

EN

E-002239/2026

Answer given by Mr Serafin

on behalf of the European Commission

(5.8.2026)

1. The Commission considers that existing mechanisms provide sufficient legal tools to prevent EU funds from being awarded to entities that are involved in activities incompatible with EU values, provided that their involvement in such activities is substantiated by concrete, reliable, and admissible evidence and meets the legal requirements laid down in the Financial Regulation<sup>1</sup>, and notably the early detection and exclusion system (EDES)<sup>2</sup> rules. Where such activities constitute grave professional misconduct under the ground of incitement to discrimination, violence or hatred, or any other activities contrary to EU values, such findings must result from a final judgment. In the absence of such a judgment, the ground of exclusion is applicable on a preliminary classification in law by the EDES Panel referred to in Article 145 of the Financial Regulation. In such cases and based on individualised assessments and following adversarial procedures, exclusion from EU funding is mandatory.

2. Breaches of fundamental rights or EU values are considered at different stages of the application for and implementation of EU financial support. The Commission's data mining and risk-scoring tool Arachne<sup>3</sup> can support the Member States in risk assessment, but no specific risk indicators can currently assess breaches of fundamental rights or values.

3. The information on whether EDES had previously been applied in relation to entities operating in the dual-use or cyber-surveillance sectors is not available, as there is no existing list indicating the sector in which an entity that has been the subject of an EDES proceeding operates. Similarly, for reasons of confidentiality, the Commission is unable to provide information regarding ongoing Panel cases.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj/eng>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/how-it-works/annual-lifecycle/implementation/anti-fraud-measures/edes\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/how-it-works/annual-lifecycle/implementation/anti-fraud-measures/edes_en).

<sup>3</sup> [https://antifraud-knowledge-centre.ec.europa.eu/useful-tools/what-arachne\\_en](https://antifraud-knowledge-centre.ec.europa.eu/useful-tools/what-arachne_en).