

Question for written answer E-004617/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Fredis Beleris (PPE)

Subject: OLAF proposal not to allocate funds to Albania from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD III)

According to the recent European Commission report on Albania for 2025, the country is deprived of funding due to a lack of transparency and fears of mismanagement.

It is noted that, according to the 2023 report of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the office investigated serious allegations of misuse of European funds in Albania from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD II).

The allegations were confirmed, with OLAF classifying EUR 33 million as unlawfully spent and proposing that no further funds be allocated under IPARD III until Albania complies and takes corrective measures to protect the EU's financial interests. It is clear that Albania must align with the legality and transparency requirements for its access to European funding programmes.

The exclusion of Albania from IPARD III funds (EUR 112 million) is having a significant impact on the rural population, penalising farmers who are legally entitled to the subsidies.

The Commission is asked:

1. What procedure was followed to classify EUR 33 million as unlawfully spent?
2. What is the current state of Albania's administrative compliance for accessing IPARD III funds?
3. How does the Commission intend to address Albania's non-compliance with European transparency principles?

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