

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001563/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE)
(16 April 2025)**

Subject: Use of European funds for the project ‘The European Qu’ran’

‘Journal du Dimanche’ recently revealed that the European Research Council has allocated almost EUR 10 million to a project entitled ‘The European Qu’ran’, the aim of which is to demonstrate the supposedly positive influence of the Qu’ran on European identity between the 12th and 19th centuries.

At a time when Europe is facing a persistent Islamist threat, such funding raises questions. The press points to the involvement of researchers with links to Islamist circles and an evident willingness to rewrite our shared history from an ideological perspective.

At a time when Islamism is poisoning our societies, and when people from the Muslim world are emigrating to Europe with no intention of integrating, such a project appears particularly out of place, as it encourages a discourse that decries the foundations of our civilisation.

1. How does the Commission justify such use of European funds, given the ideological risks that have been identified?
2. Does it consider that the trivialisation of ideologies that are contrary to EU values should be funded by the European taxpayer?
3. Could it fund a project demonstrating the Bible’s influence on European identity?

Submitted: 16.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(14 August 2025)**

The European Research Council (ERC) has funded since 2007 more than 17 000 projects and over 10 000 researchers, across physical sciences and engineering, life sciences, social sciences and humanities ⁽¹⁾.

This led to over 2 200 patents and other Intellectual Property Rights applications. More than 200 000 articles were published in scientific journals and the ERC grantees have been awarded with 14 Nobel Prizes, 7 Fields Medals, 11 Wolf Prizes and dozens of important prizes.

This project is a ERC grant funded through Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation funding programme from 2014-2020. The project was selected through a rigorous peer review process involving top researchers from around the world.

ERC grants support pioneering research that push the frontiers of knowledge and have the potential to make significant scientific breakthroughs. The sole criterion for funding is the scientific excellence of the proposal ⁽²⁾.

The project explores the complex historical interactions between Europe and the Islamic world by studying how the Qur’an has been translated, interpreted and used in Europe from the 12th to the 19th centuries. It wanted to understand the continent’s broader intellectual, religious and cultural history, foundational to European values ⁽³⁾.

Grant proposals are evaluated by independent top scientists. Any proposal that provides a ground-breaking internationally competitive approach can be funded if it meets the ERC’s criterion for scientific excellence. All projects funded by the ERC can be found in the ERC database ⁽⁴⁾ or CORDIS ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Within the social sciences and humanities projects which represent around a fourth of ERC grants, topics span an extensive range of disciplines, including economics and finance, law and political science, sociology, psychology and linguistics, literature and philosophy, history and archaeology, geography and environmental studies, anthropology, arts and cultural and religious studies — the category in which falls the mentioned project.

⁽²⁾ For more details on the applicable evaluation procedure and criteria, please consult the ERC work programme 2018-2020, Commission C(2017) 5307 of 2 August 2017: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018_2020/erc/h2020-erc-h2020-wp18-erc_en.pdf.

⁽³⁾ For an overview of the project’s results, please consult <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/810141/results>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/>.