

**Question for written answer E-002367/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Transparency of voluntary organisations

Voluntary organisations play a fundamental role vis-à-vis citizens. In its resolution of 17 February 2022 with recommendations to the Commission on a statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations<sup>1</sup>, Parliament set out its position on the regulation of European associations. However, it is also necessary to establish EU standards for all voluntary associations in the Member States in order to improve transparency. Transparent, publicly available budgets and open calls for tender for the provision of services and the letting of property by local authorities would enable clearer interaction between public and private institutions, associations and citizens.

For example, the city council in Padua has created a register of voluntary associations, bypassing regional/national rules and becoming an arbiter and player in the allocation of resources. In addition, the council provides funding without citizens being able to review the supporting budgets. This makes it impossible to distinguish between associations that work for the common good, as so many do, and those that instead serve as instruments for vote buying for elections.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether European legislation on voluntary associations is being considered?
2. Does the Commission not consider it important to lay down rules on funding and calls for tender concerning voluntary associations, for the sake of the transparency of democratic institutions?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 342, 6.9.2022, p. 225.