

Question for written answer E-002733/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Per Clausen (The Left)

Subject: Local action groups and the rural development programme

The aim of local action group funding is to support rural areas. One of its major advantages is that the money is distributed to local action groups that are independent of municipal authorities. This means that villages and projects can receive support even if rural development is not a priority for the local council concerned.

With that in mind:

1. With a view to fostering a lasting, reinvestment-focused effect for local communities, can the Commission state whether EU rules are preventing rural development support from being provided as loans for beneficiaries who wish to receive funding in that form, so that funds that are repaid can be included in a new round of local distribution and investment?
2. Does the Commission see future opportunities and advantages in stepping up the financing of local action group funding as a tool to bring about sustainable rural development?

Submitted: 3.7.2025