

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-004934/25
to the Commission
Isabella Lövin (Verts/ALE), Alice Kuhnke (Verts/ALE), Pär Holmgren (Verts/ALE)
(12 December 2025)

Subject: Sweden's management of aid funding for Somalia in the light of its obligations as a Member State under EU rule-of-law and corruption rules

The Swedish Government has diverted approximately SEK 100 million of its aid budget to services close to the Somali Government. Migration Minister Johan Forsell has said that the services concerned ensure that Somalia takes back Somali nationals who have been deported. No one in Sweden's Ministry of Justice (which disburses the funding), the Swedish Migration Agency, the Swedish border police, the National Operations Department (NOA) or the Swedish Prison and Probation Service knows who the officials are who are supposedly working on the matter locally. There is apparently a written agreement on aid in return for forced expulsions, but Benjamin Dousa, the Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, denies this.

Salaries in the services concerned are in excess of SEK 100 000. The Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* has investigated and reported that these are 'ghost posts' filled by relatives or friends, with no actual work being carried out. This raises questions about the government's use of public funds in general, and aid funding in particular, as well as about compliance with EU countries' obligations to combat corruption.

1. In its forthcoming annual rule-of-law report, is the Commission intending to take a specific look at what the Swedish Government is doing — in the light of the revelations about the money for Somalia — to meet its obligations to ensure integrity in public administration and to combat corruption and the misuse of public funds?
2. Does the Commission take the view that the circumstances described — the lack of traceability with regard to funding for aid, the fact that the recipients cannot be verified and the suspicions surrounding fictitious services — fall within the scope of the Union's efforts to protect public funds and combat corruption?
3. What follow-up measures can the Commission take with regard to Sweden?

Submitted: 12.12.2025

Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(22 January 2026)

The annual Rule of Law Report, at the centre of the annual Rule of Law Cycle ⁽¹⁾ monitors developments related to rule of law in Member States, covering four pillars: justice systems, anti-corruption frameworks, media pluralism and freedom and other institutional issues related to checks and balances. However, the report does not cover the handling of foreign aid as such.

Regarding the management of development cooperation resources, the Commission is not in a position to comment on Member States' decisions regarding the allocation of their funds to partner countries and to specific recipients within these countries, as these decisions fall within their national competence in the field of development cooperation.

The Commission will continue to maintain close coordination with Member States, including Sweden, to promote consistent and efficient partnerships with partner countries.

This is even more the case under the Team Europe approach, which seeks to ensure greater coherence, synergy and impact of EU's collective development efforts, while fully respecting EU's principles and values.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle_en.