

Question for written answer E-004767/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Serious concerns about EU red tape

The Financial Times reported this week that applications for, and payments from, the EU Innovation Fund are extremely slow. Companies need up to 3 000 hours and to spend up to EUR 85 000 per application, with the result that only 4.7 % of the funds has been paid out so far due to administrative red tape.¹ It costs EUR 32 000 on average to apply to the Horizon Europe research programme, and less than 20 % of applications are successful. According to the Commission's figures, of that 20 % only 6 % is currently operational. It is thus plain to see that a lot of money is still gathering dust in the EU's coffers as a result of administrative red tape.

1. Can the Commission indicate how many Dutch applications for these funds have been 'successful' and/or what percentage those represent?
2. If the administrative costs for an application are so high, what are the implications for smaller companies, and do they even apply?
3. What practical measures will the Commission take in the short term to improve this dramatic situation?

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¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/07970763-ad7a-452a-b3f5-82d6d3939ada>