

Question for written answer E-001892/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Chloé Ridel (S&D)

Subject: Making the French solidarity grocery store model more sustainable and widespread under the ESF+, and possibilities for European harmonisation

Solidarity grocery stores are tackling food insecurity, which affects over 40 % of families in France. In 2024, they helped over 247 000 people (up 63 % compared to 2019). These stores sell basic necessities at reduced prices (between 10 and 30 % of supermarket prices), promoting dignity, independence and social inclusion.

Products offered for free, funded by the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), compete with those being sold. This leads, particularly in more disadvantaged areas, to several issues: recipients feeling like they are receiving handouts, social diversity declining and, above all, a much greater complexity in managing service provision.

However, despite their vital contribution, solidarity grocery stores cannot benefit from EU funding.

1. How does the Commission plan to support the solidarity grocery store model, particularly via the ESF+ and its post-2027 successor?
2. Does the Commission plan to allow both free products (funded by the ESF+) and paid-for products to be distributed in the same place, so as to avoid the unnecessary multiplication of distribution channels?
3. Will the Commission commit to studying these issues with Member States, organisations and experts, for example within the ESF+ communities of practice?

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