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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(30.6.2026)

EU funds are not provided for political purposes and can only be used to support projects that fully respect the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union, namely human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. These principles apply equally to every beneficiary, and thus persons and entities involved in activities incompatible with European values cannot receive EU financial support. Respect for fundamental rights means safeguarding freedom of thought, conscience, religion and association. This includes the right of EU fund beneficiaries to express their views while respecting the applicable laws.

The Erasmus + projects subject to the Honourable Member's question promoted democratic participation, which is not a political activity but rather the exercise of citizenship. They also promoted the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education and freedom of expression that are essential for true involvement of citizens in democratic processes.

Beneficiaries in EU-funded educational programmes can exercise freedom of expression as long as they comply with the obligations set out in the Erasmus+ Grant Agreements<sup>1</sup> and with the applicable EU, international and national laws, such as law on defamation, and prohibition of incitement to hatred or discrimination. There is however no obligation of political neutrality.

National agencies systematically review all final reports submitted by EU-funded projects, with the aim to ensure that they fully comply with EU primary law and the obligations set out in the Grant Agreements.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/erasmus/agr-contr/general-mga\\_erasmus\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/erasmus/agr-contr/general-mga_erasmus_en.pdf).