

Question for written answer E-001657/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sérgio Gonçalves (S&D)

Subject: Safeguarding long-term cohesion policy investments

The reprogramming of cohesion policy funds to support new areas, including affordable housing and defence industry investments, constitutes a major strategic shift. While it is important to respond to emerging challenges, there is a risk of undermining structural investment goals. The proposed 100 % co-financing rate may reduce financial engagement, while the decision to extend implementation deadlines solely for reprogrammed funds appears unjustified, considering recent exceptional disruptions. Many projects were already reshuffled between instruments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the overlap with the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Given this:

1. Does the Commission not fear that full co-financing and the extension of deadlines for new priority projects will lead the Member States to deprioritise long-term cohesion investments?
2. What indicators will be used to assess performance in new areas, particularly housing and defence, and what role will national and regional authorities play in monitoring defence-related investments?
3. Does the Commission envisage any of these new areas becoming a permanent part of cohesion policy?

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