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P-002320/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.7.2025)

1. The EU programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE)¹ provides, amongst others, financial support for the functioning of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) supporting civil society's participation in policy making. It thereby promotes a pluralistic approach and ensures that NGOs are an integral part of a well-functioning democratic system.

The NGO's work programmes, which are annexed to the grant agreements, may include advocacy related to environmental, climate and energy transition policies. The Commission does not prescribe the specific activities to be carried out by the NGOs in their work programme, nor does it instruct them to support specific positions. The Commission emphasises that operating grants comply with the LIFE Regulation² adopted by the co-legislators and that their management is fully in line with the EU Financial Regulation³.

2. With regard to the publication of all grant agreements with NGOs, as the Commission stated in its replies to written questions⁴ and to the European Court of Auditors special report 11/2025⁵, the Commission adheres strictly to its transparency obligations under Article 38 of the Financial Regulation, which require publishing information about recipients of funds and do not require the disclosure and publication of the grant agreements.

3. The Commission has issued guidance⁶ for existing grant agreements and future calls for proposals, addressed to all Commission services and applicable to all spending programmes. The guidance clarifies which activities should not be mandated as a requirement or condition for EU financing.

The Commission adopted the Implementing Decision on the Financing of the LIFE programme and its work programme for the period 2025-2027 on 15 April 2025⁷. The Commission does not intend to withdraw the Decision.

¹ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013, OJ L 172, 17.05.2021, p.53.

³ 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), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.

⁴ P-000317/2025, P-000280/2025, E-000336/2025 and E-000701/2025.

⁵ Special report 11/2025: Transparency of EU funding granted to NGOs - European Court of Auditors, <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/sr-2025-11>; https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECARepplies/COM-Replies-SR-2025-11/COM-Replies-SR-2025-11_EN.pdf, Point 2, Section III.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/guidance-funding-dev-impl-monit-enforce-of-eu-law_en.pdf.

⁷ Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the LIFE programme and the adoption of the work programme for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027, C(2025) 955 final. Available at: https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/programme-environment-and-climate-action-life_en.