

**Question for written answer E-001933/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Competition for the same resources between complementary policies in the future
MFF

The abolition of the 2-pillar structure of the CAP has erased the complementarity and synergies between Pillar 2 and the rural development fund facet of cohesion policy.

The EAFRD and the ERDF had separate objectives, and their merger into a single mega-fund in the future programming period will lead to competition for the same resources under the national and regional partnership plans, both between the two funds and between them and other programmes.

Without substantial investment in rural areas, these will remain insufficiently attractive to tempt young people or convince them to stay and hence foster generational renewal, placing a question mark over long-term food security.

The EUR 47.8 billion proposed as a minimum rural target by the Commission is insufficient if Member States' ambition remains limited. Moreover, there is a total overlap between the rural target and the target of EUR 218 billion for less-developed regions.

1. How will the Commission ensure that rural areas receive sufficient funding to guarantee their development and generational renewal, hence reversing demographic decline and eliminating talent development traps?
2. Has the Commission conducted a study into the impact on rural areas of the dismantling of the EAFRD and the ERDF?

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