital Alliance ⁽¹⁾, which includes Mexico, and which facilitates investments fostering the digital transition in the framework of the Global Gateway Investment Agenda.

The Digital Alliance represents a bi-regional political framework that brings together signatories that share values and a common human-centric vision of the digital economy and society in which the design, development, governance, and use of technology are guided by universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This vision encompasses the rule of law and democratic principles, transparency and accountability, high levels of cybersecurity and the protection of privacy and personal data, as well as solidarity, inclusion, security and environmental sustainability.

The recently adopted EU's International Digital Strategy ⁽²⁾ focuses on shaping global digital governance and standards through a values-based approach to foster a global digital transformation that is human-centric, trustworthy, and respects human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The human-rights-based approach is also enshrined under Article 8 of the regulation establishing the EU's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) — Global Europe ⁽³⁾.

The EU's support to digital transformation therefore comes with strong safeguards to protect human rights, including freedom of expression and access to information.

The Commission's funding decisions under instruments such as NDICI — Global Europe, include a clause to suspend assistance if funds risk supporting censorship or rights violations ⁽⁴⁾. The EU will keep seeking cooperation with countries sharing common goals and principles.

⁽¹⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/global-gateway/eu-latin-america-and-caribbean-digital-alliance_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/international-digital-strategy>.

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947#enc_1.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe, p.7, (40): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj/eng>.