

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001949/24
to the Commission
Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE)
(3 October 2024)**

Subject: Inadequate and inefficient implementation of European funds in Galicia

The Galician Audit Committee has found that the Galician government has implemented only 50% of the European funds that it was required to administer by 2022. As I have expressed in various parliamentary questions and during meetings with the Commission, the inadequate implementation of funds by the Galician government is very concerning. It is particularly troubling when account is taken of the fact that the Galician Audit Committee advises, among other recommendations, being transparent when publishing information about aid and reducing the number of modifications to loans, along with simplifying administrative tasks and reinforcing staffing levels. Failure to observe these recommendations results in a reprogramming of funds that distorts budgetary execution by improving execution rates (which, in reality, are substandard). These recommendations are in line with the report commissioned by Parliament's Committee on Regional Development on the absorption of funds from the European Cohesion Policy.

For years, the Galician Nationalist Bloc has been demanding that the Galician government be transparent when executing and implementing the funds. In view of the above, how does the Commission intend to ensure that the excessive and self-serving reprogramming of funds will not thwart the overall objectives of the Galicia 2021/2027 operational programme in favour of short-sighted and tyrannical goals?

Submitted: 3.10.2024

**Answer given by Ms Ferreira on behalf of the European Commission
(22 November 2024)**

Following a constructive dialogue with the central and regional authorities in Spain, the Commission approved, in December 2022, the regional European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund + (ESF+) funding programmes for Galicia, for the 2021-2027 period.

When it comes to amending cohesion policy programmes, Article 24 of the Common Provision Regulation for the EU shared management funds ⁽¹⁾ requires Member States to accompany draft programme amendments with a reasoned request setting out their expected impact on the achievement of the objectives of the related programmes.

The European Semester country-specific recommendations for 2024 encourage Spain to accelerate the implementation of cohesion policy programmes and, in the context of their mid-term review ⁽²⁾, to continue focusing EU support on the agreed priorities, while considering the opportunities provided by the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform.

When assessing programme amendments in the context of the mid-term review, Commission services aim to guarantee that these amendments are duly justified, comply with cohesion policy regulations and the related partnership agreements, and take due account of the above-mentioned recommendations.

In any case, we inform the Honourable Member that the current absorption rates for the ERDF and ESF funding programmes for 2014-2020 in Galicia are above 90% ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02021R1060-20240630>

⁽²⁾ Article 18 of the Common Provision Regulation.

⁽³⁾ Open Data Portal for the European Structural Investment Funds: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>