

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004871/25
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (PSE)
(9 December 2025)**

Subject: Waste of taxpayers' money — Smile for Europe

'Your photo from Europa Experience' — this slogan is being used to promote an EU campaign on Facebook and other social media. The page of the European Parliament in Austria reads: 'Our cool photo booth awaits you at Europa Experience in Vienna.' A number of events are organised at Europa Experience. Unfortunately, the economic situation is currently very tense in many Member States, including in Austria. Unemployment is high, bankruptcies are reaching alarming levels and energy prices and the cost of living are steadily increasing. Given this situation, it seems highly inappropriate to be spending taxpayers' money on such matters.

1. What is the cost of Europa Experience in Austria for 2025?
2. What are the costs of similar or identical actions across the Union in 2025?

Submitted: 9.12.2025

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(13 February 2026)**

The Europa Experience centres, including the one in Vienna, are operated by the European Parliament in 17 Member States. Therefore, questions related to their overall operation, activities and detailed costs fall under the responsibility of the European Parliament.
