

EN

E-002173/2026

Answer given by Mr Síkela
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.7.2026)

As regards the current procurement rules on eligibility and exclusion and the implementation of strategic procurement under Global Gateway¹, the Commission refers to its replies to the European Parliament's questions for written answers E-001172/2025 of 5 June 2025² and E-002457/2025 of 29 September 2025³.

As regards the tender for buses powered by natural gas in Dakar, the process is ongoing and under European Investment Bank assessment for compliance with its procurement rules; exclusion of state-backed firms is part of the eligibility criteria and is currently being scrutinised.

Under the next Multiannual Financial Framework, in the proposal for a Regulation establishing Global Europe⁴, the Commission proposes to establish a broader legal basis for restricting or extending EU eligibility rules across all award procedures, including when working with implementing partners. The grounds explicitly include EU restrictive measures, situations of economic coercion, lack of reciprocity under the International Procurement Instrument and other EU strategic interests. These decisions are made by the responsible authorising officer, ensuring that adjustments can be made rapidly. Lastly, it is worth noting that eligibility restrictions will apply, as a rule and for security reasons, to 'high-risk suppliers'⁵. These changes reflect the need to provide for a broader legal basis to adjust eligibility rules in line with the EU's interests.

When implementing EU funds in third countries, the Commission also supports the inclusion of strategic procurement, promoting price and quality as award criteria, strengthening environmental, social and governance standards and adopting a more strategic approach to project preparation, appraisal and selection, that considers from an early stage the EU partner countries' objectives and the competitive advantage of EU economic operators.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1-78, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>; and 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 Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001172-ASW_EN.html.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002457-ASW_EN.html.

⁴ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Global Europe, COM/2025/551 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0551>.

⁵ See Article 20(10) in the proposal referenced in footnote 4.