

EN

E-002335/2025

Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.8.2025)

The Commission has not identified irregularities in operating grants under the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) programme¹. To ensure that a wide range of opinions is supported through operating grants, the selection and award of such grants is based on competitive open calls for proposals publicly available on the Funding and Tenders portal².

Applicants submit proposals that include the description of their work-programmes of activities in areas indicated in the LIFE Regulation, which are then annexed to the grant agreement. The work programme may mention, among other applicant's activities, advocacy activities. The Commission does not prescribe the specific activities to be carried out by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in their work programmes, nor instructs them to support specific positions.

The Commission refers to its previous answers³ and replies to the European Court of Auditors (ECA) Special Report 11/2025 relating to (NGOs) in internal policies⁴.

The Commission adheres strictly to its transparency obligations which require publishing information about recipients⁵. To this end, information about EU fund recipients is published on the Financial Transparency System⁶. The Commission also proactively discloses the objectives and outcomes of funded projects on the Funding and Tenders Portal⁷. Furthermore, interest representatives are required to report their lobbying activities and disclose key funding sources, including any contributions exceeding EUR 10 000 or representing more than 10% of their total budget.

The Commission will explore the feasibility of incrementally increasing the frequency of publishing data updates on the Financial Transparency System, as per ECA's recommendation⁸.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0783>.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000838-ASW_EN.html;
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000296-ASW_EN.html;
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-000280-ASW_EN.html;
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-000595-ASW_EN.html;
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/questions/reponses_qe/2025/000351/P10_RE\(2025\)000351_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/questions/reponses_qe/2025/000351/P10_RE(2025)000351_EN.pdf)
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/291733/Replies%20to%20questionnaire%20addressed%20to%20Ccsr%20responsible%20for%20Budget%20and%20Administration_final.pdf.

⁴ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/291733/Replies%20to%20questionnaire%20addressed%20to%20Ccsr%20responsible%20for%20Budget%20and%20Administration_final.pdf.

⁵ Article 38 of the Financial Regulation.

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/index.html> (The annual publications are based on Article 38 of the Financial Regulation whereby data on recipients is not disclosed for very low value contracts below EUR 15 000 and where disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of the persons or entities).

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>.

⁸ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECARepplies/COM-Replies-SR-2025-11/COM-Replies-SR-2025-11_EN.pdf.