

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001128/26
to the Commission
Jan Farský (PPE)
(18 March 2026)**

Subject: Political party financing

Transparent and fair financing of political parties is a key pillar of democratic systems in the European Union. Although EU rules aim to ensure transparency and accountability, a recent Transparency International analysis shows that more than 60 countries still allow anonymous political donations, and almost the same number of countries do not require political parties to report their campaign income and spending. Only seven Member States actually require the disclosure of the identity of all private donors.

These gaps create unequal conditions for political competition, allow non-transparent forms of financing and may weaken public trust in democratic institutions.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission assess the effectiveness and consistent application of EU rules on political party financing and transparency across the Member States?
2. What measures is the Commission taking to address differences in both national oversight capacities and sanctions for illegal or non-transparent political party financing?
3. Does the Commission intend to strengthen EU-level tools to respond to emerging risks in political party financing, such as third-party campaigning, in order to ensure fair and transparent democratic competition?

Submitted: 18.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(1 June 2026)**

The Commission does not have a general power to intervene in matters related to the regulation or oversight of national political party financing. Member States are competent to lay down the rules regarding the functioning and financing of national political parties, and their competent national authorities ensure compliance with national legislation, EU law and their international obligations. At the EU level, Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2025/2445 ⁽¹⁾ has strengthened transparency and control mechanisms of the funding received by European political parties and foundations.

As transparency and accountability of the party financing rules are an important factor for preventing corruption, the Commission monitors developments in Member States related to the funding of national political parties in the context of its annual Rule of Law Report ⁽²⁾. The Commission also supports the exchange of practices in the framework of the European cooperation network on elections ⁽³⁾.

Regulation (EU) 2024/900 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising ⁽⁴⁾ facilitates oversight of some aspects of political party funding, including by requiring political advertising publishers to disclose essential information on political advertisements.

As announced in the European Democracy Shield ⁽⁵⁾, in the framework of the European cooperation network on elections the Commission will further support common work with the Member States on the transparency and integrity of funding in politics ⁽⁶⁾, looking at issues of common interest such as anonymous donations and cryptocurrency, in full respect for the allocation of competences on electoral matters.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2025/2445 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2025 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (recast), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32025R2445>.

⁽²⁾ 2025 Rule of Law Report: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle/2025-rule-law-report_en.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/eu-citizenship/democracy-and-electoral-rights/european-cooperation-network-elections_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R0900&qid=1774661372049>.

⁽⁵⁾ JOIN(2025) 791 final, https://commission.europa.eu/document/2539eb53-9485-4199-bfdc-97166893ff45_en.

⁽⁶⁾ This will notably rely on the work to support the application of Regulation (EU) 2024/900 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising, the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2829 on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union and enhancing the European nature and efficient conduct of the elections to the European Parliament, Directive (EU) 2026/1021 on combating corruption recently adopted by co-legislators based on the Commission's proposal COM(2023)234 final, EU anti-money laundering (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/oj/daily-view/L-series/default.html?&ojDate=19062024>) and other relevant EU rules.