

EN

E-000342/2023

Answer given by Mr Hahn
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.5.2023)

The Honourable Members will find under Annex I an extract from the Financial Transparency System (FTS)¹ providing information on funds contracted with the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) listed in the question.

With regards to sub-points a), g) and h), detailed information was provided by Commissioner for Budget and Administration in a written reply to a letter from the Chair of the Budgetary Control committee. The Commission informed the Chair that:

- The NGO 'Fight Against Impunity' did not receive any financial support from EU funds directly managed by the Commission.
- The NGO 'Droit au Droit' was involved in seven projects, spreading from 2006 to 2018, for which a total of EUR 1.09 million was disbursed. Since each of these projects had multiple beneficiaries, the total amount paid to the NGO is less than the total amount disbursed under the projects, and in any event no more than EUR 526 000.
- The Commission has awarded grants to a total of nine projects involving the NGO 'No Peace without Justice' under funds directly managed by the Commission. These projects have spread over a period of over 15 years, starting from 2006. EU funding for the seven projects that were completed amounted to EUR 5 million. Out of these seven projects, three of them had multiple beneficiaries. The amount received by the NGO from the seven projects is no more than EUR 4.62 million. EU funding for the two ongoing projects amounts to approximately EUR 2.7 million. Of this, EUR 1.37 million has not yet been paid by the Commission and is now suspended as precautionary measure, pending an internal evaluation.

It should be noted that these figures also cover payments made before 2014. In addition, these figures include information that was not available in the Commission's accounting system and on FTS at the time of publication, in particular the distribution among beneficiaries for some of the grants where the aforementioned entities were co-beneficiaries. Lastly, and as indicated in Annex I to this reply, at the level of the beneficiary, the FTS is required to provide information on committed amounts, rather than on paid amounts.

With regard to sub-points b), c) and e) of the question, multiple entities carry the name 'Open Society', 'Amnesty International', or are members of the 'EuroMed Rights' network. The Commission extracted from the FTS the information as provided in Annex I for the list of entities (Annex II) found on the Open Society Foundations website² and the EuroMed Rights website³.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/index.html>

The annual publications are based on Article 38 of the Financial Regulation (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1–222), and in accordance with the third paragraph of the article, data on recipients is not disclosed for very low value contracts below EUR 15 000 and where disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of the persons or entities.

² <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/who-we-are/offices-foundations>

The Commission applies strict transparency rules concerning interest representation⁴ and publishes information on meetings held with interest representatives on the dedicated transparency webpages of the websites of the Members of the College and of Directorates-General respectively, which interested parties are invited to consult. That information is also made public on the entries of the interest representatives concerned in the Transparency Register⁵. It may also be made available via announcements through other channels like press releases, social media or other means. The Commission invites the Honourable Members to consult this publicly available information. The Commission would further like to underline that it did not hold any meetings with Fight Impunity and No Peace without Justice, in particular.

³ <https://euromedrights.org/members/>

⁴ Commission Decision 2014/839/EU, Euratom of 25 November 2014 on the publication of information on meetings held between Members of the Commission and organisations or self-employed individuals, OJ L 343, 28.11.2014, p. 22, Commission decision 2014/838/EU, Euratom of 25 November 2014 on the publication of information on meetings held between Directors-General of the Commission and organisations or self-employed individuals, OJ L 343, 28.11.2014, p. 19 (2).

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/search.do?locale=en&reset=>