

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004131/25
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (P/E)
(21 October 2025)**

Subject: Highly dangerous EU-supported gain-of-function research

The Commission was forced to admit that on two occasions between 2015 and 2020, the Wuhan Institute of Virology received high amounts of gain-of-function research funding from programmes under the EU framework programme for research and innovation Horizon 2020 ⁽¹⁾. Gain-of-function research involves, among other things, modifying pathogens to make them more dangerous, more contagious and more deadly. The US administration ⁽²⁾, US Congress ⁽³⁾, the German Federal Intelligence Service ⁽⁴⁾, and renowned scientists ⁽⁵⁾ have now all confirmed that it is highly likely that the COVID-19 virus originated in this laboratory in Wuhan. As a result, the US administration has pulled funding for many gain-of-function projects that have the potential to trigger a pandemic ⁽⁶⁾. Meanwhile, the Commission has said that it also funded a gain-of-function project in Rotterdam on the flu virus and wants to continue supporting such projects ⁽⁷⁾.

1. Which laboratories and institutes in the EU and worldwide have been receiving funding from the Commission for gain-of-function research since 2020?

2. Is gain-of-function research in the EU clearly regulated and policed by law?

3. Will the Commission follow the US administration's lead and put a stop to or severely restrict dangerous gain-of-function research that has the potential to trigger a new pandemic?

Submitted: 21.10.2025

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(10 December 2025)**

We refer the honourable member to the answer to Parliamentary Question E-002369/2025, detailing the Commission's risk management measures, eligibility criteria, and security checks to support gain-of-function research on influenza.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-005649-ASW_EN.html

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/lab-leak-true-origins-of-covid-19/>

³ <https://oversight.house.gov/release/final-report-covid-select-concludes-2-year-investigation-issues-500-page-final-report-on-lessons-learned-and-the-path-forward/>

⁴ <https://www.zdfheute.de/politik/corona-labor-geheimdienst-bundesregierung-100.html>

⁵ <https://www.connexionfrance.com/news/french-nobel-prize-winner-covid-19-was-made-in-lab/375593>

⁶ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/improving-the-safety-and-security-of-biological-research/>

⁷ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002369-ASW_EN.html