

Question for written answer E-004948/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Tobiasz Bocheński (ECR)

Subject: LEADER/CLLD structure under the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework

I am writing to the European Commission in relation to the proposed regulations establishing the financial framework and rules for implementing rural, regional and fishing development policy for 2028–2034. The analyses of national and European organisations (including local action groups and LEADER/CLLD structures) that I have seen reveal a wide range of ambiguities and risks related to the proposed solutions.

Firstly, the draft legislation mentions the possibility of exclusively restricting the definition of beneficiaries of the LEADER approach to farmers, threatening the multisectoral nature of local action groups and limiting the participation of local communities, entrepreneurs, non-governmental organisations and local authorities in the implementation of bottom-up strategies.

Secondly, the articles on CLLD and LEADER are drafted in ambiguous terms, which creates a risk of conflicting interpretations in Member States and a weakening of the bottom-up principle, which has been a core principle of LEADER for over 30 years.

Thirdly, the lack of a minimum guaranteed financial allocation for LEADER/CLLD under the new NRP fund may lead to the marginalisation of this instrument, especially in countries with centralised governance models.

In light of the foregoing:

1. Can the Commission confirm that the beneficiaries of LEADER will remain local actors in the broad sense and not only farmers?
2. Will the Commission clarify the relationship between CLLD and LEADER in order to avoid double standards and inconsistencies?
3. Does the Commission intend to introduce a minimum level of funding for LEADER/CLLD under the 2028–2034 MFF?

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