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Answer given by Mr Síkela
on behalf of the European Commission
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In June 2025, the Commission formalised an internal procedure to handle human rights complaints in EU-funded projects. The procedure aims to ensure that the complainant receives an acknowledgment of receipt, that a process of verification is conducted and that suspension or termination clauses in contracts are triggered, where necessary and justified.

In May 2025, the Commission developed a document to guide staff in applying the human rights-based approach to migration and forced displacement. This applies at all stages of the project cycle and will be used as the basis for staff training, on human rights indicators and monitoring. These measures build on several layers of monitoring by partners, the contracting authority and through results-oriented monitoring. All EU projects must identify risks related to human rights. One of the aims of the new guidance is to further strengthen risk identification, assessment and mitigation.

Finally, based on standard clauses in EU contracts¹, in case human rights violations occur, funding can be suspended or terminated. Those provisions were strengthened in the update to the Commission's contractual templates in January 2025.

Implementing partners must respect EU values, including human rights, and this obligation also applies to their grant beneficiaries and contractors. Partners shall notify the EU without delay of any credible allegations of violations of human rights affecting implementation. Contracts also provide that these values are to be respected when assets are transferred to third parties at the end of implementation.

¹ <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/spaces/ExactExternalWiki/pages/152798822/Annexes#Annexes-QW5uZXhlcy1Bbm5leGVzRShDaC42KTpHcmFudHM>.