

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000013/26
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe)
(5 January 2026)**

Subject: The Commission's persistent failure to monitor NGO funding and ideological risks

The European Court of Auditors' Special Report 11/2025 ⁽¹⁾ paints a grim picture: the Commission is unable to ensure reliable and comprehensive transparency with regard to funding paid to NGOs, despite repeated warnings over several years. This chronic lack of oversight is therefore neither isolated nor accidental, but structural.

This is all the more worrying given that EU funding has already been provided to NGOs accused of being close to the Muslim Brotherhood (CLAIM Allianz), including through programmes such as Erasmus+ (Al Sharq Forum), which has led to serious concerns being raised in several Member States. The lack of proactive oversight, combined with unclear definitions of NGOs and an over-reliance on self-declaration, fuels the suspicion that EU public funding is being used in an ideological and militant manner.

1. Does the Commission intend to introduce binding agreements which make the payment of EU funding conditional on beneficiaries undertaking to refrain from taking any partisan or political position?
2. What criteria and checks does it apply before granting EU funds so as to exclude organisations whose ideological, political or financial links give rise to serious questions?
3. Does it intend to set up clear exclusion and sanction mechanisms — including the suspension or repayment of funding — to deal with NGOs that pose security risks to Member States?

Submitted: 5.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(27 March 2026)**

EU funding is awarded based on clear eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria.

The award of EU funds is conditional on the absence of any exclusion grounds laid down in Article 138 of the Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾, including where an applicant for a grant has engaged in activities contrary to the EU founding values ⁽²⁾, fraud, criminal organisation, terrorist offences and related activities, etc.

Before award and during the implementation of a grant, as well as before disbursing payments, participants and recipients of EU funds and their affiliates are systematically checked against the Early Detection and Exclusion System database of the Commission which contains a list of all excluded persons and entities.

Moreover, Article 14 of the Commission's horizontal model grant agreement ⁽³⁾ requires beneficiaries to respect EU values. The Commission will act immediately on evidence of non-compliance by implementing appropriate measures against unreliable entities, such as the suspension of contract or payments, contract termination, recovery or exclusion from EU financing.

All entities receiving or implementing EU funds are verified to ensure that they are not subject to the EU sanctions ⁽⁴⁾. Any entity sanctioned by such measures is prohibited from receiving or implementing EU funds.

For participation in sensitive actions (e.g. defence, space, cybersecurity), entities, including non-governmental organisations, are furthermore subject to the full set of measures in place to protect security or public order of the EU and its Member States.

¹ https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2025-11/SR-2025-11_EN.pdf

⁽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), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26 September 2024, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ These values are enshrined in Article 2 Treaty on the European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF).

⁽³⁾ For the Multiannual financial framework 2021-2027, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.LI.2020.433.01.0011.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2020%3A433I%3ATOC>.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 215 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Under Article 136 of the Financial Regulation, or other security restrictions under sectoral basic acts (e.g. Article 22(5) Horizon Europe Framework Programme ⁽⁶⁾), entities may be subject to ownership/control assessments, facility restrictions, security clearances and other appropriate measures.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695>.