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Answer given by Ms Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Pact for the Mediterranean[1] proposes a new ambitious strategy to strengthen EU relations with its southern Mediterranean partners. It aims to invest in people, in growth and mobility, reinforcing the cultural, academic, social, and economic relationships that will make Europe and the region stronger and more resilient.

Short term student exchanges from any region in the world towards the EU, including from the southern Mediterranean, already exist under the international dimension of Erasmus+, financed through the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI – Global Europe).

Universities wishing to participate in Erasmus+ must submit an application that undergoes an evaluation of eligibility and quality. Projects which receive grants are monitored for their continued compliance with the call and grant agreement conditions. Universities which receive a grant must perform their projects according to the highest ethical standards and EU values, including the respect for the rule of law.

The Commission – via Erasmus+ National Agencies and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency – is politically committed and legally bound to ensuring that no one receives EU funding if they are involved in any activities incompatible with EU values, in line with the Financial Regulation[2]. Should the Commission become aware of evidence of such activities, it may take appropriate action by excluding the entities concerned from EU financing.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0026.
[2] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj/eng. A 2024 recast of the Financial Regulation includes an exclusion ground under the Early Detection and Exclusion System for entities engaged in activities contrary to the EU values.