

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001372/25
to the Commission
Luis-Vicențiu Lazarus (NI)
(2 April 2025)**

Subject: Protecting and respecting Europe's cultural identity within the EU institutions

The Commission, Parliament and Council of the European Union have only observer status in the High Council of the European University Institute (EUI) (Rules of Procedure of the High Council of the EUI, Article 1(1)(b)). Funding for the EUI comes from contributions paid by the Member States by virtue of their belonging to the European Union, as well as from the EU budget, which is allocated via a range of educational and research programmes.

In light of these considerations:

1. How does the Commission intend to protect Europe's cultural identity within the EU institutions?
2. Does it not feel it would be appropriate to change the observer status of the Commission, Parliament and the Council of the European Union in the EUI High Council (Rules of Procedure of the High Council of the EUI, Article 1(1)(b)) in such a way as to ensure that Christmas, which is one of Europe's most important celebrations, is not deemed to be offensive or exclusionary?

Submitted: 2.4.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(30 June 2025)**

EU institution staff are recruited from all Member States. Each staff member brings their own cultural background under the banner united in diversity. The EU institutions strive to build a working environment where everyone feels included.

The European University Institute (EUI) is an intergovernmental organisation. As such, it is created and regulated by an international treaty — the Convention Setting up the EUI — signed by its contracting states.

According to Article 1(1)(b) of the High Council Decision N. 10/2020 of 15 December 2020 ⁽¹⁾, a representative of the European Parliament, a representative of the European Commission and a representative of the Council of the European Union shall take part in meetings of the High Council but shall not have the right to vote.

The Commission is not aware of any intention on the part of the contracting states to amend the Convention.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.eui.eu/Documents/web2021/high-council-decision-10-2020-rules-of-procedure-of-the-high-council.pdf>.