

Question for written answer E-003812/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Safeguarding Article 349 TFEU and the rights of the outermost regions

The outermost regions (ORs) face permanent structural constraints, explicitly recognised by Article 349 TFEU, which justifies the existence of specific programmes to address their unique situation. However, the Commission's proposal for the next multiannual financial framework suggests the discontinuation of long-standing instruments, such as the programmes of options specifically relating to remoteness and insularity (POSEI), the European Regional Development Fund's dedicated support for the ORs, and compensation schemes that cover the additional costs in the fisheries sector.

In addition, the proposal would merge, at the national level, funds that are aimed at promoting economic activity and cohesion, while reducing their overall budget by 20 %. This will lead to competition between these two objectives, likely resulting in less funding for cohesion in the ORs. These measures risk undermining decades of EU consensus on the need for a differentiated approach to the ORs based on cohesion policy and are a direct threat to the economies of the ORs.

In the light of the above:

1. How does the Commission justify ending these specific programmes under Article 349 TFEU?
2. How will Commission guarantee that the post-2027 cohesion policy continues to provide a tailored response to the permanent structural constraints of the ORs, rather than placing them in unfair competition with other regions in the EU?

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