

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001136/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(18 March 2026)

Subject: Erasmus+ and AgoraEU

In its recent opinions on the proposed Erasmus+ and AgoraEU programmes for the 2028-2034 period, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) welcomed the increased budgets but identified several shortcomings in the design and governance of these initiatives. In particular, the ECA noted the lack of clarity regarding the allocation of the overall Erasmus+ budget between its various priorities following the integration of the European Solidarity Corps, as well as insufficient information on the coordination and synergies envisaged under the new AgoraEU funding structure. It also pointed to the absence of clearly defined rules concerning the end of the eligibility period and the absence of ceilings for technical and administrative expenditure.

Furthermore, the ECA warned that the planned widespread use of non-cost-related funding may reduce transparency and weaken accountability mechanisms and it considered that the proposed performance indicators were insufficient to properly evaluate programme results.

Given these shortcomings, how will the Commission improve the legislative process to guarantee transparent budget allocation, stronger accountability, clearer financial rules and reliable performance indicators for monitoring and evaluating Erasmus+ and AgoraEU (in the 2028-2034 period)?

Submitted: 18.3.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(18 May 2026)

The Commission has taken careful note of European Court of Auditors' opinions on the proposed Erasmus+ ⁽¹⁾ and AgoraEU ⁽²⁾ programmes for 2028-2034, which constitute a valuable input to the ongoing negotiations of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The next MFF is built on a streamlined budget architecture with fewer and more coherent programmes. The consolidation of existing programmes is designed to strengthen synergies, simplify access for beneficiaries and reduce administrative burden. Built-in budgetary flexibility is a deliberate feature, enabling adaptation to evolving needs over the 7-year period.

The strategic steering mechanism presented in the Interinstitutional Agreement ⁽³⁾ accompanying the MFF Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ provides for regular guidance from the European Parliament and the Council on strategic investment priorities, thereby reinforcing transparency and democratic oversight.

The use of simplified forms of financing as the default grant modality is central to the overall MFF simplification agenda and is subject to the safeguards of the Financial Regulation ⁽⁵⁾, including the *ex-ante* method of calculation, definition of outputs or results triggering payment and *ex post* checks and controls of their achievement.

The proposed Performance Framework Regulation ⁽⁶⁾ establishes consistent output and result indicators across all programmes, and programme evaluations assessing effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value.

Rules on the end of the eligibility period and ceilings for administrative expenditure are addressed in Financial Regulation. The Commission will continue to engage constructively with the co-legislators to ensure the timely start of the implementation as from 1 January 2028.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2025) 549 final.

⁽²⁾ COM(2025) 550 final.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025) 572 final.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2025) 571 final.

⁽⁵⁾ 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.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2025) 545 final.