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Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.4.2026)

The arrangements for submitting grant applications fall under Article 152 of the Financial Regulation¹, which allows for either electronic or paper-based submissions. Commission services are progressively onboarding electronic submission through the dedicated e-grants system which is expected to become the standard method in the near future, completely phasing out paper submissions.

Character limits for calls for proposals are set taking carefully into account the information needed to reply adequately to the award criteria; they are proportionate to the required level of detail. In this procedure, no proposals were excluded for exceeding these limits, however the information beyond the character limit was not taken into consideration, as announced in the call for proposals.

The Commission is committed to ensuring due process, i.e. that all general and procedural principles applicable to grants have been complied with in accordance with Article 191 of the Financial Regulation. In cases where a correction needs to be made to a call for proposals, the Commission takes all required steps to ensure transparency and equal treatment. Where necessary, applicants are asked to provide clarifications or missing documents. Commission services always perform ex-ante controls where required for grant procedures, ensuring equal and fair treatment of all applicants.

¹ 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 Union (recast), available at <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.