Question for written answer E-000775/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: The modernisation of the High-Mountain Meteorological Observatory on Mount Śnieżka

The modernisation of the High-Mountain Meteorological Observatory on Mount Śnieżka (in the Sudeten Mountains on the Czech-Polish border) is a transnational project of significant environmental and territorial importance for Poland, Czechia and Germany. The project, led by the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – National Research Institute in Poland, aims to improve infrastructure, address wastewater management challenges and preserve the unique architectural and natural heritage of this cross-border region. However, outdated wastewater treatment systems in mountain shelters, including those on both sides of the border, are causing local streams to be polluted.

Despite meeting all the formal requirements, the city of Karpacz faces financial barriers to securing approximately EUR 18 million to modernise its wastewater treatment plant, a prerequisite for sustainable water management in line with EU Directive 91/271/EEC[1]. Current funding opportunities under the FENX.01.03 scheme exclude projects like this due to strict compliance criteria for new agglomerations.

Given the modernisation project's alignment with EU environmental objectives and its cross-border significance:

1. Can the Commission allocate European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) resources directly to such transnational projects bypassed by national schemes?

2. How will the Commission ensure adequate funding for cross-border initiatives of EU-wide importance under existing frameworks?

3. Will upcoming calls under the European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) or similar programmes prioritise projects such as these, to foster territorial cohesion and environmental sustainability?

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[1] Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment, OJ L 135, 30.5.1991, p. 40, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1991/271/oj.