

**Question for written answer E-004167/2021/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jorge Buxadé Villalba (ECR), Hermann Tertsch (ECR), Mazaly Aguilar (ECR), Margarita de la Pisa Carrión (ECR)**

Subject: Recent revelations about UN experts supported by the EU

The Special Procedures were established by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) to promote human rights in specific countries (country mandates) or certain rights worldwide (thematic mandates). These mandates are carried out by 'independent experts'.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, between 2016 and 2019 the European Union contributed USD 1.75 million to support a specific 'joint project' driven by three of these mandates. Two of the experts involved were also simultaneously financed by the Ford Foundation.

A report by the European Centre for Law and Justice entitled 'The Financing of UN Experts in the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council: How UN experts are funded and influenced' of August 2021 showed that such contributions threaten the independence of experts. UN experts should indeed remain independent, not only from the EU but also from states and private foundations that seek to align experts' agendas with their own.

That is why, in its resolution 16/21, the HRC discouraged these earmarked contributions and recalled that the Special Procedures should be instead financed by 'unearmarked' contributions.

1. Which EU institution decides on supporting some experts or projects rather than others?
2. Will the Commission replace these contributions with 'unearmarked' contributions in order to respect the principle of independence of experts?