

**Question for written answer E-004780/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Local authorities' access to EU funds in the new multiannual financial framework proposal

Local authorities face barriers in accessing EU funding in the current multiannual financial framework (MFF). There is evidence of weak and uneven application of the partnership principle, national gatekeeping that is limiting direct access, fragmented procedures and insufficient administrative capacity at municipal level to implement EU funded projects. Persistent challenges also include the lack of access to instruments designed to strengthen administrative capacity.

The Commission's proposal for a new MFF architecture that integrates cohesion funding into national and regional plans will exacerbate these structural obstacles, unless specific safeguards ensure full involvement of local authorities in strategic decisions, from design to implementation and monitoring. The proposed architecture may also replicate shortcomings observed in centrally driven investment models, as seen in the recovery and resilience facility, where local authorities had limited influence over priorities and limited entry points to funding.

In this context:

1. What mechanisms will the Commission introduce to prevent the deepening of already existing access barriers within these plans?
2. Would the Commission be willing to allow administrative capacity instruments, such as the Technical Support Instrument, to become directly accessible to local authorities, rather than solely through national requests?

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