

**Question for written answer E-003353/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Andrey Novakov (PPE)

Subject: Call for proposals BG16FFPR003-4.004, financed under Bulgaria's 2021–2027 Regional Development Programme through the Just Transition Fund

According to the published results, a significant number of project proposals received positive evaluation, with many others placed on reserve lists due to limited available funding.

According to the information available to us, an extraordinary audit is being carried out on account of concerns regarding irregularities in the evaluation process. The cancellation of the call in its entirety could adversely affect applicants who have acted in good faith and could undermine investment, job creation and economic diversification in the regions concerned. In this context, the following questions are addressed to the Commission:

1. Where irregularities are identified in the evaluation of project proposals for EU funding, does the principle of proportionality allow corrective measures to be taken, including re-evaluation or re-ranking of the proposals, instead of cancelling the entire call?
2. Are such corrective measures compatible with the principle of sound financial management where applicants unaffected by the irregularities can be protected?
3. Are there any deadlines at EU level or specific commitments under the programme requiring this call to be contracted or completed by a certain date?

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