

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003079/25
to the Commission
Isabella Tovaglieri (PfE)
(24 July 2025)**

Subject: EU financing for the fact-checking company Check First

The Commission said that Putin's Russia may have been behind the motion of censure against President von der Leyen. According to Commission spokesperson Thomas Reigner, the motion was part of Moscow's plans, and independent fact-checkers have confirmed that fact ⁽¹⁾.

One of the fact-checkers that the Commission explicitly refers to is Check First. However, that company appears to receive direct funding from the European Union, which is also visible on their page ⁽²⁾.

Specifically, it is receiving EU funds for the Crossover and OKSA projects ⁽³⁾, financed by means of EU funds, and is part of the European Fact-Checking Standards Network, which is also co-financed through EU programmes to fight disinformation ⁽⁴⁾.

In the light of the above:

1. What is the exact amount of EU funds received by Check First through calls or financing?
2. Give its participation in the aforementioned EU programmes, can this company be regarded as an 'independent' fact-checker when it comes to judging a political entity (including the EU)?

Submitted: 24.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(28 August 2025)**

According to the Financial Transparency System (FTS) public website ⁽¹⁾, Check First participates in one completed and one ongoing project. For the completed project, the beneficiary contracted amount is EUR 105 629.

For the ongoing project, beneficiary's contracted amount is not available in the Commission's financial management system, however the commitment contracted amount relates to: EUR 3 270 000. Please see the annex for further terminology information and project details as well as FTS website consultation/extraction information.

The Commission does not interfere with the independence of fact-checking organisations. When applying for EU funding, these organisations are required to provide evidence regarding their adherence to the highest ethical and professional standards such those prescribed by the European Fact-Checking Standard Network ⁽²⁾.

See annex: Annex

¹ <https://europa.today.it/unione-europea/mosca-dietro-mozione-sfiducia-von-der-leyen.html>.

² https://checkfirst.network/about-us/?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

³ https://checkfirst.network/2-years-of-checkfirst/?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

⁴ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-launches-eu5-million-call-strengthen-european-fact-checking-network-2025-05-27_en?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

⁽¹⁾ The Financial Transparency System, <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/index.html>.

⁽²⁾ Code of Standards — European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN), <https://efcsn.com/code-of-standards/>.