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E-004933/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.3.2026)

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 activities incompatible with EU values.

Pursuant to the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Regulations¹, the Commission entrusted the implementation of the programmes' funds through indirect management to the National Agency in Türkiye designated by the competent Turkish national authority.

The Director of the Turkish National Agency is an official designated by the Turkish administration and the legal representative of the Agency. He is overseeing the agency, that is responsible for managing the project lifecycle of the actions, including monitoring beneficiary organisations. Staff members of the agency are Turkish civil servants recruited under national administrative procedure. They sign the declaration of lack of conflict of interest.

Article 19 of the Erasmus+ Regulation requires the Commission to protect the financial interests of the EU. The rules on exclusion of entities from EU funding laid down in Articles 137 to 147 of the Financial Regulation² apply to Erasmus+ beneficiaries. If the Commission determines that an entity is in an exclusion situation, steps will be taken to protect the EU's financial interests. The Commission may flag such entities in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES). It may also instruct the National Agency to suspend or terminate ongoing grant agreements with that entity, and, if appropriate, recover paid grant amounts.

The analysis of Gaziantep Islam Science and Technology University activities and investigation are ongoing. The Commission does not intend to involve external bodies for it.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, OJ L 189, 28.5.2021 p.1, Regulation (EU) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) 2018/1475 and (EU) No 375/2014, OJ L 202, 8.6.2021 p.32.

² 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), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.