

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001458/25
to the Commission
Susanna Ceccardi (P/E)
(9 April 2025)**

Subject: Transparency of EU funding to NGOs and links to political activities and irregular immigration

In special report 11/2025 ⁽¹⁾, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) found serious shortcomings in the transparency of EU funding granted to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). More specifically, the auditors point to: the lack of overview regarding the actual recipients of funds, inconsistent classifications and unchecked self-declarations, a failure to proactively check recipient NGOs' compliance with fundamental EU values, and poor transparency of the political lobbying performed using EU funds. What is more, a number of EU-funded NGOs dealing with migration are likely carrying out activities which actually facilitate irregular immigration to Europe, leading to heightened security risks and fuelling the Islamisation of Europe's cities — a process that is already under way.

In light of the above:

1. What action will the Commission take to comply with recommendations 1, 2 and 3 addressed to it in ECA special report 11/2025?
2. What measures will it take to get a complete handle on NGOs' use of EU funds, with a particular focus on the organisations' independence from governments and commercial interests?
3. How will it bolster its mechanisms for verifying compliance with EU values and incorporate checks on NGOs' funding sources?

Submitted: 9.4.2025

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

The Commission refers to its replies to the European Court of Auditors' Special Report 11/2025 ⁽¹⁾.

A definition of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) has been recently included in the Financial Regulation (FR), ⁽²⁾ together with the need to indicate in a direct management grant application whether the entity is an NGO.

The Commission will explore whether this recent definition of an NGO should and could be further clarified. Such clarification should not increase administrative burden for NGOs, be proportionate and not limit access to EU funds.

There is no indication that the NGO status poses a higher risk for the EU budget, compared to other types of entities. The NGO status is generally not a prerequisite for receiving EU funding.

The Commission will explore increasing the frequency of updates in the Financial Transparency System ⁽³⁾. In accordance with Article 38 FR, the Commission will make available on a centralised website information on recipients of EU funds under all management modes as for post 2027 programmes.

The Commission's current data mining and risk-scoring tool 'Arachne' serves control and audit, and not to verify respect of EU values.

The FR provides for further development of this IT tool only as regards control and audit functions ⁽⁴⁾. The Commission is open to exploring the feasibility of introducing further risk indicators to enhance checks on compliance with EU values, provided this is technically possible and in line with the applicable rules.

Any such assessment could be carried out only following the further development of Arachne, which is to be delivered by the end of 2027.

¹ 'European Court of Auditors, special report 11/2025: 'Transparency of EU funding granted to NGOs — Despite progress, the overview is still not reliable', Publications Office of the European Union, 2025; <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2025-11>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications?ref=SR-2025-11>.

⁽²⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202402509.

⁽³⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/index.html>; the annual publications are based on Article 38 of the Financial Regulation (OJ L 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, p. 1-239), and in accordance with the third paragraph of the article, information on recipients is not disclosed in specific cases outlined therein.

⁽⁴⁾ See recitals 29-32 and Article 36 of the FR. See also the Joint statement of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the single data mining and risk-scoring tool provided for in Article 36 of the Financial Regulation on the occasion of the adoption of Regulation 2024/2509, OJ C, C/2024/5767, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/5767/oj>.

Interest representatives that apply for EU funding, which would typically include NGOs, must register in the Transparency Register ⁽⁵⁾ and declare their main sources of funding, the amount of each contribution above EUR 10 000 exceeding 10% of their total budget and the name of the contributor.

⁽⁵⁾ https://transparency-register.europa.eu/index_en.