Question for written answer E-002424/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EU grant for building in Ciney

In September 2023, Wallonia granted a building permit for a project at Belgium's École provinciale d'agronomie et des sciences de Ciney (Ciney Provincial College for Agricultural Studies and Sciences) involving plans to tear down, rather than renovate, the establishment's oldest structure – a period farmhouse with aesthetic and historic features – and replace it with a new concrete building.

The project received an EU grant under the European recovery plan. The press reported that the demolition was necessary in order to meet energy renovation standards and therefore qualify for EU support. The energy efficiency of a building is crucial.

1. Do renovation projects, particularly those aimed at improving a building's energy performance, qualify for support under the European recovery plan, or is it necessary to build a new building to benefit? Does the Commission believe the heritage of the property should be taken into consideration?

2. Did the Commission's services have to give an opinion on this file before the demolition and reconstruction decisions were taken?

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