

EN

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Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.3.2026)

The Commission supports stakeholder participation in policy discussions in line with the Treaties and the applicable programme regulations and financial rules. The policy objectives, scope and eligibility conditions of this support is defined in the sectoral basic acts adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.

For example, Article 11 of the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) regulation¹, as adopted by the co-legislator, specifically indicates that ‘operating grants shall support the functioning of non-profit making entities which are involved in the development, implementation and enforcement of Union legislation and policy’.

The Commission observes full impartiality and does not require beneficiaries to undertake advocacy activities, nor does it instruct them to support specific positions². Funding is awarded through transparent and competitive open calls for proposals. Applicants submit proposals describing their work programmes or activities in the areas indicated in the call. The work programme may mention, among others, applicant’s advocacy activities.

Any opinions expressed and activities carried out remain the sole responsibility of the non-governmental organisations. Civil society entities remain fully autonomous and free to establish their own views on all policy matters.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TEXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0783>.

² The Commission guidance on funding for activities (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/guidance-funding-dev-impl-monit-enforce-of-eu-law_en.pdf) clarifies that the EU does not require or mandate, as a condition for EU funding, carrying out specifically detailed activities directed at EU institutions or their members.