

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000221/23
to the Commission
Marco Zanni (ID)
(25 January 2023)

Subject: Funds received by NGOs linked to Qatargate

According to a number of newspapers including Politico Europe, the MADE Group — an NGO founded by Mantalena Kaili, the sister of former Vice-President of the European Parliament, Eva Kaili — received a number of sums of EU funding over the last years after taking part in calls for tender for a pilot project pushed by MEP Kaili.

Also in the context of the Qatargate scandal, the NGOs Fight Impunity and No Peace Without Justice, linked to former MEP Pier Antonio Panzeri, may have received EU funds through the ‘European Observatory on the Fight against Impunity’ pilot project.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission provide more information on the funds received by NGOs linked to Qatargate or individuals directly or indirectly concerned by the investigations?
2. What steps will it take going forwards to ensure full transparency about funds allocated through pilot projects?

Submitted: 25.1.2023

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the European Commission
(21 April 2023)

The Commission, in accordance with the Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾, ensures that organisations and projects incompatible with the principle of sound financial management or with European values do not receive support.

The non-governmental organisation (NGO) ‘Fight Impunity’ did not receive any financial support from EU funds directly managed by the Commission.

Since 2006, grants to nine projects involving the NGO ‘No Peace without Justice’ have been awarded under funds directly managed by the Commission. Seven projects have been completed and final payments made (EUR 4.62 million). EU funding for the two ongoing projects amounts to EUR 2.7 million. Of this, EUR 1.37 million has been suspended as precautionary measure.

The amount committed to the MADE Group for which the Honourable Member has required information is around EUR 70 000 for two grants in 2022 and to EUR 210 000 for two grants in 2017 and 2019. MADE Group has also received payments for two projects for around EUR 119 024.29 and EUR 1 37 374.65 directly from lead beneficiaries.

Every year, the Commission assesses the legal and technical implementability of pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP/PAs), proposed by the European Parliament, via a well-established and transparent system that ensures equal treatment of all European Parliament proposals. The Commission only implements the proposals that are technically implementable.

Concerning the ‘European Observatory on the Fight against Impunity’ pilot project, the exhaustive reply was provided to the parliamentary Question P-004158/2022 ⁽²⁾.

The Commission provides regular information to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of PP/PAs, via a courtesy report on the implementation of newly adopted PP/PAs and a more extensive reporting in working document IV accompanying the Commission’s draft budget.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046>

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2022-004158-ASW_EN.html