Question for written answer E-000692/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Victor Negrescu (S&D)

Subject: Funding gap for ROP projects 2014-2020 in Romanian municipalities and risk of loss of ERDF funds

In the context of the closure of the Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 and the phasing of projects towards the 2021-2027 period, several local public authorities, such as those in Maramureș and Pucioasa, face a major funding gap. Rising costs in recent years and the failure to fully ensure national co-financing have led to significant budgetary pressures.

According to the Association of Romanian Cities, over RON 511 million is needed. Local administrations risk financial bottlenecks, affecting essential investment in infrastructure, education and public services.

Although the Romanian Government has adopted support mechanisms for other categories of projects financed from national sources, these solutions have not been applied in an equivalent manner to projects financed under the ROP. This difference in treatment creates inequities and exposes cities to the risk of default, with potential consequences for the absorption of European funds.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider this kind of differential treatment to be compatible with the Member State's obligation to ensure the proper implementation of ERDF funds and the principle of equal treatment of beneficiaries?

2. What tools does it have at its disposal to prevent the loss of European funds as well as local beneficiaries from being affected during the process of project closure and phasing?

3. Can the Commission ask the Romanian authorities for further information concerning respect for the principle of partnership and sound financial management when handling these situations?

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