

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002303/26
to the Commission
Fabio De Masi (NI)
(4 June 2026)**

Subject: US attempts to influence elections in the European Union

According to media reports, the US State Department plans to influence European elections by financing groups close to Trump ⁽¹⁾.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of foreign interference in elections in the European Union by government agencies in third-countries through 'grants' and other financial contributions to civil society organisations?
2. What tools does the Commission have at its disposal to prevent such interference?

Submitted: 4.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(28 July 2026)**

In the EU, the organisation and conduct of elections are the competence and responsibility of the Member States. It is primarily for the Member States' authorities and courts to investigate and decide on elections matters.

As announced in the Joint Communication on the European Democracy Shield ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is intensifying its support to Member States and stakeholders to enhance electoral integrity and preparedness, protect election-related infrastructure, minimise risks of foreign interference, and strengthen cooperation.

Under the European Cooperation Network on Elections, the Commission works with the Member States on several strands, including the transparency and integrity of funding in politics, looking at issues of common interest such as anonymous donations and cryptocurrency, in full respect of the allocation of competences.

The newly established European Centre for Democratic Resilience facilitates information sharing and supports operational cooperation and capacity building to withstand evolving common threats, in particular foreign information manipulation and interference and disinformation.

The Commission has also proposed a directive which seeks to ensure transparency of interest representation activities on behalf of third countries aimed to influence EU policymaking and legislation ⁽²⁾.

Furthermore, several pieces of legislation contribute to the EU's efforts to protect the information environment around elections, including the Political Advertising Regulation ⁽³⁾, the Digital Services Act ⁽⁴⁾ and the AI act ⁽⁵⁾.

For instance, the Political Advertising Regulation bans political ads by sponsors from third countries during the three months leading up to any election or referendum in a Member State.

¹ <https://foreignpolicy.com/2026/06/01/state-department-europe-trump-far-right-populist-hungary-orban/>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0791>.

⁽²⁾ COM/2023/637 final, currently under negotiations by the co-legislators.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/900/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>.