

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001723/26
to the Commission
Catherine Griset (P/E)
(28 April 2026)**

Subject: Nature of the pressure exerted by Benjamin Haddad in favour of institutes that are politically close to him

The French Minister Delegate for Europe, Benjamin Haddad, reportedly lobbied on behalf of federalist think tanks that were unsuccessful in the call for proposals under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, resulting in them losing around EUR 7.8 million over the period 2026 to 2028 ⁽¹⁾. The Commission apparently gave preference to grassroots associations or NGOs rather than these institutes.

It is understood that, on 21 April 2026, Benjamin Haddad therefore convened some of those institutes (Jacques Delors Institute, Robert Schuman Foundation, European Council for International Relations and EuropaNova) in order to draw up a strategy to restore the grants received under the CERV programme. In particular, there were plans to include this item on the agenda for an upcoming meeting of European affairs ministers.

1. Is the Commission aware of any action taken by Benjamin Haddad to restore the subsidies granted to these institutes, which are closely aligned to him politically?
2. Can it confirm that the CERV programme is not intended to provide indefinite funding to the same institutes, which espouse the same federalist political views?
3. Do institutes with a different alignment — sovereigntist or conservative — receive subsidies under the CERV programme where appropriate?

Submitted: 28.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(16 July 2026)**

Selections of projects under the 2025 call for proposals for 3-year framework partnership agreements to support European networks, civil society organisations active at EU level and European think tanks in the areas of EU values ⁽²⁾ under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme ⁽³⁾ have been carried out in a transparent manner and in full compliance with the provisions of the Financial Regulation ⁽⁴⁾.

Operating grants are awarded to finance the functioning of a body that pursues an aim of general EU interest, or an objective forming part of, and supporting, an EU policy objective. The objectives of EU funding are defined in funding programmes adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. The programmes are implemented through work programmes approved by representatives of the Member States and through open calls for proposals. Any legal entity established in the Member States or in the countries associated to the programme may participate. Proposals are evaluated against pre-announced selection and award criteria including quality and relevance to the objectives of the programme. The highest ranked proposals are selected for funding within the limits of the budget available under the call.

Any legal entity active in the field of the specific calls launched under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme and defending the objectives of the programme may submit a proposal for a grant which will be evaluated in accordance with the principles set out in the Financial Regulation including transparency and equal treatment.

⁽¹⁾https://www.linforme.com/medias-culture/article/jacques-delors-robert-schuman-bruxelles-coupe-les-subsventions-aux-think-tanks-europeens_3842.html;
https://www.contexte.com/fr/actualite/pouvoirs/fin-des-subsventions-de-bruxelles-aux-think-tanks-benjamin-haddad-contre-attaque-et-reunit-leurs-representants-a-paris_262517

⁽²⁾<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?callIdentifier=CERV-2025-OG-FPA&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate>

⁽³⁾Regulation (EU) 2021/692 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 1); ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/692/oj>.

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