

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003526/25
to the Commission**

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(12 September 2025)

Subject: EU funding of non-governmental organisations

According to a report published by Euractiv on 28 July 2025, the majority of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receiving financial support under the LIFE funding programme as well as the EU4Health Programme have not amended their grant agreements in line with the new guidelines issued by the Commission. This is despite concerns raised previously that EU funds had, in certain cases, been used for the targeted influencing of Members of the European Parliament.

According to Budget Commissioner Piotr Serafin, all legal and practical means to enforce these requirements have been exhausted. Nevertheless, from Parliament's perspective, there are doubts as to whether the measures taken are sufficient to ensure the integrity and neutrality of the use of EU funding.

Consequently:

1. On what legal basis does the Commission not require retroactive amendments to grant agreements that have already expired but remain politically relevant?
2. What additional control and sanction mechanisms does the Commission plan to introduce to prevent the misuse of EU funds in the future?
3. To what extent does the Commission intend to provide Parliament with regular and transparent updates on the status of grant agreement revisions?

Submitted: 12.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(21 November 2025)**

Any amendment to a grant agreement legally requires the mutual consent of both parties, and in the absence of such consent, no modification can take place. The grant agreement signed by both parties is, in itself, the legal base, within a defined period. Outside of this period (before or after) there is no legal base to amend.

The Commission has no indications that the grants referred to in the question related to non-governmental organisations receiving LIFE funding for the environment and climate action ⁽¹⁾ and EU4Health funding ⁽²⁾ have been subject to misuse. The Commission has not found deviation from the applicable rules and has informed the European Parliament on the result of its verification of grant agreements.

The Commission has taken additional steps to detect and prevent operating grants for work programmes that could entail a reputational risk. This includes the guidance on funding activities related to the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of Union legislation and policy ⁽³⁾.

In case of evidence of any wrongful conduct, such as breach of contractual obligations, irregularities, fraud, criminal activities, the Commission will use all available legal means to ensure that individuals and organisations involved do not receive EU financial support.

The Commission has replied to all the related requests for access to information from the European Parliament so far, in accordance with the framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission ⁽⁴⁾, and is committed to continue the loyal collaboration with the European Parliament and to comply with all relevant legal requirements.

⁽¹⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-003526_EN.html.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/guidance-funding-dev-impl-monit-enforce-of-eu-law_en.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:304:0047:0062:EN:PDF>.