

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002504/25
to the Commission**

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(23 June 2025)

Subject: Suspension of EU funds to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger

The Commission has suspended aid provided under the NDICI-Global Europe instrument (Regulation (EU) 2021/947) and has not presented revisions of the multiannual indicative programmes (MIPs) for Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, citing interruptions to the constitutional order as the basis for the decision.

These funds were crucial for stability in the region and the objectives set out in the EU's Sahel strategy. The Commission has adopted a completely different approach for other countries in similar situations, such as Chad, Gabon and Guinea.

Italy has kept the cooperation channels open and the bilateral mission to Niger (MISIN) operational, unlike the EU. The EU's absence risks undermining the protection of key areas for combating terrorism, migration and illicit trafficking, leaving room for hostile powers.

In light of the above, can the Commission please answer the following questions:

1. What legal and democratic assessment criteria form the basis for such different approaches to similar situations, and how will African criticisms of double standards be addressed?
2. How will the growing influence of hostile foreign powers be countered in a key region for European strategic interests?
3. Under what conditions would the Commission be willing to reinstate the MIPs?

Submitted: 23.6.2025

Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(1 September 2025)

The EU is countering hostile influence on local population from foreign actors. The EU has not suspended its cooperation with central Sahel countries and cooperation channels remain open. However, as requested by the European Council in October 2023, the EU has adapted its actions to developments in the region.

Political orientations were provided by the Foreign Affairs Councils of December 2023 ⁽¹⁾ and February 2024 ⁽²⁾, with the latter emphasising humanitarian aid, reinforced cooperation with Chad and Mauritania, support to the Economic Community of West African States and stronger strategic communications.

The adaptation is coherent with different situations in each country, and with the position taken by African organisations, which have suspended a number of countries.

The EU has maintained non-military security support at Mali's request, cooperation programmes where shared interests exist, and humanitarian support when possible.

It has increased security and non-security support to more like-minded countries in the region and improved strategic communication via an expanded Africa Task Force. A new EU strategy for the Sahel and the planned renewed approach to the Sahel will propose actions addressing geopolitical competition.

Support to populations in Burkina Faso and Mali continues, illustrated by Annual Action Plans (AAPs) adopted up to 2024 ⁽³⁾. In Niger, about 20% of the portfolio was maintained, with EUR 16 million in new contracts recently agreed under AAP 2021 ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/68697/background-brief-fac-231211.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2024/02/19/>.

⁽³⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/31adbaf6-7097-4c76-b60f-4b6ed395bdc4_fr?filename=aap-2021-c2021-9674-burkina-faso_fr.zip&prefLang=en;
https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/73b098f7-080f-40e8-ad83-d18c69004fbc_fr?filename=aap-2023-2025-c2023-2289-burkina-faso-part-1_fr.zip&prefLang=en; https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/0e97874f-6215-4474-9c33-b7eced53b1d2_fr?filename=aap-2024-c2024-8908-burkina-faso_fr.zip&prefLang=en;
https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/652f1b3f-3890-4eb4-9788-33e7a2271017_fr?filename=aap-2024-c2024-1428-mali_fr.zip&prefLang=en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/12081011-38a9-433f-ae56-2888221abd9b_fr?filename=aap-2021-c2021-9374-niger_fr.zip&prefLang=en; FN;
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/68697/background-brief-fac-231211.pdf>.

Though national Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) for Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger ⁽⁵⁾ were ended during the 2024 mid-term review for political and operational reasons, funds remain earmarked for these countries for 2025-2027 under the regional MIP (complex settings envelope) ⁽⁶⁾, allowing more flexible programming in line with EU priorities.

⁽⁵⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-9376-mali-annex_fr.pdf;
https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/b6668f96-ddc3-4750-ab55-9dead1c7e7aa_en?filename=mip-2021-c2021-9242-niger-annex_fr.pdf&utm_source=chatgpt.com;
https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2f36acfa-a4d9-4ed3-80e9-3f634e1579d1_en?filename=mip-2021-c2021-9396-burkina-faso-annex_fr.pdf.

⁽⁶⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/b710ea86-1496-45b9-acb9-98e95ef419ea_en?filename=ad-2024-c2024-8897-sub-saharan-africa_en.zip.