

EN
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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.3.2026)

The Commission set out its assessment of the My Voice My Choice European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) in its communication adopted on 26 February 2026¹.

The ECI calls on the Commission to 'submit a proposal for financial support to Member States that would be able to perform safe termination of pregnancies for anyone in Europe who still lacks access to safe and legal abortion'. In its reply to the initiative, the Commission outlines that the ECI's objective can be met through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), in case Member States wish, voluntarily and in accordance with their national laws, to provide such support, notably by using or reallocating available resources under their national or regional programmes.

In order to respect the boundaries of EU competence as set out in Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, any Member State action supported by ESF+ money must remain fully neutral as to where the patient comes from and cannot specifically target women from particular other Member States.

¹ Communication from the Commission on the European Citizens' Initiative 'My Voice, My Choice: For Safe and Accessible Abortion', <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52026XC01383>.