

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004870/25
to the Commission
Dirk Gotink (PPE)
(9 December 2025)**

Subject: EU financing of Islamic University of Science and Technology of Gaziantep

In September 2024, the Journal du Dimanche revealed that the Islamic University of Science and Technology of Gaziantep (GIBTU) in Türkiye had been participating in the Erasmus+ programme since 2022 and the European Solidarity Corps since 2024, despite public support for Hamas expressed by its rector ⁽¹⁾. On 7 December 2025, the newspaper reported ⁽²⁾ that GIBTU continued to receive EU funding under both programmes in 2025, even though its repeated support for Hamas was known and the internal investigation had not yet been concluded.

1. Is the Commission aware of the fact that its national partner in Türkiye has continued to develop partnerships and programs with GIBTU while it was still conducting internal research, and if so, how is this possible, and if not, how did this happen?
2. Does the Commission agree that all funding activities with this beneficiary or closely associated beneficiaries should be frozen until the Commission has concluded its investigation?
3. Could the Commission explain its procedure for suspending funds and clarify how it will ensure that, in the future, beneficiaries that are under internal investigation do not continue to receive EU funding?

Submitted: 9.12.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(2 March 2026)**

The Commission is politically committed and legally bound to ensure that parties receiving EU funding are not involved in criminal or unethical practices, terrorism-related offences, or in other activities incompatible with EU values.

Pursuant to the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Regulations ⁽¹⁾, the Commission entrusted the implementation of the programmes' funds through indirect management to the National Agency in Türkiye designated by the Turkish national authority.

According to Article 138 of the EU Financial Regulation ⁽²⁾, only the entities in an exclusion situation can be excluded from receiving EU funds from the outset. An internal investigation is not sufficient to reject a project application at the eligibility stage.

In this specific case, the analysis of the entity's activities and investigations are still ongoing.

Once the Commission determines that an entity is in an exclusion situation, steps are taken to protect the EU's financial interests. The Commission flags such entity in the Early Detection and Exclusion System. It may then instruct the National Agency to suspend or terminate ongoing grant agreements with that entity, and, if appropriate, recover paid grant amount.

¹ <https://www.lejdd.fr/societe/erasmus-lunion-europeenne-sous-le-feu-des-critiques-pour-avoir-integre-une-universite-pro-hamas-150023>.

² <https://www.lejdd.fr/Societe/bruxelles-lue-persiste-a-financer-une-universite-pro-hamas-164739>

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, pp. 1-33, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/817/oj>; OJ L 202, 8.6.2021, pp. 32-54, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/888/oj>.

⁽²⁾ OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.