

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002883/25
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(15 July 2025)**

Subject: Transparency of NGOs

In its statements and during bilateral talks with representatives of the Slovak Republic, the Commission has expressed reservations about the law on the transparency of NGOs.

However, it is widely acknowledged that this law was adopted with a view to implementing the OECD recommendation that ensuring structural transparency in civil society organisations should be a priority, as the lack of such transparency undermines the credibility of those organisations as anti-corruption advocates and limits their ability to represent citizens' interests. One way to increase transparency is to require civil society organisations to disclose information related to integrity and good governance, including sources of funding, annual reports, annual activities and staff ⁽¹⁾. Similarly, I would also draw attention to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations, according to which a country may require non-profit organisations to publish annual financial statements providing a detailed breakdown of income and expenditure ⁽²⁾.

In light of the above, how should the Slovak Republic proceed in implementing the OECD recommendations to the satisfaction of the Commission?

Submitted: 15.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(3 September 2025)**

In its 2025 Rule of Law Report country chapter for Slovakia ⁽¹⁾, the Commission notes that the civil society environment faces further pressure, and that the legislation to which the Honourable Member refers lays down new reporting and information disclosure obligations, which introduce additional burden for civil society organisations.

It also notes that amendments seeking to establish lobbying regulation for NGOs were left out of the Law as adopted. The report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to which the Honourable Member refers recalls the importance of minimising the burden on civil society organisations.

The Commission will continue monitoring the developments pertaining to the civic space in Slovakia, as it does for all Member States.

¹ https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2020/04/development-assistance-committee-members-and-civil-society_fdadb1fa/51eb6df1-en.pdf

² <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/guidance/BPP-Combating-TF-Abuse-NPO-R8.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf>

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/44d5d5ba-27d1-4797-b412-83ad2cc4cb57_en?filename=29_1_63964_coun_chap_slovakia_en.pdf.