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E-003921/2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.12.2025)

Civil Society Europe is the beneficiary of an operating grant under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV)¹ funding programme that aims at protecting and promoting the rights and values enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in particular by supporting civil society organisations active in the EU. The CERV Programme has been approved by Member States in the Council and by the European Parliament and is implemented through public calls for proposals. Proposals are evaluated by independent experts, the highest ranked are selected for funding. The funding is provided in full transparency and in line with the Financial Regulation². Civil Society Europe has been awarded a Framework Partnership Agreement for the next three years and the specific grant agreement covering the first year is under preparation.

The Commission regularly engages with stakeholders, including civil society organisations, through various mechanisms. These exchanges may take place on an ad hoc basis as needed. Information on meetings held by Commission Members, their Cabinet members, and Commission staff holding management functions with interest representatives is made publicly available^{3,4}, including published minutes, in accordance with the applicable transparency rules⁵.

The Commission applies the Staff Regulation⁶ for recruitment of staff. The membership of a defined organisation is neither a selection criterion, nor in itself a reason to exclude a candidate.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/692 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/692/oj>.

² Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the EU (recast) ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/about/service-standards-and-principles/transparency/transparency-register_en.

⁴ https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/search-register_en.

⁵ See Commission Decision (EU) 2024/3082 of 4 December 2024 on transparency measures concerning meetings held between Commission staff holding management functions and interest representatives.

⁶ Regulation No 31 (EEC), 11 (EAEC), laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, (OJ P 045 14.6.1962, p. 1385) ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1962/31\(1\)/2025-05-13](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1962/31(1)/2025-05-13).