

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000464/26
to the Commission
Marieke Ehlers (PFE)
(5 February 2026)**

Subject: Global Gateway funding, foreign contractors and migration conditionality

The Global Gateway is presented as a strategic EU initiative intended to strengthen Europe's autonomy and support partner countries. However, serious concerns remain regarding the actual allocation of funds, the involvement of foreign contractors and the absence of binding conditionality.

In this context:

1. Will the Commission publish a full and detailed overview of Global Gateway contracts and subcontracts awarded to non-EU companies, including Chinese companies or EU-based entities with significant Chinese ownership, control or subcontracting arrangements, and explain how such practices are compatible with the stated objective of strengthening the EU's strategic autonomy?
2. What binding safeguards and verification mechanisms does the Commission apply to ensure that Global Gateway funding delivers tangible benefits for local populations, rather than primarily serving large international contractors or foreign strategic interests?
3. Does the Commission intend to make all future Global Gateway funding strictly conditional on effective and verifiable cooperation by partner countries on preventing illegal migration and facilitating return procedures and readmission, and if not, how does it justify the continued use of EU taxpayer funds without enforceable migration-related obligations?

Submitted: 5.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(2 June 2026)**

Transparency ⁽¹⁾ remains the guiding principle in the management of the EU budget. Actions under the Global Gateway strategy are funded by the external financing instruments, notably the NDICI-GE ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾.

The Financial Regulation ⁽⁴⁾, notably Articles 36 and 38, requires the Commission to publish information about recipients of EU funding in direct management, including those funded by the external financing instruments.

EU-funded activities are subject to EU laws and contractual obligations, including restrictive measures, exclusion rules and relevant security and procurement provisions, which are supported *ex ante* controls, such as eligibility checks and, where appropriate, *ex post* controls such verifications and audits safeguarding the EU's financial and strategic autonomy.

The strategy promotes sustainable prosperity, jobs and services rooted in democratic values, rule of law, and strong human and workers' rights, which is to the direct benefit to the local population.

The '360° approach' combines public-sector expertise ⁽⁵⁾ with policy support, institutional strengthening, technology transfer, and inclusive engagement of civil society and local authorities.

In implementing Global Gateway, the Commission complies with the general principles set by the Treaties, including Articles 3(5), 8 and 21 of the Treaty on European Union ⁽⁶⁾, as well as with the rules laid down in the basic acts establishing the funding instrument.

NDICI-GE contributes to the reduction and, in long term, the eradication of poverty, the promotion of the principles of democracy, good governance, the rule of law and the respect of human rights.

The Commission's proposal for the next external financing instrument ⁽⁷⁾ is designed to support *inter alia* the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy 'from start-up to scale-up' in a Team Europe approach.

⁽¹⁾ See also explanation of the Financial Transparency System available at <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/index.html>.

⁽²⁾ Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument-Global Europe.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1).

⁽⁴⁾ 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, 26.9.2024, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ for example: Twinning, TAIEX.

⁽⁶⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

⁽⁷⁾ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing Global Europe, COM/2025/551 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0551&qid=1753799711782>.

The Global Europe proposal also promotes EU engagement with partner countries on the basis of a comprehensive approach towards migration, in particular to prevent irregular migration, and forced displacement, including their root causes.

The proposal includes provisions to suspend implementation of programmes with a partner country that faces serious shortcomings in readmitting its own nationals from the Member States ⁽⁸⁾.

The assessment would be based on a comprehensive approach, considering the EU's overall relations with the country concerned as well as the principle of proportionality. Suspension decisions would not affect humanitarian assistance.

⁽⁸⁾ see Recital 59 and Article 12(3) of the proposal: see footnote 7.