



2025/2584(RSP)

12.03.2025

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 115(2) and (3) of the Rules of Procedure

on the draft Commission implementing decision on the financing of the LIFE programme and the adoption of the work programme for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027, and in particular Annex I thereto
(D103679/01 – O105363/01 – 2025/2584(RSP))

Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety

Member responsible: Mathilde Androuët

European Parliament resolution on the draft Commission implementing decision on the financing of the LIFE programme and the adoption of the work programme for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027, and in particular Annex I thereto (D103679/01 – O105363/01 – (2025/2584(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Commission implementing decision on the financing of the LIFE programme and the adoption of the work programme for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027 (O105363/01), and in particular Annex I thereto (D103679/01),
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013¹, and in particular Article 18(1) thereof,
- having regard to the opinion delivered on 18 September 2024 by the committee referred to in Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2021/783,
- having regard to Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers²,
- having regard to Rule 115(2) and (3) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union³,
- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making (IIA)⁴,
- having regard to the communication of the Commission of 25 June 2024 on consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2023,
- having regard to Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament on the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament regarding integrity and transparency,
- having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety,

A. whereas the LIFE programme aims to finance measures to benefit the environment and

¹ OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 53, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/783/oj>.

² OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>.

³ OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

⁴ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2016/512/oj.

- the climate while respecting the principles of transparency, proportionality and sound financial management;
- B. whereas the IIA commits the institutions to simplifying regulations and improving the assessment of the impact of legislative initiatives;
- C. whereas Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 imposes requirements in terms of budget transparency, particularly with regard to the allocation and management of funds;
- D. whereas the draft implementing decision contains contradictions with the principles established by the documents in the previous recitals, particularly with regard to the lack of transparency in the distribution and monitoring of allocated funds, and an adoption and implementation process that does not guarantee the independence of the European Parliament in the evaluation and control of funds;
- E. whereas the LIFE programme imposes strict management of Union funds, but the implementation provided by the draft implementing decision derogates from those strict management principles;
- F. whereas the Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, entitled ‘Code of conduct for Members of the European Parliament regarding integrity and transparency’, prohibits any undue pressure and undue influence on the decisions of the Union institutions, and whereas the LIFE programme must respect those principles by avoiding any mechanism that could lead to political interference contrary to institutional ethics;
- G. whereas the data concerning the LIFE programme from the consolidated annual accounts of the European Union for the financial year 2023 showed a use that did not meet the requirements of the aforementioned texts in the previous recitals;
- H. whereas, during the debate at the plenary session of 22 January 2025 on ‘EU financing through the LIFE programme of entities lobbying EU institutions and the need for transparency’, that was based on the Commission statement [2025/2509(RSP)], the Member of the Commission, Piotr Serafin, acknowledged that ‘it was inappropriate for some services in the Commission to enter into agreements that oblige NGOs to lobby Members of the European Parliament specifically’, and that ‘The Commission is also actively cooperating with the European Court of Auditors in its ongoing audit on transparency of the funding provided to NGOs, and we look forward to the Court's conclusions and recommendations. We expect to get them still in the first half of 2025’;
- I. whereas the Court of Auditors has not yet published its audit on the transparency of NGO funding;
- J. whereas the remarks of the Member of the Commission on 22 January 2025 regarding the lobbying of Members of the European Parliament by NGOs demonstrate a risk of contravention of Article 1 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, according to which Members of the European Parliament ‘are guided by and observe the following general principles of conduct: disinterest, integrity, openness, diligence, honesty, accountability and respect for Parliament’s dignity and reputation’;
- K. whereas the Monitoring and evaluation framework for the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) under the Multiannual Framework 2021-27

was not published until 2024;

- L. whereas EUR 2 151 million of the LIFE programme had been spent before the publication of the monitoring and evaluation framework;
- M. whereas, according to Article 62(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, ‘[t]he Commission is responsible for budget implementation in accordance with Article 317 TFEU and shall not delegate those tasks to third parties, where such tasks involve a large measure of discretion implying political choices’;
 - 1. Considers that the draft Commission implementing decision, and in particular Annex I thereto, exceeds the implementing powers provided for in Regulation (EU) 2021/783;
 - 2. Requests that the Commission, on the basis of the expected recommendations of the Court of Auditors’ audit on the transparency of NGO funding, propose concrete measures to guarantee transparency in the allocation and monitoring of the LIFE programme funds, in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and the IIA;
 - 3. Calls on the Commission to put forward proposals guaranteeing the independence of the European Parliament in the evaluation and control of LIFE programme expenditure, in line with the principles of Union governance. Those proposals must include:
 - (a) the introduction of an obligation to consult the European Parliament before any significant changes to the LIFE programme;
 - (b) the assurance that the beneficiaries of the funds are not involved in lobbying activities directly influencing Union environmental policies;
 - (c) the effective implementation of regulations and directives guaranteeing the independence of institutions and the separation of powers, in accordance with the IIA;
 - 4. Calls on the Commission to withdraw its draft implementing decision and to submit a new draft to the committee that complies with the requirements of simplification, separation of powers and effective regulation as set out in the IIA;
 - 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.