

Question for written answer E-005014/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

David McAllister (PPE), Jens Gieseke (PPE), Lena Düpont (PPE)

Subject: Future of the LEADER programme in the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework

Upcoming decisions on the next multiannual financial framework from 2028 will significantly shape the future of rural regions. The LEADER programme has demonstrated the strength of local initiatives for more than three decades. There are currently around 2 900 local action groups all over the EU, reaching roughly 170 million people in rural areas. The groups carry out projects to strengthen economic development, social participation, cultural diversity and environmental responsibility. The impact is clear: more than 120 000 projects have been completed during the current funding period. The following questions relate to ongoing programmes, long-term investment planning and the need for planning certainty.

1. What is the Commission's priority for rural development in the next multiannual financial framework?
2. How does the Commission intend to address the current lack of budget for the LEADER programme, so that regions and local action groups can make reliable plans?
3. What measures is the Commission planning to considerably cut red tape so local initiatives can continue to work efficiently?

Submitted: 18.12.2025