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E-002457/2025

Answer given by Mr Síkela
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.9.2025)

The Commission is not in the position to confirm the accuracy of ‘recent media reports’ without further details on the source of information. Therefore, the Commission would like to clarify that under Global Gateway¹ the EU promotes quality infrastructure investments with the highest social and environmental standards, in line with the EU’s values and interests. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is fully aligned with the EU values and principles. In its dealings with external providers, the EIB is committed to respecting the EU’s principles regarding public procurement, such as equal treatment, non-discrimination and transparency².

As regards the rules on eligibility and exclusion applicable to procurement contractors under Global Gateway³, the Commission refers to its reply of 5 June 2025⁴. In this context, the Commission may restrict eligibility in procurement implemented by other entities in indirect management to protect the EU or its Member States’ security or public order⁵. This particularly concerns strategic assets or interests, such as the integrity of digital infrastructure, communication and information systems.

In addition, the Commission works hand-in-hand with several partners, including the EIB, with the aim to promote strategic procurement, especially in fields where the EU has a strategic interest. In practical terms, this implies promoting the use of price/quality ratio award criteria, environmental, social and governance standards and adopting a more strategic approach to project preparation, appraisal and selection, that considers from an early stage the EU partner countries’ objectives and the competitive advantage of EU economic operators.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_en.

² EIB procurement procedures are available at: <https://www.eib.org/en/publications/20240132-guide-to-procurement-for-projects-financed-by-the-eib>.

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1-78, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>.

⁴ See parliamentary question E-001172/2025.

⁵ Article 136 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.