

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003691/25

**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Marit Maij (S&D), Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE), Brando Benifei (S&D), Udo Bullmann (S&D), Charles Goerens
(Renew), Barry Andrews (Renew), Estelle Ceulemans (S&D), Abir Al-Sahlani (Renew), Rasmus Nordqvist (Verts/ALE),
Krzysztof Śmiszek (S&D), Hannes Heide (S&D), Marie Toussaint (Verts/ALE), Carla Tavares (S&D), Murielle Laurent
(S&D), Catarina Vieira (Verts/ALE), Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE), Marco Tarquinio (S&D)**

(23 September 2025)

Subject: How will the Commission improve transparency in the next Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI-GE) regulation?

The proposal for a regulation establishing Global Europe (COM (2025)0551) raises concerns regarding transparency and Parliament's role as a scrutinising body. In its Opinion 03/2024 ⁽¹⁾ on the Commission's evaluation of the External Action Guarantee, the ECA stated that it found no substantial evidence that the Commission's spending under the ESFD+ contributes to the objectives of the NDICI-GE Regulation, notably the eradication of poverty. Additionally, the evaluation provides little information on the amount of private investment mobilised. This limits Parliament's ability to exercise scrutiny over the allocation of funds under the NDICI and risks unjust spending of taxpayer money.

1. International institutions and civil society have highlighted the NDICI's shortcomings regarding transparency on expenses and beneficiaries of the EU's aid budget. However, the reform does not address this in depth. Is increased transparency covered under the new proposal, and if so, how?
2. Civil society further warns about the consequences of inflated official development assistance (ODA), referring to spending that does not meet the requirements for ODA. How will the Commission ensure that ODA spending is in line with the Treaties and regulations and supports development in recipient countries?
3. What further steps will the Commission take to increase interinstitutional cooperation, and notably strengthen Parliament's ability to scrutinise spending, thus and substantiate the legitimacy of spending under the new NDICI-GE regulation?

Submitted: 23.9.2025

Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission

(21 January 2026)

To further strengthen transparency, the Commission proposals for the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) include a horizontal Performance Regulation ⁽¹⁾ applicable to all policy areas, including external action spending.

It is proposed to constitute a framework for clear, coherent, and streamlined expenditure and performance tracking, harmonising reporting, monitoring, and evaluation of the entire MFF.

In particular, the Performance Regulation proposal streamlines reporting requirements to a single report, the annual management and performance report.

With this report, the Commission would inform the European Parliament and the Council on implementation of the programmes and progress towards the achievement of objectives.

This would be complemented by a single gateway website, replacing 15 online dashboards, providing information on financial implementation, performance, recipients and operations.

The Global Europe proposal ⁽²⁾ includes a target of at least 90% of the expenditure to fulfil the criteria for official development assistance (ODA).

The EU's ODA spending is confirmed by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, in accordance with the standards and criteria of DAC.

In addition to existing legislative, budgetary and scrutiny mechanisms, the proposed annual steering mechanism provides for deeper coordination between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, informing the preparation of the annual budget, including on external action.

¹ European Court of Auditors, 'Opinion 03/2004 accompanying the Commission evaluation of the External Action Guarantee [COM(2024) 208]', 2024, https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/OP-2024-03/OP-2024-03_EN.pdf.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2025) 545 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0545&qid=1753797488776>.

⁽²⁾ COM(2025) 551 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0551>.

Rules remain in place regarding the comitology process for the adoption of implementing decisions by the Commission where the European Parliament has a right of scrutiny.
