

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002861/25
to the Commission**

Paolo Inselvini (ECR), Carlo Ciccio (ECR), Alberico Gambino (ECR), Pietro Fiocchi (ECR), Marco Squarta (ECR)
(14 July 2025)

Subject: The unilateral support for LGBTIQ projects and the absence of initiatives tackling anti-Christian discrimination in the CERV-2025-EQUAL call for proposals

Recently published by the Commission, the 2025 CERV call for proposals ⁽¹⁾ is the umpteenth example of how this institution uses public funds to push its own ideologies, which are totally out of touch with reality and with the views of millions of EU citizens.

Surprisingly, the only form of religious discrimination that the call does not mention is that against Christians, an omission that is made all the more egregious when we see that, according to the latest OIDAC data (which also draws on ODIHR/OSCE sources ⁽²⁾), hate crimes against Christians in Europe rose almost 20% between 2022 and 2023. In addition, only 10 EU governments provided disaggregated data, a critical monitoring deficit.

The CERV-2025-EQUAL call also earmarks funding for projects focusing on the LGBTIQ agenda and mentions ‘rainbow families’, a concept which is not recognised by law in Italy and other Member States.

It is unacceptable that, instead of being used to tackle all forms of discrimination fairly and impartially, European public funds are allocated to push a biased and ideological understanding of discrimination in Europe .

In the light of the above:

1. Why did the Commission not include any initiatives combating discrimination against Christians in the CERV-2025-EQUAL call?
2. How can it justify supporting social models that are not legally recognised in a number of Member States?
3. Will the Commission revise the 2025 CERV call for proposals so that it genuinely ensures pluralism and upholds national competences?

Supporter ⁽³⁾

Submitted: 14.7.2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(22 August 2025)

The Commission is committed to fighting racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance, combating any form of discrimination and protecting and promoting the rights and values as enshrined in the Treaties and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights ⁽¹⁾.

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV) ⁽²⁾ is an important funding instrument to reach these objectives. Established by Regulation (EU) 2021/692, it is implemented through work programmes adopted after consultation with the CERV Programme Committee, whose members are representatives of EU Member States and associated countries participating in the programme. The 2025 work programme was adopted on 18 July 2024.

Subsequently, the call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination was launched, aligning with the objectives of the programme’s Regulation and the priorities outlined in the 2025 work programme. With its six priorities, this call has a wide scope and coverage which accounts for the diversity of the European society.

The Commission is determined to engage all relevant actors to work towards the common goal of achieving an open, inclusive and respectful European society, where no one feels excluded, threatened, discriminated or unsafe.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/CERV-2025-EQUAL-RESTRICTED?isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502&frameworkProgramme=43251589&order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate>.

² Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

³ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Stefano Cavedagna (ECR)

⁽¹⁾ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, pp 391-407).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/692 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 1).

In this respect, in addition to the activities funded through the CERV programme, a dialogue with religious and non-confessional organisations based on Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union has been developed and includes, among its main partners, representatives of the main Christian churches and organisations present in Europe, which are regularly consulted on the major political and policy developments at EU level.
