

EN

P-001922/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(13.12.2024)

The Commission is determined to ensure that persons and entities involved in criminal, unethical practices, or other activities incompatible with EU values do not receive EU financial support.

To safeguard proper use of EU funds, in line with the EU Financial Regulation<sup>1</sup> and relevant agreements concluded with recipients of EU funds, various mechanisms have been put in place. Entities implementing EU funds also need to comply with EU restrictive measures<sup>2</sup>.

The EU Financial Regulation includes since September 2024, under the early detection and exclusion system, an exclusion ground in case of incitement to discrimination, hatred and violence against a group of persons or a member of a group or similar activities incompatible with EU values, where the conduct may negatively affect the performance of the contract. The Commission can thus take immediate action, should it become aware of any evidence in this respect by excluding these entities from EU financing.

Gaziantep Islam Science and Technology University has been a beneficiary of the Erasmus+ programme<sup>3</sup>. The projects led by this university were selected by the national agency responsible for the implementation of the programme in Türkiye, in line with standard procedures (indirect management). The Commission is currently investigating allegations made in the press, in cooperation with the national agency in Türkiye.

As a precautionary measure, pursuant to the newly introduced exclusion ground mentioned above and in accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission has asked the national agency to suspend the contracting process for the grant agreement on the recently selected cooperation project referred to in the Honourable Member's written question until there is more clarity on the matter.

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<sup>1</sup> 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), [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL\\_202402509](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL_202402509)

<sup>2</sup> Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12016E215>

<sup>3</sup> <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>