

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000297/26
to the Commission
Karlo Ressler (PPE)
(26 January 2026)**

Subject: Interpretation of ‘established EU values’ in Erasmus+ project reviews by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency

In the context of Erasmus+ project reviews, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency is treating its interpretation of ‘established EU values’ as a compliance standard under the grant agreement, challenging certain viewpoints expressed in beneficiaries’ project activities and materials.

1. How does the Commission ensure that Erasmus+ grant agreements’ Article 14 on ethics and values is not interpreted by its executive agency in a way that effectively penalises organisations, such as World Youth Alliance Europe, for holding views that recognise the intrinsic human dignity of every person from conception, and that understand the family as a fundamental unit of society, and that uphold scientifically verifiable facts about the immutable biological characteristics of men and women?
2. Could the Commission confirm that such views fall within the scope of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and association under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and therefore cannot, in themselves, constitute a breach of EU values or grounds for ineligibility under Erasmus+?
3. What safeguards are in place to ensure that Article 14 is applied neutrally and is not used to impose alignment with non-binding political positions, strategies or resolutions not referenced in the grant agreement?

Supporters ⁽¹⁾

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**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(24 March 2026)**

The Erasmus+ programme ⁽¹⁾ is implemented pursuant to the values set out in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ⁽²⁾.

Article 14 of the Erasmus+ Grant Agreement reflects these provisions and requires beneficiaries to respect EU values in the implementation of EU-funded activities and is not interpreted in a way that would impose alignment with non-binding political positions, strategies or resolutions not referenced in the grant agreement; it merely ensures compliance with EU law.

The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), like all bodies implementing EU funds, is bound to apply the legal framework governing the programme, regardless of personal beliefs or views of organisations.

Compliance assessment focuses on whether project activities and outputs are consistent with the obligations arising from EU law and the Grant Agreement, including respect of fundamental rights.

The Commission can confirm that views consistent with the values set out in the Treaty on European Union and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights do fall within the scope of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and association under the Charter, and therefore cannot constitute a breach of EU values or grounds for ineligibility under Erasmus+.

As far as safeguards are concerned, project evaluations are always carried out based on publicly available criteria laid down in the Erasmus+ programme guide.

The independent experts must follow detailed guidelines, evaluation standards, ethical requirements and the obligation to ensure impartiality and equal treatment of applications.

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the author: Lukas Mandl (PPE), Massimiliano Salini (PPE), Bert-Jan Ruijsen (ECR), Davor Ivo Stier (PPE), Miriam Lexmann (PPE), Željana Zovko (PPE), Loránt Vincze (PPE), Tomislav Sokol (PPE), Isabel Benjumea Benjumea (PPE), Matej Tonin (PPE), Christophe Gomart (PPE), Paulius Saudargas (PPE).

⁽¹⁾ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu>.

⁽²⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2016/oj.