

EN

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Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.6.2026)

There is no contract between the Commission and Stantec Inc., the legal entity headquartered in Canada, but with its UK and EU affiliates, which are distinct legal entities. The contract of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) is concluded with Stantec Belgium, which is a subsidiary of Stantec Canada and a distinct legal entity.

The Commission applies the Financial Regulation¹ for its procurement procedures. The award of a contract is contingent upon several requirements to be met by the tenderer: to have access to market, not be subject to restrictive measures², not be subject to an exclusion decision for being insolvent, for failure to pay taxes or for other types of misconduct³, meet the selection criteria related to legal, regulatory, economic, financial, technical and professional capacity, and be ranked first following the evaluation based on the award criteria. The 2024 Financial Regulation recast introduced new grounds of exclusion as part of grave professional misconduct, including an explicit reference to incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence, or similar activities contrary to EU values which negatively affects or risks affecting the performance of a contract⁴.

The Commission follows the rules for access to EU procurement market⁵ which allow participation on equal terms of entities established in a third country in accordance with international agreements such as the Government Procurement Act of the World Trade Organization⁶.

When evaluating a tender, the Commission also checks for different forms of conflict of interests as part of the exclusion criteria (grave professional misconduct) and as part of the selection criteria (professional conflicting interests).

The Commission has conducted all the assessments and verifications mentioned above.

¹ 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), available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R2509>.

² Adopted under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) or Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

³ See Article 138 Financial Regulation.

⁴ See Article 138(1)(c)(vi) Financial Regulation.

⁵ See Article 179 and 182 Financial Regulation: in the context of external action, participation takes place also in accordance with the specific provisions in the basic act governing the cooperation sector concerned, such as the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947>).

⁶ See Article 180 Financial Regulation: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gproc_e/gp_gpa_e.htm.