

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001572/26
to the Commission
Jorge Martín Frías (Pfe)
(16 April 2026)**

Subject: Chinese interference and lack of audit in Global Gateway projects

In December 2021, the European Commission announced Global Gateway, a dedicated global investment strategy aimed at counterbalancing the similar Belt and Road Initiative of the People's Republic of China. In October 2025, Ursula von der Leyen announced that the target of mobilising EUR 300 billion in Global Gateway projects had been reached two years earlier than planned ⁽¹⁾, and set a new target of EUR 400 billion in 2027 ⁽²⁾. Subsequently, in its resolution of 26 March 2026 'Global Gateway — past impacts and future orientation', the European Parliament expressed concerns about 'reports that a number of Global Gateway projects are being implemented by Chinese companies' ⁽³⁾. These reports appeared in the media for the first time in October 2023 ⁽⁴⁾ and again in November 2024 ⁽⁵⁾, with more news emerging as recently as 30 March 2026 ⁽⁶⁾.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that entrusting Chinese companies with the implementation of its multibillion-euro global investment strategy helps broaden the EU's influence in the world?
2. What concrete steps has the Commission taken since 2023 to identify the projects concerned?
3. How many projects are affected and how many euros are we talking about?

Submitted: 16.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(14 July 2026)**

The Commission refers to its reply to the European Parliament's Question E-002457/2025 of 18 June 2025 ⁽¹⁾, noting it publishes annual information on contracts awarded under direct and indirect management by partner countries in the Financial Transparency System ⁽²⁾, including contractor nationality based on establishment location.

In indirect management with pillar-assessed entities, they use their own rules to publish awarded contracts. The Commission does not require data on beneficial owners or controlling entities.

While the Commission does not entrust Chinese companies directly with the implementation of Global Gateway, it acknowledges that, in certain cases, companies established in China may be selected to implement EU-funded projects, notably where funds are implemented under indirect management by pillar-assessed partners applying their own procurement rules.

The Commission is analysing these occurrences, and is reflecting on possible solutions, in full respect of the currently applicable legal and institutional frameworks.

The 2024 Financial Regulation ⁽³⁾ and the proposed Performance Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ further reinforce transparency obligations. Based on Article 136 ⁽⁵⁾, the Commission may restrict access to award procedures, including when EU funds are entrusted to pillar-assessed partners, when such procedures affect security or public order of the EU or its Member States.

In the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework, the Commission's proposal for Global Europe, the main external financing instrument, provides that the Commission could impose restrictions of the eligibility rules to funds implemented in indirect management by pillar-assessed partners, where such restrictions are in the strategic interests of the EU.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ac_25_2346.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/global-gateway/>.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2026-0104_EN.pdf.

⁴ <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3239057/eu-includes-companies-linked-beijing-its-global-gateway-board>.

⁵ <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-brussels-china-beijing-infrastructure-belt-and-road-global-gateway-subsidies-peljesac-bridge/>.

⁶ <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3348330/eus-flagship-africa-project-under-fire-over-ties-chinese-state-owned-firms>.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002457_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/index.html>.

⁽³⁾ 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): <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

⁽⁴⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a budget expenditure tracking and performance framework and other horizontal rules for the Union programmes and activities. COM/2025/545 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52025PC0545>.

⁽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 (recast): <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

In addition, in line with the proposed Performance Regulation, pillar-assessed partners will have to transmit information on competitive procedures and recipients of EU funding into the Commission's single data architecture.
